

Separating The Crowd From The Kingdom

Lies, legends or Lord?

Mark 4-5

Mark is claiming this man Jesus has the power over:

- ✓ **Epic storms**
- ✓ **Legions of demons**
- ✓ **Incurable diseases**
- ✓ **Death**

Finding our story in their story:

Mark 5:21-43, 8:34-35, James 2:14-19, Ephesians 2:8-9, Matthew 7:13-23, Romans 12:1-2

There is a HUGE difference between **reaching out** to Jesus,
and putting **our faith** in Jesus.

Jesus will either take our **whole truth**, or **none** of our truth,
he did not die on the cross to just be **part of our life**.

Without **surrender** there can be no **salvation**.

A question we have to answer:

Romans 1:18-20, 3:23, 5:8, 6:23, 10:9-11, 12:1-2

Are we simply part of the **crowd**, or one of the **committed**?

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Life Group Study Questions

For the week of April 21, 2019

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

- 1 What was Easter like in your household growing up? What were some of your favorite Easter traditions as a kid?

Are there any Easter traditions you're happy to leave back in childhood?

- 2 Chris talked about Jesus wanting to have all of our life, not just a part of our life. What are some words or short phrases that would describe a person who has given Jesus all of his or her life?

DIGGING DEEPER

- 1 We saw in the stories of the bleeding woman and Jarius' daughter that faith is more than intellectual belief or just reaching out to Jesus. Biblical faith takes Jesus at his word and does what he says to do. What do you learn about faith in action in James 2:14-26?

James 2:14-26 New International Version (NIV)

Faith and Deeds

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ¹⁵Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

¹⁸But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. ¹⁹You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

²⁰You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? ²¹Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²²You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. ²³And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. ²⁴You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

²⁵In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? ²⁶As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

How does Ephesians 2:8-10 compare with what you read in James 2 regarding faith and works?

Ephesians 2:8-10 New International Version (NIV)

⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

If you had to explain to someone the relationship between faith and works in your own words, what would you say?

- 2** Faith and belief are a big part of the two stories we looked at this weekend. Another story in the Bible that shows the importance of faith is found in Daniel 3:16-28. In this story, three of Daniel's friends were faced with the kind of situation that could easily have caused them to doubt God and his plan—they were told to either worship an idol or be thrown into a blazing furnace. What do you learn about faith from their experience?

Daniel 3:16-28 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷ If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us^[a] from Your Majesty’s hand. ¹⁸ But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual ²⁰ and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. ²¹ So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. ²² The king’s command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, ²³ and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.

²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, “Weren’t there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?”

They replied, “Certainly, Your Majesty.”

²⁵ He said, “Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.”

²⁶ Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!”

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, ²⁷ and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

²⁸ Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king’s command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

What do you think helped these guys not give in when told to deny God?

What would you say to someone who wanted to develop the same kind of faith as these three guys?

- 3** Our faith ultimately rests on an understanding of who Jesus is and what he has done for us. The following passages all contain statements that Jesus made about himself. For each one, identify what he says about himself and ways his description could help build our faith in him.

John 6:35 New International Version (NIV)

³⁵ Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

John 8:12 New International Version (NIV)

Dispute Over Jesus' Testimony

¹²When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 10:14-15 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁴"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.

John 11:25-26 New International Version (NIV)

²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 14:6 New International Version (NIV)

⁶Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

TAKING IT HOME

1 Looking back on this week's sermon and study, what's most important for you to remember?

PRAYER REQUESTS

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COMMUNITY SERVICE IMPACT

Community Service is dedicated to being the hands and feet of Jesus and showing God's love in tangible ways through service to the community. There are many options for you to serve. For ideas, check out NorthCoastCommunityService.org