



Responding to Miracles

By Taylor Braswell on May 16, 2022

TODAY'S READING: Mark 5

In Mark chapter five, Jesus heals a man possessed by demons, heals a sick woman and raises a 12-year-old girl from the dead! No, this is not "Taylor's one sentence summaries of the Bible," but this is what happens in the chapter. I want us to focus on people's responses to these miracles and what Jesus said after each one.

After Jesus casts out a legion of demons from a man into pigs, we can see in verses 15 and 16 that the people were afraid and wanted Jesus out of their town. Let's be honest here, we would all be scared and confused if we saw 2,000 pigs run into the ocean and drown because a legion of demons entered them! Here is some quick math for you math lovers out there: A legion was 6,000 Roman soldiers. (We do not know for sure if that is how many demons there were, but there could have been that many.) There were 2,000 pigs for sure, so that means there were three demons in each pig. This concludes Taylor's basic biblical math course, and these credits will not transfer to any Southern Baptist seminary. After Jesus heals the man, he instructs him to tell everyone how he was healed and how God has shown him mercy. Remember, mercy is not getting what we do deserve, while grace is getting a good thing we do not deserve.

When Jesus crosses back over the sea, he is approached by Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue whose daughter is dying. On the way to see the girl, Jesus is touched by a woman who has been bleeding for 12 years. Jesus was in a crowd, so he was physically being touched and bumped into constantly, but He knew this woman touched him on purpose. This woman had faith that just touching Jesus' clothes would heal her! This woman fell before Jesus in recognition that He is Lord of all and all powerful. Jesus calls her "daughter," signifying her adoption into God's family! Jesus tells us that this woman's faith in Him is what saved her.

While all of this has been going on, Jairus' daughter dies. Many people encouraged Jairus to give up on Jesus because they thought it was too late. In verse 36, Jesus commanded them, "do not fear, only believe." Even after telling them to believe, people laughed at Jesus before he performed this miracle. Jesus commanded the girl to get up, and she was raised from the dead! I'll bet the family and people who witnessed this miracle wanted to tell everyone how Jesus raised this girl from the dead, but Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone.

Notice all the different responses to Jesus. Some people were afraid of Jesus and wanted Him out of their lives, some did not believe in Him, some laughed at Him, and some put their faith in Him! Jesus is not interested in people coming to Him just to get what they want. Jesus may have told the family not to tell anyone about their daughter being raised from the dead because everyone in that area would have come to Jesus for the same thing. In another area, Jesus told a man to go give testimony of what God had done in his life. Just like the woman who touched

Jesus and was saved, you and I are a living miracle. God made us spiritually alive through faith in Christ! Jesus wants people to turn from their sin and to trust in Him for new life. We can claim we have been saved by Jesus, but how are we responding to God in our everyday lives? Are we telling everyone of the mercy God has shown us?

PRAYER: Father, You are all powerful and the only One who is good. You bring dead things to life, and I thank You for making me alive in You. Help me respond to what You have done for me today by telling others of the mercy You have shown me.

TOMORROW'S READING: Mark 6

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