

# THE SURPRISING JESUS

Studies in the Book of Mark

~Week Six~

“The Miracle Worker”

Mark 5:21-43



Life Groups

We continue our study of the book of Mark entitled “The Surprising Jesus.” Whether you work through these studies on your own, with a friend, or with a UPC Life Group, they will help you develop a HEAD that enjoys God’s truth, a HEART of love for God and neighbor, and HANDS eager to serve the King.

**A reminder...** These weekly studies are connected to the Sunday sermons at UPC. On Sunday morning you will hear a sermon on a passage from the book of Mark. The study guide includes a “Look Back” section to help you reflect on the sermon, and a “Look Up” section to take you through the NEXT passage in the book of Mark. If you miss a sermon, you can always listen to it online at [www.upc-orlando.com](http://www.upc-orlando.com).

## LOOK BACK – Mark 5:1-20

Although Jesus’ primary mission was to the Jews, He intended the good news for the whole world. This passage of Mark’s gospel records Jesus’ foray into the Gentile region of the Decapolis (Greek for “Ten Cities”), on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee. There He finds a man possessed by demons, who quickly experiences the miracle-working power of the Son of God.

a) What is the significance of the possessed man’s name “Legion” (verse 9)?

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b) In what ways and for what reasons had human intervention failed to remedy Legion’s situation (vss. 3-5)?

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c) What did Jesus do to free the man from his torment (vss. 8-13)?

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d) How do you account for the reaction of the townspeople to the man’s deliverance (vss. 14-17)?

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e) What was the healed man's response to Jesus (vss. 18-20)?

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## LOOK UP – Mark 5:21-43

Jesus returns to Galilee and demonstrates the reality of the gospel by performing miracles. The two miracles we will look at this week testify not only to the power and authority of Jesus Christ, but also to His compassion for individuals in need.

### Mark 5:21-24, 35-43 – Jesus Raises a Dead Daughter

a) Notice how Mark carefully draws a contrast between the “large crowd” (vs. 21) and the individual (vs. 22). (A contrast, by the way, that continues throughout this chapter.) What does this contrast teach you about Jesus Christ?

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b) What do you suppose motivated Jairus, the synagogue ruler, to turn to Jesus on his daughter's behalf?

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c) This is Mark's first report of Jesus raising a person from the dead. What aspect of the gospel does this miracle reveal?

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d) This is also the first time Mark tells us that Jesus had an “inner circle” of disciples (namely, Peter, James, and John). In light of what you know about the disciples' (and perhaps your own!) tendency toward competitiveness and jealousy, why do you think Jesus would play upon these emotions by making such distinctions?

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e) Jesus tells Jairus, “Don't be afraid” (vs. 36). Is fear always an indicator of lack of faith?

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f) Look back at Mark 5:18-20. There, Jesus told the healed man to tell others what Jesus had done for him. Here, however, He tells Jairus and his family not to tell anyone (vs. 43). Why the difference? (Hint: Consider the different locations of the miracles.)

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**Mark 5:25-34 – Jesus Heals a Wounded Woman**

a) How was this unnamed woman in the crowd similar to Jairus' daughter? (Hint: compare vs. 25 with vs. 42)

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b) How was she similar to the possessed man described earlier in verses 2-6?

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c) It is likely that many people in the crowd that day touched Jesus' clothing (vs. 31). Surely at least a few of them were sick. Why weren't they healed, too?

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d) Why did the woman fall at Jesus' feet "trembling with fear" (vs. 33)? What was she afraid of? (Hint: Read Leviticus 15:25-31.)

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**LOOK IN – Reflect**

a) What situations do you face right now that from a human perspective appear hopeless?

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b) What have you learned from Jairus and the woman in the crowd that helps you cope with these situations?

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**LOOK OUT – Apply**

Have you ever considered the subtle ways in which you play favorites? This week's study reveals that Jesus dealt compassionately with both the "movers and shakers" and the obscure and forgotten; with both men and women; and with both adults and children. What about you? Are there prejudices or biases in your life that isolate you from some group(s) of people? In light of gospel inclusiveness, let them go!