

Pine Knoll Sabbath School Study Notes

Third Quarter 2024: *The Book of Mark*

Lesson 5 “Miracles Around *the Lake*”

Read for this week’s study

Mark 4:35–41; Psalm 104:1–9 Mark 5:1–43; Numbers 27:17.

Memory Text

“However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, ‘Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you’ ” (Mark 5:19, NKJV).

Lesson Outline from Adult Sabbath School Study Guide

- I. Introduction
- II. Calming a Storm
- III. Can You Hear a Whisper Above a Shout?
- IV. On the Rollercoaster With Jesus
- V. Rejection and Reception
- VI. A Different Kind of Messiah
- VII. Further Study

Questions and Notes for Consideration

Facilitator: Jon Paulien

1. Jesus’ earthly ministry was largely focused on the province of Galilee. The lesson for this week starts with the close of Mark, chapter four, where the disciples run into a storm on the Sea of Galilee, and Jesus calms the storm by speaking to the wind and the waves. Mark 6 ends with another storm on the sea, but this time Jesus is not in the boat, He is walking on the water. In between these watery episodes are a series of miracles done on land, and the disciples’ missionary activity. (Sabbath Afternoon’s Lesson)
2. In this series of dramatic stories, Jesus calms the sea, heals a demoniac, heals a woman who touches His clothes, raises a girl from the dead, preaches in His hometown, sends disciples out to preach, feeds 5000 people with a few loaves and fishes, and walks on water. What do you think is the main point Mark is trying to

- make in this cluster of stories? Why was it so hard for the religious people of that day to understand who Jesus really is? (Sabbath Afternoon's Lesson)
3. Read Mark 4:35-41. What happens in this story, and what does it tell us about who Jesus is? Read Psalm 104:1-9. How does the picture of Yahweh in this psalm compare with Christ's calming of the storm? What relevance does the great power of God revealed in this story have for everyday life today? (Sunday's Lesson)
 4. Read Mark 5:1-20. When the demoniac fell down in front of Jesus, Mark uses the Greek word for worship. Who was worshiping Jesus at that moment, the man or the demon? Why would Jesus permit the demons to do what they wanted to do (kill a bunch of animals)? What can we learn about the cosmic conflict and the power of Jesus from this dramatic account? (Monday's Lesson)
 5. Read Mark 5:21-24. What do we learn about Jairus and his situation from this passage? Read Mark 5:25-34. This is another Markan interruption of a story (sandwich story). What do you think of Mark's handling of the medical profession in this story? How would Luke have handled this differently? With Jesus so consistently trying to keep His miracles a secret, why does He stop and expose His actions in this situation? Mark 5:35-43. What does Jesus' behavior throughout this situation tell us about God? (Tuesday's Lesson)
 6. Read Mark 6:1-6. Why do you think Jesus' hometown people rejected Him? Why would the people who knew Him best, including His family, have the most difficulty understanding who He really was? Luke 4:23 may give us a further window into this rejection. What do you make of the fact that Jesus was unable to demonstrate His divinity in Nazareth? What does that tell us about God? Why is God dependent on our faith? (Wednesday's Lesson)
 7. Read Mark 6:7-30. How does the mission of the disciples contrast with the beheading of John the Baptist? What do you make of Jesus' instructions in verses 7-11? Do we have power over evil spirits today? What do you make of Herod, and His reaction to John the Baptist? Why is the story of John the Baptist's beheading (Mark 6:21-30) even in the Gospel? (Wednesday's Lesson)
 8. Read Mark 6:30-31. This reference back to the commissioning of the disciples creates another "sandwich story". Note the sequence of events from Mark 6:7 through 6:31. Read Mark 6:32-52. What problems did the disciples confront in these stories and how did each issue get resolved? (Thursday's Lesson)
 9. Why does God allow a good person like John the Baptist to be placed in prison and executed? (Friday's Lesson)
 10. Most nations would be much better off if they embraced the principles of Jesus' teachings. Would Jesus be pleased if a politician tried to make that happen? (Friday's Lesson)
 11. Have you ever been rejected like Jesus and John the Baptist were? What did you learn from that experience? (Wednesday's Lesson)

Thoughts from Graham Maxwell

Mark 5:43, the raising of Jairus' daughter. Now, the whole story is very wonderful, how He resurrected her, and do you notice, in Mark, that the words to the little girl are, "Talitha cumi" in Aramaic. This fits the idea that it was Peter writing this. "Taking her by the hand he said to her, 'Little girl, I say to you, arise.' And immediately the girl got up and walked for she was twelve years old. And they were immediately overcome with amazement. And he strictly charged them that no one should know this and told them to give her something to eat."

And I find the story is often told, omitting that last line. Can you imagine the excitement after the resurrection of this little girl? And when they were all rushing out to dismiss the mourners; of course, good stewardship would require that, for you had to pay them, perhaps, they rushed out to dismiss them, and tell everyone the little girl is alive. Jesus said, "One moment. This little girl is hungry. Somebody get her something to eat." Is that important theology? I think it is very significant that He would do that. You notice when they were hungry, He said, "These folk haven't eaten for a long time. Get them something to eat." "Give the little girl something to eat."

Then you remember later on, He cries at the funeral of His friend, Lazarus. The way He treated people. The infinite One, walking here on this earth, and noting such little matters. I think it is most significant. {Graham Maxwell. Excerpt from the audio series, The Picture of God in all 66 – Mark, recorded April 1982, Riverside, California} *To listen to the entire audio of the above reference, click on the following direct links:*

<http://pkp.cc/53MMPOGIA66> (Part 1) <http://pkp.cc/54MMPOGIA66> (Part 2)

A little later, when John was in prison, and he heard reports of Jesus' preaching, and you remember Jesus said that if you're a sheep rather than a goat, you'll visit the people in prison, did Jesus ever go and visit His cousin? He never went to see him. And perhaps John began to wonder. And he sent two emissaries to Christ. "Are You the one, or not?" You see, in spite of all that happened at Jordan, "are you the One, or not?" And did Jesus reply, "Yes, I am! And I expect you to believe it if you have faith!" That could have been the devil making that claim. Anybody could make that claim. So, what did the two men do? Run right back to John and say, "He won't answer"? They spent the day with Him. And in the end they went back to John, and he said, "Well, did He say He is or not?"

"No."

"Well, then why didn't you come sooner?"

"Well, we spent the day with Him."

“Well, sit down and tell me what you saw and what you heard.”

And they described what they saw and heard. And the further they went, the more John was convinced that Jesus was the One. On what basis? Scripture, wasn't it? That's the accumulating evidence of the years. The One who came was in harmony with all the predictions before. And that's the better evidence, isn't it? By the way, did Jesus ever go and visit His cousin? He died. It would be interesting to see them meeting in the hereafter. And I can imagine maybe John saying, “Why didn't You come and see me?” And Jesus, saying, “I wanted to so badly, but I don't know whether the reports ever reached you. I was telling the crowds; you were the greatest of all the prophets. You did a marvelous thing. And like Job, you trusted, even though there was no confirmation at the time, other than all the evidence.” And John belongs with Job, I think, as really settled into the truth. He could not be shaken or moved.

Some even wondered if the question to Jesus, “Are you the One?” was maybe in behalf of his followers rather than John himself. Do you get the impression that John was beginning to wonder? It's hard to say. I wouldn't blame him for wondering. {Graham Maxwell. Excerpt from the audio series, The Picture of God in all 66 – Luke, recorded April 1982, Riverside, California} *To listen to the entire audio of the above reference, click on the following direct links:*

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Further Study with Ellen White

Whether on the land or on the sea, if we have the Saviour in our hearts, there is no need of fear. Living faith in the Redeemer will smooth the sea of life, and will deliver us from danger in the way that He knows to be best. {DA 336.3}

We may believe that God is with us in every place, and in every trying hour we may hold fast that hand which has all power. {ML 336.3}

In the annals of human history the growth of nations, the rise and fall of empires, appear as dependent on the will and prowess of man. The shaping of events seems, to a great degree, to be determined by his power, ambition, or caprice. But in the word of God the curtain is drawn aside, and we behold, behind, above, and through all the play and counterplay of human interests and power and passions, the agencies of the all-merciful One, silently, patiently working out the counsels of His own will. {Ed 173.2}

The Bible shows us God in His high and holy place, not in a state of inactivity, not in silence and solitude, but surrounded by ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands of holy beings, all waiting to do His will. Through these messengers He is in active communication

with every part of His dominion. By His Spirit He is everywhere present. Through the agency of His Spirit and His angels He ministers to the children of men. {MH 417.2}

Above the distractions of the earth He sits enthroned; all things are open to His divine survey; and from His great and calm eternity He orders that which His providence sees best. {MH 417.3}

Not even a sparrow falls to the ground without the Father's notice. Satan's hatred against God leads him to delight in destroying even the dumb creatures. It is only through God's protecting care that the birds are preserved to gladden us with their songs of joy. But He does not forget even the sparrows. "Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows." Matthew 10:31. {8T 273.1}

Nothing can happen in any part of the universe without the knowledge of Him who is omnipresent. Not a single event of human life is unknown to our Maker. While Satan is constantly devising evil, the Lord our God overrules all, so that it will not harm His obedient, trusting children. The same power that controls the boisterous waves of the ocean can hold in check all the power of rebellion and of crime. God says to one as to the other, "Thus far shalt thou go, and no farther." {3BC 1141.5}

All earthly powers are under the control of the Infinite One. To the mightiest ruler, to the most cruel oppressor, He says, "Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further." Job 38:11. God's power is constantly exercised to counteract the agencies of evil; He is ever at work among men, not for their destruction, but for their correction and preservation. {PP 694.1}

He who slumbers not, who is continually at work for the accomplishment of His designs, will carry forward His work. He will thwart the purposes of wicked men and will bring to confusion the counsels of those who plot mischief against His people. He who is the King, the Lord of hosts, sitteth between the cherubim, and amidst the strife and tumult of nations He guards His children still. When the strongholds of kings shall be overthrown, when the arrows of wrath shall strike through the hearts of His enemies, His people will be safe in His hands. {PK 176.1}

God does not ask us to do in our own strength the work before us. He has provided divine assistance for all the emergencies to which our human resources are unequal. He gives the Holy Spirit to help in every strait, to strengthen our hope and assurance, to illuminate our minds and purify our hearts. {8T 19.1}

And the same compassion that reached out to rescue Peter is extended to every soul who has fallen under temptation. It is Satan's special device to lead man into sin, and then leave him, helpless and trembling, fearing to seek for pardon. But why should we fear, when God has said, "Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with Me?" Isaiah 27:5. Every provision has been made for our infirmities, every encouragement offered us to come to Christ. {COL 156.1}

There is by our side a witness, a heavenly messenger, who will lift up for us a standard against the enemy. He will shut us in with the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness. Beyond this Satan cannot penetrate. He cannot pass this shield of holy light. {COL 171.3}

Every manifestation of creative power is an expression of infinite love. The sovereignty of God involves fullness of blessing to all created beings. {PP 33.2}

The encounter with the demoniacs of Gergesa had a lesson for the disciples. It showed the depths of degradation to which Satan is seeking to drag the whole human race, and the mission of Christ to set men free from his power. {DA 341.1}

Faith is not a happy flight of feeling; it is simply taking God at His word—believing that He will fulfill His promises because He said He would.—Lt 49, 1888. (HC 119.) {2MCP 539.5}

It is not our efforts that bring victory. It is seeing God behind the promise, and believing and trusting Him. Grasp by faith the hand of infinite power. The Lord is faithful who hath promised. {UL 133.6}

It is for our own benefit to keep every gift of God fresh in our memory. By this means faith is strengthened to claim and to receive more and more. There is greater encouragement for us in the least blessing we ourselves receive from God than in all the accounts we can read of the faith and experience of others. {MH 100.3}

These things were not written merely that we might read and wonder, but that the same faith which wrought in God's servants of old might work in us. In no less marked a manner than He wrought then will He work now wherever there are hearts of faith to be channels of His power. {CG 43.1}

While the sinner cannot save himself, he still has something to do to secure salvation. "Him that cometh to Me," says Christ, "I will in no wise cast out." John 6:37. But we must come to Him; and when we repent of our sins, we must believe that He accepts and pardons us. Faith is the gift of God, but the power to exercise it is ours. Faith is the hand by which the soul takes hold upon the divine offers of grace and mercy. {PP 431.2}

His presence brought a purer atmosphere into the home, and His life was as leaven working amid the elements of society. Harmless and undefiled, He walked among the thoughtless, the rude, the uncourteous; amid the unjust publicans, the reckless prodigals, the unrighteous Samaritans, the heathen soldiers, the rough peasants, and the mixed multitude. He spoke a word of sympathy here and a word there, as He saw men weary, yet compelled to bear heavy burdens. He shared their burdens, and repeated to them the lessons He had learned from nature, of the love, the kindness, the goodness of God. {DA 90.3}

He taught all to look upon themselves as endowed with precious talents, which if rightly employed would secure for them eternal riches. He weeded all vanity from life, and by His own

example taught that every moment of time is fraught with eternal results; that it is to be cherished as a treasure, and to be employed for holy purposes. He passed by no human being as worthless, but sought to apply the saving remedy to every soul. In whatever company He found Himself, He presented a lesson that was appropriate to the time and the circumstances. He sought to inspire with hope the most rough and unpromising, setting before them the assurance that they might become blameless and harmless, attaining such a character as would make them manifest as the children of God. Often He met those who had drifted under Satan's control, and who had no power to break from his snare. To such a one, discouraged, sick, tempted, and fallen, Jesus would speak words of tenderest pity, words that were needed and could be understood. Others He met who were fighting a hand-to-hand battle with the adversary of souls. These He encouraged to persevere, assuring them that they would win; for angels of God were on their side, and would give them the victory. Those whom He thus helped were convinced that here was One in whom they could trust with perfect confidence. He would not betray the secrets they poured into His sympathizing ear. {DA 91.1}

To take people right where they are, whatever their position, whatever their condition, and help them in every way possible—this is gospel ministry. {MM 238.1}

During His ministry Jesus devoted more time to healing the sick than to preaching. His miracles testified to the truth of His words, that He came not to destroy but to save. {DA 350.3}

They rejected Him, the Saviour, but He regarded them with pitying tenderness, and sorrow so deep that it broke His heart. Every soul was precious in His eyes. While He always bore Himself with divine dignity, He bowed with tenderest regard to every member of the family of God. In all men He saw fallen souls whom it was His mission to save. {DA 353.1}

It is Satan's work to fill men's hearts with doubt. He leads them to look upon God as a stern judge. He tempts them to sin, and then to regard themselves as too vile to approach their heavenly Father or to excite His pity. The Lord understands all this. Jesus assures His disciples of God's sympathy for them in their needs and weaknesses. Not a sigh is breathed, not a pain felt, not a grief pierces the soul, but the throb vibrates to the Father's heart. {DA 356.2}

God never leads His children otherwise than they would choose to be led, if they could see the end from the beginning, and discern the glory of the purpose which they are fulfilling as co-workers with Him. Not Enoch, who was translated to heaven, not Elijah, who ascended in a chariot of fire, was greater or more honored than John the Baptist, who perished alone in the dungeon. "Unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake." Philippians 1:29. And of all the gifts that Heaven can bestow upon men, fellowship with Christ in His sufferings is the most weighty trust and the highest honor. {DA 224.5}