

## **A Overcoming the storm (Mark 4:35-41)**

- ❖ Tired after a tiring day, Jesus fell into a deep sleep as they traveled to the other side of the lake (Mark 4:35-36, 38a).
- ❖ This passage follows the common pattern for a revelation from God (Mark 4:40-41):
  - (1) Demonstration of power: “he said to the sea: Be silent, be still”
  - (2) Human fear: “they feared with great fear”
  - (3) “Do not be afraid”: “Why are you so afraid?”
  - (4) Revelation or message: “How do you not have faith?”
  - (5) Human response: “Who is this?”
- ❖ A strong wind arose that endangered the boats that were traveling (Mark 4:37). The disciples woke up Jesus and he calmly silenced the wind (Mark 4:38-40).

## **B Defeating demons (Mark 5:1-20)**

- ❖ The landing was spectacular. Within a few minutes, everyone was running scared toward the boats. And Jesus? He discussed with the devil the conditions of his surrender.
- ❖ Under his harsh manners, the demon-possessed man recognized in Jesus the one who could free him. Although his cry was drowned out by the demon's voice, Jesus was able to hear it clearly, and responded to the man's faith.
- ❖ Jesus brought man out of his unclean home (the tombs), and the inhabitants of the region from their unclean work (the pigs). The man was clean, his fellow citizens remained in their filth.
- ❖ This story teaches us that Jesus hears our request, and can help us overcome any difficulty we struggle with.

## **C Overcoming illness (Mark 5:21-34)**

- ❖ We once again find ourselves with a second “sandwich” story:
  - (1) Mark 5:21-24. Jairus looks for Jesus.
  - (2) *Mark 5:25-34. A woman is healed.*
  - (3) Mark 5:35-43. Jesus heals Jairus' daughter.
- ❖ Despite the seriousness of the situation, Jesus interrupts his journey for something seemingly trivial: someone has touched him (Mark 5:30-32). Couldn't he have resolved that later? Wasn't the girl's life more important?
- ❖ But God does not see as we see. If the girl died, he could resurrect her. If the woman walked away, she would be left in spiritual darkness, thinking that a magical power had healed her.
- ❖ Believing in Jesus is the main point. For her and for Jairus (Mark 5:34, 36). And also for you and me.

## **D Overcoming rejection and challenges (Mark 6:1-30)**

- ❖ Why did the Nazarenes reject Jesus (Mark 6:1-6)?
- ❖ Have you ever been rejected like Jesus was, or had to go through some crisis that is difficult to understand? What did you learn from that experience that you can use to help someone going through the same experience?
- ❖ We come to the third “sandwich” story:
  - (1) Mark 6:7-13. Mission of the disciples.
  - (2) *Mark 6:14-29. Death of John the Baptist.*
  - (3) Mark 6:30. Report of the disciples.
- ❖ Jesus proposes to his disciples a great challenge: to be sent to preach in pairs, after receiving some practical advice (Mark 6:7-10).
- ❖ While they preach freely, John remains in prison. In contrast to the success of the disciples, John seals his testimony with death.

## **E Overcoming incomprehension (Mark 6:31-52)**

- ❖ Jesus' disciples needed to share with him at length the details of their mission; and John's disciples needed to understand why their teacher had died.
- ❖ Jesus withdrew with them, but a large crowd came forward and waited for him on the shore. When he saw them, “he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd” (Mark 6:34).
- ❖ They were a leaderless people, with no one to guide them (1 Kings 22:17). They were looking for a Messiah to free them from Rome. But Jesus offered them a Messiah who would free them from sin (Mark 10:45).
- ❖ Faced with the miracle of the fish, the crowd wanted to make Jesus their political leader (Jn. 6:14-15). The disciples, for their part, had not understood Jesus' role either (Mark 6:52).
- ❖ What did Jesus do? He refused the honors, and prayed (Mark 6:45-46).