



Study Guide: Mark – Chapter 5

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This study guide provides an educational overview of Mark Chapter 5 using a verse-by-verse structure, theological context, and application-oriented insights grounded in Scripture.

Introduction

Mark chapter 5 presents a series of powerful miracles that reveal Jesus' authority over spiritual forces, sickness, and death. This chapter contributes to the Gospel's flow by moving from Jesus' teachings and travels to vivid demonstrations of His divine power in action. Readers should watch for the dramatic contrasts between chaos and peace, death and life, and despair and hope, as well as Jesus' compassion and authority in confronting the unseen spiritual realm and human suffering.

Context

Immediately preceding this chapter, Jesus crosses the Sea of Galilee, moving from Jewish territory into the Gentile region of the Gerasenes. This geographical shift sets the stage for encounters that emphasize Jesus' power beyond traditional Jewish boundaries. The chapter unfolds within the covenantal framework of God's kingdom breaking into a fallen world, confronting both demonic oppression and human affliction. Key figures include Jesus, the demon-possessed man, Jairus the synagogue leader, and the woman with a chronic hemorrhage. The setting moves from a Gentile region to a Jewish home, highlighting Jesus' mission to all people.

Outline

The chapter begins with Jesus arriving in the region of the Gerasenes, where He confronts a man possessed by a legion of demons. After delivering the man, Jesus crosses back to Jewish territory, where Jairus pleads for healing for his dying daughter. On the way, a woman suffering from a long-term hemorrhage touches Jesus' garment and is healed. The narrative culminates with Jesus raising Jairus' daughter from death, demonstrating His authority over life and death. Each section moves from crisis to restoration, emphasizing Jesus' power and compassion.



Verse-by-Verse Study

Verses 1-3: Jesus and His disciples arrive by boat in the region of the Gerasenes, a Gentile area, setting the stage for a confrontation with spiritual darkness outside Jewish territory.

Verses 4-5: A man possessed by an unclean spirit meets Jesus, living among the tombs and exhibiting violent behavior, illustrating the destructive power of demonic oppression.

Verses 6-8: The man recognizes Jesus as the Son of the Most High God and begs Him not to torment him, revealing a spiritual awareness of Jesus' authority.

Verses 9-13: Jesus commands the legion of demons to come out of the man, allowing them to enter a herd of pigs, which then rush into the sea and drown, symbolizing the defeat of evil forces.

Verses 14-17: The herdsmen report the incident, and the townspeople come to see the healed man, who is now clothed and in his right mind, a testimony to Jesus' transformative power.

Verses 18-20: The healed man desires to follow Jesus, but Jesus instructs him to return home and testify to what God has done, emphasizing the importance of witness.

Verses 21-24: Jesus returns to Jewish territory, where Jairus, a synagogue leader, pleads for healing for his dying daughter, introducing the second healing narrative.

Verses 25-29: A woman suffering from a chronic hemorrhage touches Jesus' cloak, believing she will be healed, and immediately experiences restoration, highlighting faith's role in healing.

Verses 30-34: Jesus perceives that power has gone out from Him, and the woman comes forward. Jesus affirms her faith and publicly declares her healed, restoring her dignity.

Verses 35-43: While Jesus is still speaking, news arrives that Jairus' daughter has died. Jesus encourages Jairus to believe, then goes to the house, takes the girl by the hand, and raises her from death, demonstrating His authority over mortality.

Key Themes

A central theme is Jesus' authority over the spiritual realm, as seen in His command over demons. This authority extends to physical healing and even resurrection, revealing His



divine power. Another theme is faith—both the woman’s persistent faith and Jairus’ trust in Jesus amid despair. The chapter also highlights restoration, not only physical but social and spiritual, as the demon-possessed man is reintegrated into society and the hemorrhaging woman is publicly affirmed. Compassion undergirds all these acts, showing Jesus’ heart for the broken.

Cross-References

The healing of the demon-possessed man parallels Luke 8:26–39, where similar details emphasize Jesus’ authority over evil spirits. The woman’s healing echoes the faith and healing narratives in Matthew 9:20–22, underscoring persistent faith. Jairus’ daughter’s resurrection connects with the raising of the widow’s son in Luke 7:11–17, illustrating Jesus’ power over death. Additionally, Jesus’ statement about power going out from Him recalls the concept of divine authority found in Exodus 15:6, where God’s hand is described as powerful and victorious.

Application

Modern disciples can learn from the faith demonstrated by the woman and Jairus, encouraging persistent trust in Jesus amid difficult circumstances. The chapter challenges believers to recognize Jesus’ authority over spiritual battles and to rely on His power for deliverance. It also calls for compassionate ministry that restores dignity and community to those marginalized by illness or oppression. Furthermore, the healed man’s commission to testify invites believers to share their stories of transformation as a witness to God’s work.

Summary

Mark chapter 5 vividly portrays Jesus’ authority over demons, sickness, and death through three interconnected miracles. Beginning with the dramatic deliverance of a demon-possessed man, moving through the healing of a woman who touches Jesus in faith, and culminating in the resurrection of Jairus’ daughter, the chapter reveals Jesus as the compassionate Savior who restores life and hope. These narratives emphasize faith, restoration, and the power of Jesus to transform lives, inviting readers to trust and follow Him in every circumstance.