

# Together with Jesus

Gospel according to Mark

Week 3

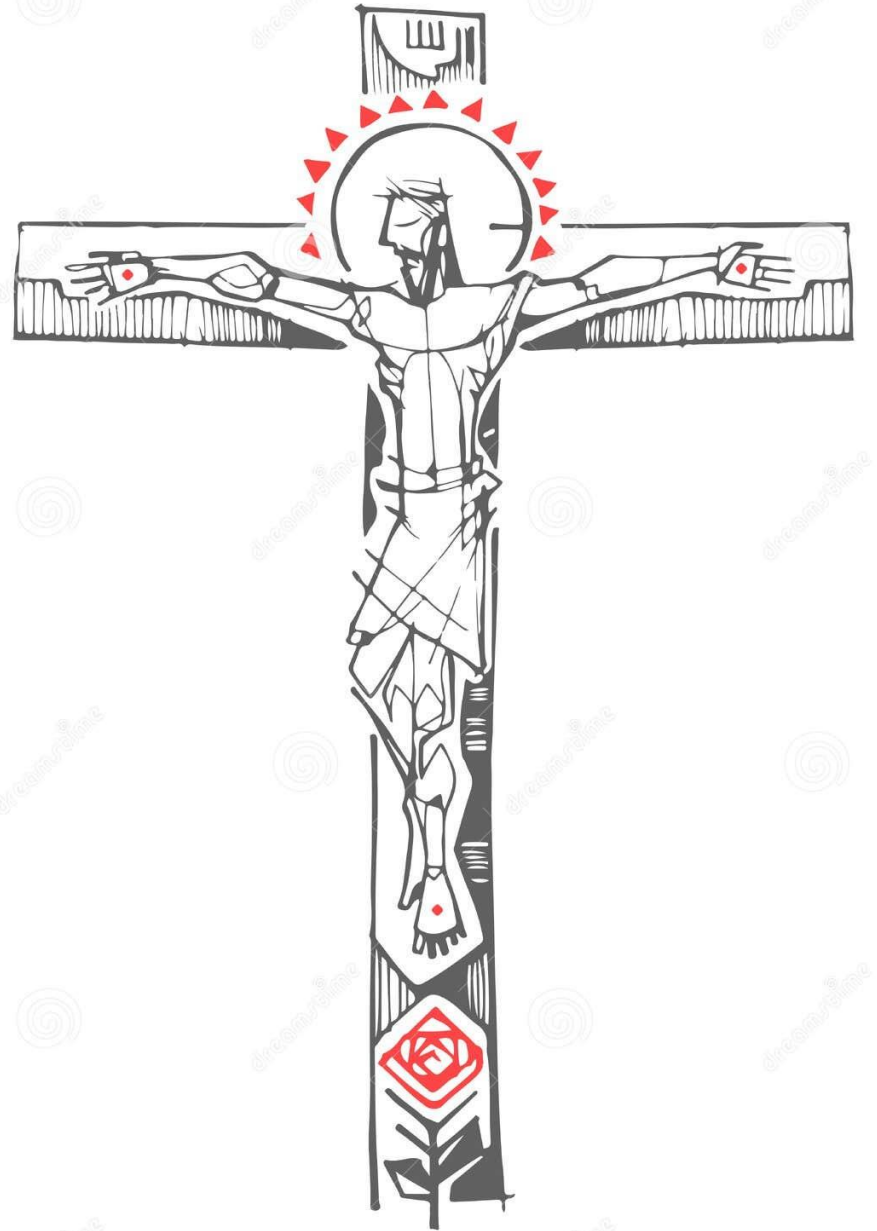
Chapters 5 and 6

Miracles



# Warm Up

What miracle do you think would best prove to you that Jesus is the Son of God?



# Mark 5:1-20

## The Gerasene Demoniac

After the stilling of the sea, Jesus arrives in the Gentile area of the Gerasenes. We are not entirely sure which cities comprised this area, but it was undoubtedly Gentile. Here Jesus means a man coming from the tombs and out of his minds (surely Mark fills in some of the other details from later information). He heals him, but this makes Jesus less attractive to the people rather than more.



**Question: Why do you think the towns people were afraid of Jesus? What do you imagine them thinking?**



**Question: What may have been some reasons Mark chose to make this “sandwich” of these two stories?**

## **Mark 5:21-43**

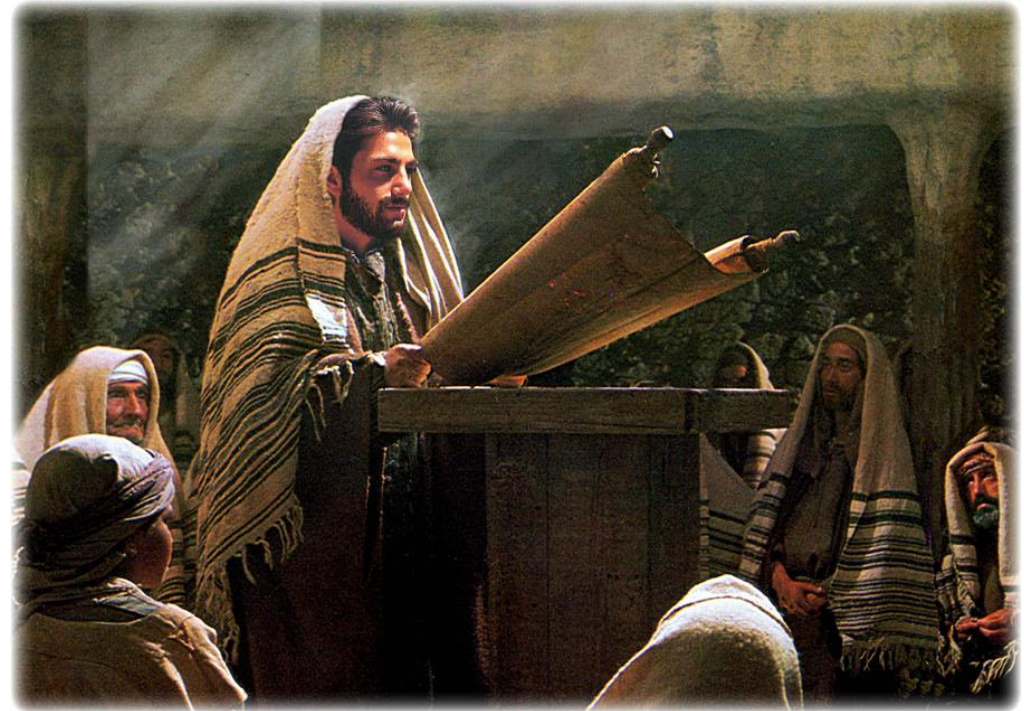
### **Miraculous Healing “Sandwich”**

Mark records an interesting “sandwich” of healings, which is an uncommon literary move for the day but shows the connection of the two stories. First we meet Jairus and his daughter, then we encounter the woman with the flow of blood, and then back to the resolution of the story of Jairus’ daughter.

# Mark 6:1-6

## Nazareth

Mark shows us Jesus now moving back closer to Judea, to His hometown of Nazareth. He is apparently in Nazareth for some days before the Sabbath, but does few miracles. His hometown people take offense at Him, perhaps still with some soreness over His slighting of His family earlier in chapter 3.



**Question: What do you think happened that caused “them to take offense at Him”?**



**Question: If you were being sent by Jesus on a similar mission, what would you want to pack?**

## Mark 6:7-13

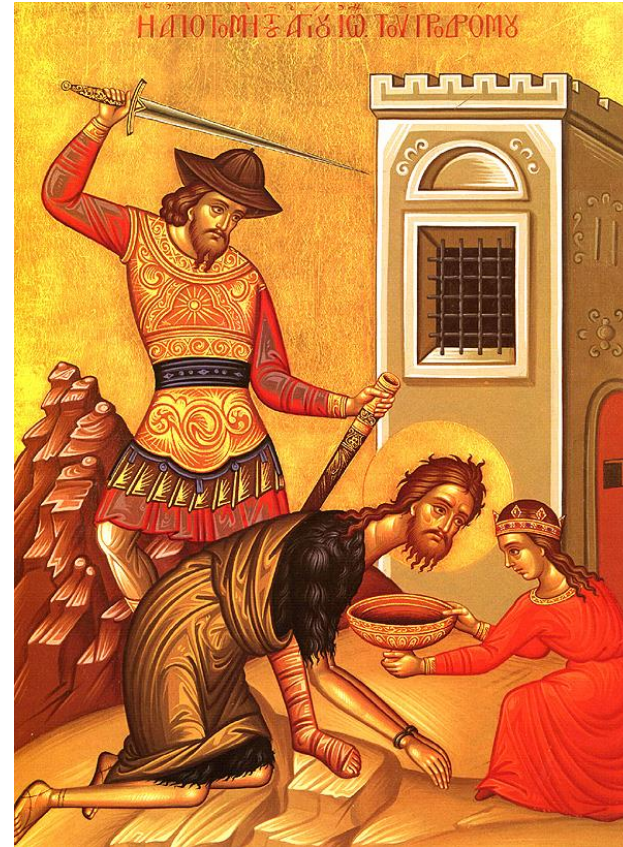
### The Twelve Sent Out

Jesus sends His chosen 12 out into the countryside. Mark's brevity forces a focus on the sparseness of their equipment and the summation of their message which seems to match Jesus' own words from chapter 1, "repent and believe the Gospel." Mark also gives us the additional detail of anointing the sick with oil – the first mention of this practice in Christianity.

# Mark 6:14-32

## John the Baptist's Death

While the disciples leave for parts unknown, Mark artistically changes our scene to the story of Herod and John the Baptist. Uncharacteristically, Mark gives us a fuller account than Matthew does. At the end of the story, Jesus invites His disciples to join Him in a desolate place to rest (but we find out next that the crowds follow them).



**Question: Mark seems to be leaving a bread crumb trail to the cross. How does this story prepare us for Jesus' death?**



**Question: This is another example of Mark slowing down. What details does he include that you might not expect?**

## **Mark 6:33-44**

### **Feeding the 5000**

Mark recounts the story of the feeding of the 5000, making some clear allusions back to Moses. In Mark's gospel, this is likely to be interpreted as Mark showing clearly that Jesus is making a "new Israel" of His own making – similar to Mark's focus on the twelve disciples and similarities to the 12 tribes.



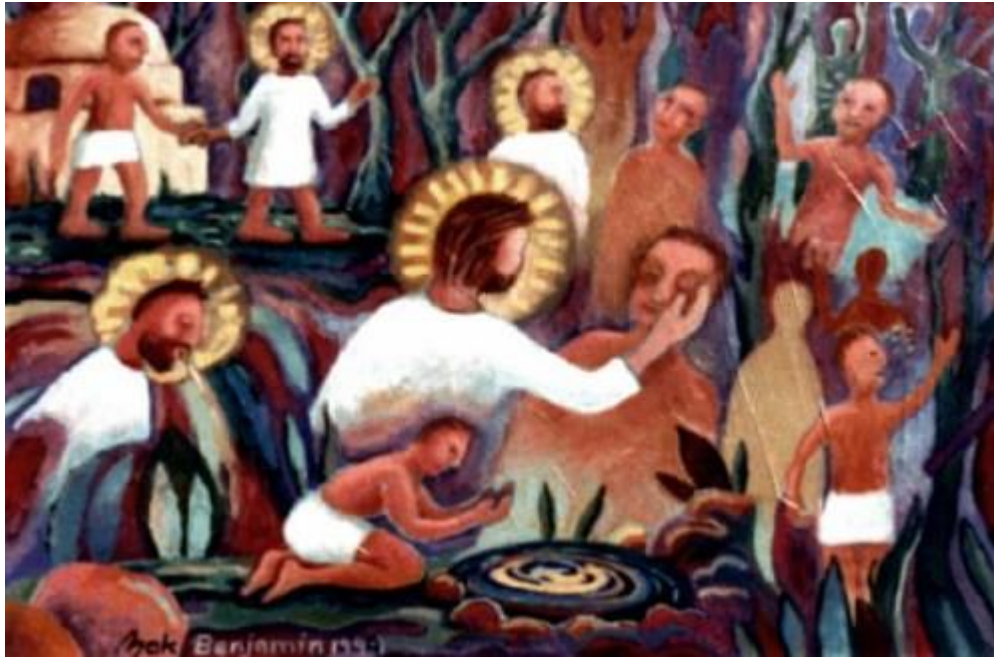
# Mark 6:45-52

## Jesus Walks on Water

After the feeding of the 5000, Jesus sends the disciples on ahead. We may wonder what the plan was for Him to catch up, but that doesn't matter as He does walking on the water. Mark interestingly does not record Peter also attempting to walk on the water with Jesus, only the overall reaction of the entire unit of the disciples.



**Question: Mark tells us that the disciples still don't get Jesus. How do you suppose this is possible? And why?**



**Question: If Mark is keen to show us people's reactions, what is the reaction he is pointing us to with this section?**

## **Mark 6:53-56**

### **Healings Again in Genesarret**

Arriving in (at least approximately) the place where we started in chapter 5, the disciples and Jesus are met by a throng of people seeking healing. Mark moves us quickly through this moment of Jesus' life, giving us only a summary statement, but Jesus moves around so much that He is back in Judea by the start of chapter 7.



# Wrap Up

Taking these two chapters as a section, how would you summarize what Jesus is doing in this section?

Next week – Mark 7 and 8