

INTER- RUPTING JESUS

"A STEP OF DESPERATION"

Mark 5 | Sermon #3 in the Lenten Series "Interrupting Jesus"

March 16, 2017

GATHERING

1. Have you ever been someplace where you felt you did not belong, that you were trespassing?
 2. Have you ever had a time where illness in you or in your family made you feel helpless?
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LOOKING AT THE TEXT

Mark 4 is filled with Jesus' teaching, specifically in parables. In chapter five Mark shows Jesus' power over every area of life. He calms the storm --showing not only his power over nature, but over demonic chaos which was how the Jews of that day viewed "the deep waters." He restores the Gerasene demoniac to wholeness after a life of utter wretchedness and exile. Then, in the second half of chapter five Jesus reveals his sovereignty over death and disease. Each of these things – nature, demonic power, disease and death – reveal our vulnerability and make us afraid. Jesus responds very differently and in doing so teaches us many things. He teaches us about himself, about why he has come and about how he responds to our need.

Verses 5:21-48 are again structured as a story within a story and it is a prime example of Jesus being interrupted. This time the interruption proves fatal for one of those involved.

Read Mark 5:21-29

1. Jesus arrives in Galilee and a huge crowd gathers to meet him. In the midst of the commotion a man of some standing comes to Jesus. This would have been a well know, probably well off member of the community because he had oversight of the synagogue. How does he approach Jesus, what phrases does Mark use to describe the scene?
2. Most religious leaders opposed Jesus. Why do you think this man is willing to approach him? How does Jesus respond?
3. A woman approaches Jesus. How does Mark convey her desperate situation?

4. According to Leviticus women were considered unclean during their menstrual cycle. Read Leviticus 15:19-27. Unlike many other laws in Leviticus this one was very much in force in Jesus' day. What did that mean for this woman's day to day life? How long had this gone on? What did this mean for her decision to venture into a crowd and touch Jesus?

Read Mark 5:30-36

1. How do you think the woman felt when she was healed? How do you think she felt when she realized Jesus was looking for her? How do you think she expected him to respond?
2. What does Jesus say to her? What do you think she was feeling? Compare verse 30 and verse 34. Why do you think Jesus wanted to find this woman and what was the benefit of telling her this publicly?
3. Everyone must have been amazed at this healing. How do you think the mood changed in verse 35? What does Jesus ask of Jairus?

Read 5:37-43

1. The woman tells her story in front of the whole crowd, but as Jesus moves to Jairus' house he limits those who can come. Who comes with him and why do you think he does this (by the way, people have wondered this for centuries and there is no answer in the text, so your guesses are welcome).
2. The people that Jesus puts out of the house are most likely professional mourners. This was common in that culture. To understand how Jesus would have been perceived, imagine walking into a funeral home viewing and telling the man holding the door what Jesus said. How would he have responded?
3. Jesus shows his power over death. How do you think this family felt when they heard about Jesus' resurrection? How does Jesus' resurrection differ from this resuscitation?

APPLICATIONS

1. How many different ways are Jairus, the synagogue leader, and the woman with the bleeding different?
2. What do they have in common?
3. What does it say about Jesus that he sees both of them and responds to both of them?
4. Have you ever felt that "blessing" or answered prayer is a "zero sum game?" In other words, have you ever felt that if one person is blessed that someone else is not? How does this narrative apply to that?
5. What desperation drives you to Jesus for help today?