

MARK

Mark Wk 18 Mk. 5:35-43

General:

- Pastor Chip talked about how people who identify counterfeit money learn by becoming deeply familiar with the real thing. How can becoming more familiar with Jesus and His Word help us recognize what is false?
- Throughout Mark's Gospel, one question continues to surface: "Who is Jesus?" After everything we've seen in Mark 1-5, how would you answer that question?
- Now that we've reached the end of these two intertwined stories, why do you think Mark interrupts Jairus' story with the story of the suffering woman? What might we understand about Jesus (or Jairus' journey of faith) that we might miss if the stories were told separately?
- What comes to the surface in you when you hear Jesus say, "Do not fear, only believe"? What causes you the greatest fear?
- Pastor Chip's professor said, "When reason and Scripture part ways, we go with Scripture." Does that mean Christianity asks us to abandon reason? Why or why not? What is the proper relationship between reason and Scripture?
- Pastor Chip said, "Faith denies that the facts are the final word when Jesus has spoken." What circumstance in your life currently feels like it has the final word? What would trusting Jesus in that situation look like?
- How often do you allow the emotional atmosphere of a situation to shape your response more than what you know to be true about Jesus?
- In verse 40, the people laugh at Jesus when He says the child is only sleeping. How do you respond when what Jesus says seems impossible, unrealistic, or contrary to what you can see?
- Jesus takes the girl by the hand even though touching a dead body would make someone ceremonially unclean. What does Jesus' willingness to touch her reveal about the way He approaches our brokenness and uncleanness?
- Everyone is "overcome with amazement" after the miracle, but amazement alone is not the same as faith. What is the difference between being impressed by what Jesus can do and actually entrusting your life to who He is?

Take Home 1: We need to learn the difference between the unbiblical “faith in faith” and what true trust in Jesus actually looks like (Mk. 5:36b)

- What’s the difference between having faith that Jesus will give you a particular outcome and placing your faith in Jesus Himself?
- Take a moment to reflect. When you say you are “having faith” about something, what are you actually trusting? (That everything will work out the way you hope? That Jesus can be trusted regardless of how it turns out?)
- Have you ever prayed, believed, or waited for God to do something that ultimately didn’t happen the way you hoped? How did you react or respond?
- What makes trusting the character of Jesus more difficult than God simply doing what you desperately want Him to do?

Take Home 2: The people we allow closest to us will either cultivate our faith or contaminate it (Mk. 5:37,40b)

- Jesus allows only Peter, James, John, and the girl’s parents into the room. What does that moment teach us about being intentional with the voices we allow closest to us?
- Pastor Chip said, “Some people belong in our lives, but they don’t belong in the room where God is asking us to believe.” Who currently has the greatest influence on your faith, perspective, and decisions?
- What does it look like to genuinely love someone while also recognizing that they should not have significant influence over what you believe or how you follow Jesus?

Take Home 3: We must decide whose voice will have the final word in our lives (Mk. 5:36,39,41)

- This passage is filled with competing voices (the messengers announce death, the mourners laugh, and Jesus speaks something entirely different). Which voices tend to become loudest in your life when fear or uncertainty sets in?
- What messages are you repeatedly allowing into your mind, and what are they training you to believe?
- Who or what currently has your ear most consistently? Is that influence drawing you toward greater trust in Jesus?