

Take-Home Sheet | Session 5

Who Then Is This? (Mark 4:35-5:43)

A Ransom for Many: A Catholic Journey Through the Gospel of Mark

What We Found

Four scenes, four impossibilities: chaos, evil, disease, and death, and Jesus walked through all of them and was obeyed. We found the storm scene running on Old Testament rails: stilling seas is the LORD's signature (Psalm 107:23-30; Job 38:8-11), and Jesus' "Be still" is a cognate of the muzzling word he used on a demon. The disciples' question, "Who then is this, that even wind and sea obey him?", points where only the LORD stands.

In the Decapolis we met Legion's victim, a man among the tombs, and then met him again "clothed and in his right mind," and heard something new: after chapters of "tell no one," Jesus commanded this Gentile-country man to proclaim, "Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." His one-sentence testimony needed no training, and neither does ours.

Then Mark's great sandwich: the hemorrhaging woman inside the raising of Jairus's daughter, twelve years of bleeding wrapped around twelve years of life. The woman's touch reversed the current: instead of uncleanness passing to him (Leviticus 15:19-27), power went out from him, and he would not let it stay anonymous: "Daughter, your faith has made you well." Faith reaching through matter to the Lord: the Catechism calls the sacraments "powers that come forth" from the Body of Christ (CCC 1116), language born in this scene. And at Jairus's house: "Do not fear, only believe," then *Talitha cumi*, a hand taken, a girl raised, and the Lord of life asking someone to get her lunch.

Voices of the Church

Voices of the Church: St. Gregory Nazianzen (Third Theological Oration)

He hungered, yet he fed thousands; he was wearied, yet he is the rest of the weary; he was heavy with sleep, yet he treads the waves and stills them. We must not choose between the sleeping man and the sea-commanding Lord: the one Christ is both, true God and true man.

Voices of the Church: St. Peter Chrysologus (Sermons on the Gospel)

She drew from the hem of a garment what twelve years of physicians could not supply: faith touched him whom the crowd only jostled. Many press against Christ and receive nothing; one touches him in faith and power goes out.

Voices of the Church: St. Bede the Venerable (Commentary on Mark, on the raising of Jairus's daughter)

The Lord takes the child by the hand, restores her with his word, and commands that she be given something to eat. So Christ deals with every soul he raises from the death of sin: he does not leave it without food, the nourishment of the Word and of the Sacrament, lest it faint on the way.

Live It This Week

- Bring one storm to him deliberately: write your "do you not care?" question on paper, take it to a church, and pray Psalm 107:23-30 over it.
- Touch, do not jostle: get to Mass early enough to make one act of deliberate faith at Communion. The woman's prayer works: "If I touch even his garments, I shall be made well."
- Be the Decapolis man once this week: tell one person, plainly and briefly, one thing the Lord has done for you.

Scripture Memory Verse

"Do not fear, only believe." (Mark 5:36, RSV2CE)

Before Next Session

Read Mark 6. Two banquets are coming: notice who hosts each one.

Catechism References

CCC 994, 1116, 1503-1504, 1670-1673