

³⁵ On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, “Let us cross over to the other side.” ³⁶ Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. ³⁷ And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. ³⁸ But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?” ³⁹ Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace, be still!” And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ But He said to them, “Why are you so fearful? How *is it* that you have no faith?” ⁴¹ And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, “Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!”

Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes. ² And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, ³ who had *his* dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, ⁴ because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him. ⁵ And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones. ⁶ When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. ⁷ And he cried out with a loud voice and said, “What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me.” ⁸ For He said to him, “Come out of the man, unclean spirit!” ⁹ Then He asked him, “What *is* your name?” And he answered, saying, “My name *is* Legion; for we are many.” ¹⁰ Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country. ¹¹ Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. ¹² So all the demons begged Him, saying, “Send us to the swine, that we may enter them.” ¹³ And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea. ¹⁴ So those who fed the swine fled, and they told *it* in the city and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that had happened. ¹⁵ Then they came to Jesus, and saw the one *who had been* demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. ¹⁶ And those who saw it told them how it happened to him *who had been* demon-possessed, and about the swine. ¹⁷ Then they began to plead with Him to depart from their region. ¹⁸ And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him. ¹⁹ 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.” ²⁰ And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled. ²¹ Now when Jesus had crossed over again by boat to the other side, a great multitude gathered to Him; and He was by the sea. ²² And behold, one of the rulers of the synagogue came, Jairus by name. And when he saw Him, he fell at His feet ²³ and begged Him earnestly, saying, “My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she will live.” ²⁴ So *Jesus* went with him, and a great multitude followed Him and thronged Him. ²⁵ Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, ²⁶ and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷ When she heard about Jesus, she came behind *Him* in the crowd and touched His garment. ²⁸ For she said, “If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well.” ²⁹ Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in *her* body that she was healed of the affliction. ³⁰ And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, “Who touched My clothes?” ³¹ But His disciples said to Him, “You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, ‘Who touched Me?’” ³² And He looked around to see her who had done this thing. ³³ But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. ³⁴ And He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction.” ³⁵ While He was still speaking, *some* came from the ruler of the synagogue’s *house* who said, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?” ³⁶ As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, “Do not be afraid; only believe.” ³⁷ And He permitted no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James. ³⁸ Then He came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and saw a tumult and those who wept and wailed loudly. ³⁹ When He came in, He said to them, “Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping.”

⁴⁰ And they ridiculed Him. But when He had put them all outside, He took the father and the mother of the child, and those *who were* with Him, and entered where the child was lying. ⁴¹ Then He took the child by the hand, and said to her, "Talitha, cumi," which is translated, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." ⁴² Immediately the girl arose and walked, for she was twelve years *of age*. And they were overcome with great amazement. ⁴³ But He commanded them strictly that no one should know it, and said that *something* should be given her to eat.

Introduction

In the verses from Mark that I have just read, Jesus reveals more of who He is and the nature of His kingdom.

People either respond with "faith" or "fear"

The miracles that we discussed in Chapter 1& 2 were of a very public nature.

Remember the healing of the Leper and the healing of the totally disabled man who was lowered through the roof.

These miracles were very much in the public view.

However, by contrast the miracles in chapter 4 and 5 are of a greater magnitude and they are primarily concerned with teaching something to the disciples.

Jesus knew that we remember more of what we see, than what we hear.

Jesus also knew that the things we hear are more fully understood by living examples which help us to retain the truth.

Let me give you an example.

Imagine today that this was your first visit to O.I.C.

Imagine that you were not a Christian and that a friend had brought you here to listen to a sermon about the love of Jesus.

Unknown to everybody you have two deep personal needs.

1. You had no money and you hadn't eaten for two days.
2. Nobody had ever shown you any physical love in a genuine way, like a friendly embrace or a cuddle.

On that day, you heard a wonderful sermon about the love of Jesus, how He died on the cross for your sin, and how God longs for you to repent of your sin and put your faith and trust in Jesus.

After the sermon the Pastor welcomed you with a Christian cuddle or embrace and then offered to take you out to lunch with him and his wife.

I expect that you would understand and remember more about the love of Jesus by the actions of the Pastor than by His theology.

So perhaps if you became personally convicted of your sin, you would likely have more confidence in Jesus and His love for you, because you had tasted a little of His love through one of His servants.

Sometimes people need to see that Jesus is real in our lives before they trust Him in their lives.

The miracles before us here in mark's Gospel were very visual for the disciples to see.

However, they were not miracles for the sake of miracles.

These miracles pointed to an important truth about Jesus and His Kingdom.

There are three main points in the passage that I read to you.

These are that Jesus has the power over nature, power over evil and power over sickness and death.

1. Power over Nature - 4: v. 35-41.

After a busy day teaching in a boat by the side of lake Galilee, Jesus suggested that all of the disciples travelled with Him in the boat to the other side of the lake.

The only problem was, that it was dark.

Some of the disciples used to be fishermen, so navigating on the lake at night was not a big issue for them.

However suddenly a great windstorm arose on the lake. (v.37)

The waves were beating against the boat and water was coming inside.
While all this was going on, Jesus was in the boat asleep on a pillow in the stern of the boat.
After all Jesus had had a busy day teaching and He was tired.
Naturally the disciples were afraid.

The boat was starting to sink, it was dark and there was a great storm on the lake.

Even for experienced fishermen it was a fearful situation.

The disciples woke up Jesus and said "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" (v. 38)

Jesus then got up from His resting place and "rebuked the wind" and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!!"

Suddenly the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

(v. 39)

Jesus performed two miracles here.

Firstly, the wind stopped immediately and secondly the sea calmed down immediately.

If you know anything about storms at sea or on large lakes, you will know that it takes up to 8 hours from the time the wind stops in a storm to getting the sea to be completely calm.

Sometimes it can take 2-3 days for the sea to be calm after a storm.

I know this fact because I have lived by the sea for about 20 years in my life.

This was a real miracle, the storm did not suddenly stop, Jesus performed an amazing miracle to control nature.

After Jesus performed these two miracles, he said to the disciples,

"Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"

The response from the disciples in v.41 was that they feared greatly.

They also said to themselves, "who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him."

We notice in the text that the disciples' fear of the storm was replaced with a fear of Jesus.

Jesus did not rebuke the disciples for asking for help in the storm, He rebuked them for "not trusting Him in the storm."

There is a clear difference here and in this difference we need to make a personal application for our lives today.

The application in our lives is this.

Even if it appears that God is not in control of a situation that we find ourselves in, we must still trust Him in that difficult situation.

Let me give you a biblical example.

Moses and the Red Sea Crossing.

In the book of Exodus, chapter 14 we read the account of Moses leading over 2 million people to the edge of the Red sea. After all the plagues in Egypt and the miracles that were performed, the Israelites trusted God and Moses to lead them out to their promised land.

The Israelites and Moses didn't expect the Egyptians to come after them.

Let us read the story as Moses tells us.

Exodus 14: v. 11-31.

¹¹ Then they said to Moses, "Because *there were* no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? ¹² *Is* this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, 'Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For *it would have been* better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness." ¹³ And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. ¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace." ¹⁵ And the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward. ¹⁶ But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry *ground* through the midst of the sea. ¹⁷ And I indeed will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them. So I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horsemen. ¹⁸ Then the Egyptians shall know that I

am the LORD, when I have gained honor for Myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.”
¹⁹ And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them. ²⁰ So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a cloud and darkness *to the one*, and it gave light by night *to the other*, so that the one did not come near the other all that night. ²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go *back* by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry *land*, and the waters were divided. ²² So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry *ground*, and the waters *were* a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ²³ And the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. ²⁴ Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that the LORD looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and He troubled the army of the Egyptians. ²⁵ And He took off their chariot wheels, so that they drove them with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians.” ²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen.” ²⁷ And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it. So the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. ²⁸ Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, *and* all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained. ²⁹ But the children of Israel had walked on dry *land* in the midst of the sea, and the waters *were* a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ³⁰ So the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Thus Israel saw the great work which the LORD had done in Egypt; so the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD and His servant Moses.

Moses was faced with a very difficult situation, He cried to God and God told him to go forward in “faith”.

The 2 million children of Israel were faced with a difficult situation and all they could experience was “fear”

There are many examples in the Bible of people who trusted God in very difficult situations.

Remember Job, He lost his property, his children and His health and yet he says in Job Chapter 13: v.15 “Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.”

Q. How about us?

Ah!! you say, they were different!!

There was nothing different about these people, they were ordinary people just like us, but they didn’t have fear in the extreme difficulties of live, they had faith in a supernatural God, who was well able to fulfil His purposes through their lives.

I pray that God will give us the grace to trust Him, when there is nothing to encourage us to do so, except the fact that He loves us, through Jesus.

Jesus loved us enough to die for our sins. This is the thing that we must never forget.

2. Power over Evil – 5: v. 1-20

After the storm incident, Jesus and the disciples sailed into the country of the “Gaderenes”.

This was on the other side of the lake.

I have actually been to the exact spot where this area is historically located. **Today it is still a very isolated place.**

As soon as Jesus got out of the boat with the disciples He was approached by a demon possessed man. We are told that this person lived in the tombs or caves, and was so strong that not even chains could hold him.

In v. 5 we are told that this man wandered in the mountains day and night, crying out and cutting himself with stones.

In v. 6 we are told that as soon as the man saw Jesus he worshipped Him and cried out “What have I to do with you, Jesus, Son of the most- high God?”

The man then said “ I implore you by God that you do not torment me.”

In v. 8 Jesus said “Come out of the man, unclean spirit.”

In v. 9 Jesus asked the man a question, “What is your name?”

He replied “Legion”

A Roman Legion comprised of 6,000 soldiers.

In v. 12 we are told that the demons begged Jesus that they might be able to enter into the pigs.

Jesus gave them permission to enter the pigs and suddenly 2,000 pigs ran over the hill and drowned in the sea of Galilee.

This was great news for the demon possessed man, his demons had left him and he was in perfect peace.

However, it was not good news for the people looking after the pigs.

They lost 2,000 pigs.

Q. How were they going to explain that to their owners?

The pig shepherds went into the city and explained the incident to their employers and the people of the city.

When the people came out from the city and observed that the demon possessed man called “Legion” was in his right mind, they were “afraid”

The people didn’t have faith in Jesus, they had fear in their hearts.

The people from the city pleaded with Jesus to leave the area.

They were obviously full of “fear”

Jesus and the disciples returned to the boat, but Legion wanted to go with them.

The man was no longer demon possessed, he was a new person.

Jesus had changed his life by removing the demons from controlling him.

You would think that Jesus would have allowed him to join the disciples.

Instead Jesus said to the man,

“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.”

In v. 20 we are told that the man was obedient to the command of Jesus and began proclaiming all that Jesus had done for him.

Everybody in the area was amazed about the change that had taken place in this man.

Now for our personal application from this story.

This is very important.

In the previous miracle, the words of Jesus stilled the storm and here again we see the power of Jesus words in performing another miracle.

Jesus said “Come out of the man, unclean spirit.”

This miracle shows us quite clearly that Jesus has power over evil spirits and satan himself.

Jesus has greater power than satan and Jesus came to destroy satan and to rescue people from His work.

Ephesians Chapter 1: v. 19-23 in the N.L.T.

¹⁹ I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him.

This is the same mighty power ²⁰ that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms. ²¹ Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. ²² God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church.

²³ And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.

Now we come to something very important.

The secret of being a blessed Christian is believing in God’s word, the Bible, and not in the lies that satan tell us.

John Chapter 8: v. 44.

⁴⁴ You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it.

In John Chapter 8: v. 32 it says “And you shall know the TRUTH and the TRUTH shall set you free.”

The power for the Christian is in his belief of the truth of the Bible.

By this I mean, “What the Bible says about every true believer in Christ.”

The power of satan is in his lies.

Paul says in 2 Corinthians Chapter 10: v. 3-6 that there is a spiritual war going on in the mind of every Christian.

It is a battle to control our minds.

2 Cor. 10: v. 3-6.

³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, ⁶ and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

If satan can control our minds, then he can influence our behaviour.

The devil or satan puts things into our minds.

If we listen to him then he can influence our behaviour and thought patterns.

The secret of victorious Christian living is being able to say NO to satan, and his lies about us, and YES to God’s word and what it says about every Christian.

It may seem very simple but actually it is a real battle.

The greatest power you can have over satan is to believe God’s word.

Therefore, you must beware of anybody who counsels you on any matter that does not clearly measure up to God’s word.

If God’s word says something, then it is true, no matter what anybody else says, whoever they are.

Finally our third miracle.

3. Power over illness and death – 5: v. 21-43.

In v. 21 we are told that Jesus had crossed over to the other side of the lake by boat.

He met up with a man called Jairus , who was one of the rulers of the Jewish synagogue.

Jairus was very afraid because his daughter was at the point of death. He begged Jesus to come and heal her.

Jesus set off with Jairus to heal his daughter.

On their way a desperate woman who had had a medical problem with her blood for 12 years touched the garment that Jesus was wearing.

As soon as the woman touched the garment of Jesus in faith, she was healed completely.

Jesus knew that power had gone out from Him and said to the crowd, “who touched my clothes?”

The woman who had been healed owned up and told Jesus the whole story.

In v. 34 Jesus said to the woman “Daughter your faith has made you well.

Go in peace and be healed of your affliction.”

Q. So what can we learn from this story?

There are two important things.

- a) Only Jesus has the power to heal our bodies even when all attempts through doctors may fail.
Medical science is very advanced today, but medical science can't help every disease and illness.
- b) It is putting our "faith" in Jesus to heal us that will result in His power to perform the miracle.
I know that not everybody who is prayed for to be healed is actually healed.
This is a fact of life.
However, "faith" in the power of Jesus is definitely the way to receive healing if it is His will to do so in any given situation.

After the healing of the woman, Jesus was told that Jairus's daughter was dead.

When Jesus discovered that Jairus's daughter was dead, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, "do not be afraid, only believe."

Jesus only permitted Peter, James and John to come with Him, plus the father and mother of the child.

They all entered the house where the girl lay dead.

Jesus said, "little girl I say to you, arise."

Immediately the girl rose up and walked. Everybody was absolutely amazed by this miracle.

Jesus commanded the people not to tell anybody about this miracle and ordered that the little girl be given something to eat.

Our last miracle shows us that Jesus has power over death.

When we put our faith and trust in Jesus we do not need to fear death.

Jesus said in John Chapter 11: v.25 **"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die..."**

Death is something that most people don't want to talk about or even think about.

For the Christian who puts their faith and trust in Jesus, they need not fear death.

Celebrating Communion is always a reminder that because Jesus died on a cross for our sins, then belief in Him and His work, provides not only forgiveness of sins, but and eternal life in Heaven with Jesus.

Today as we celebrate "Communion" it is a time to have "faith" and NOT "fear".