



Pointers and questions on the Gospel of

MARK

Session 3

4:21 - 5:43

Summary

- 4:21-34** Further parables: the lamp on a stand; the growing seed; the mustard seed.
4:35-41 The calming of the storm on Galilee.
5:1-20 Jesus and the restoring of Legion to wholeness.
5:21-43 Jesus raises Jairus's daughter to life and heals the woman with a haemorrhage.

Questions to get you thinking

1. What do you make of 4:21-25, which is all about 'hearing'? What is Jesus teaching here? How applicable is it today?
2. 4:26-29 is another angle on the 'seed-sowing' imagery we noticed in the Parable of the Sower. What is the additional insight here? Look carefully because it's very encouraging!
3. The Parable of the Mustard Seed (4:30-32) is another encouraging one. What does it teach us? What do the tiny seed and the large bush represent? What should be our expectations about the progress of the gospel in the world?
4. Read the account of the storm on Galilee (4:35-41). Who proposed the trip across the lake? In the light of that, what should be our attitude towards the 'storms of life' that we experience as Christians?
5. How could Jesus possibly sleep (4:38) in the midst of such a violent storm?
6. 'Teacher, don't you care if we drown?' (4:38). Have you ever felt like accusing the Lord of not caring, when you've been going through stormy waters? *Does* he care? Do you think that, in the mind of the disciples, the 'we' included Jesus, or not?
7. Jesus challenged the disciples' lack of faith (4:40). How could they have shown faith, especially in the light of what Jesus says to them in v35?
8. From 5:1-5 what are the symptoms of severe demon-possession? Notice also the switching between singular (my/me) and plural (we/them) in v6-10, indicating the confusion in the man's identity.
9. How would you have felt about this episode if you'd been the owner of the pigs? See 5:17. Are there any principles here to do with the advance of the kingdom of God?
10. Look at 5:19. What change of tack can you see here in what Jesus said to Legion? What could be the reason for it?
11. How must Jairus have felt when Jesus stopped to talk to the woman with the haemorrhage (5:21-34)? Do *you* sometimes get uptight when you think Jesus has slipped up with his timing in answer to your prayers?
12. What can we learn about faith from the woman who touched Jesus' garment?
13. What are some of the signs of lack of faith by other people in v35 and v39-40?
14. What can you learn from 5:37 and 5:40b about the importance of having the right people around you when in a situation needing faith?
15. Any comments on 5:43?

