



SPORTS IN FOCUS

THE SERVANT DEMONSTRATES HIS POWER

Mark 4:35-5:43 • Lesson Four

READY

- What type of hardships have you experienced in sports?
- How does the gospel address a person's fear of hardship and calamity?

SET

Context of Mark 4:35-5:43

The key verse in Mark is probably 10:45: "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." One way Jesus served those He came to save was by delivering God's truth to a world shrouded in darkness. Another way He served was by miraculously delivering people from certain temporal trials. These assorted miracles were not ends in themselves, but rather a means to a greater end. They were signs, intended to point out deeper truths about the person and work of Christ. They acted to authenticate His message.

Keys to Text

Miracles: In all of Old Testament history there was never a person who exhibited such extensive healing power as Jesus. Physical healing were very rare in the OT. Jesus' chose to display His deity by healing, raising the dead and demonstrating power over demons.

GO

Read Mark 4:35-5:43

1. What was the response of the disciples to the storm? To Jesus' calming of the storm?
2. What do we learn about the power and number of the demons who controlled the man? What was their effect on him?
3. Who was Jairus and why is it significant that he came to Christ for help? What "tests of faith" did he have to endure before his daughter was restored to him?
4. The disciples seemed shocked and surprised by Christ's power; however, the synagogue official and the bleeding woman seemed to have great faith in the power of Christ. What is the explanation for this?
5. With which person or group of people from this extended passage do you identify most and why: the disciples in the storm, the man oppressed by demons, the prominent man with the sick child, or the woman with a debilitating and shameful illness? What were the peculiar doubts and struggles of each?

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In Christ there is no longer reason to fear sickness, disease, demons, deformity, tragedy, or even death. As believers, we can even rejoice in dying because our Lord has conquered death. Though we will not be brought back to life, we will be raised to new life. In Him is fullness of joy and life everlasting.

"Grind on me, test me," Tim Tebow recently told Sports Illustrated's Peter King. "I feel I've prepared my whole life for this." He was talking about the Senior Bowl in Mobile, Ala., where Tebow's been huffing his way through brutal workouts before an audience of NFL scouts. The University of Florida quarterback could have just as easily been talking about his upcoming Super Bowl commercial. At a press conference last week, Tebow said that he's "always been very convicted" about the wrongness of abortion "because that's the reason I'm here." Do you think Tebow understands there is no fear in Christ? Why or why not? What do you see in Tebow's life that suggests he understands how the Gospel addresses the fear of severe trials?