

KINGDOM

the gospel of mark

Week 6 | Kingdom: The Gospel of Mark | February 8, 2015

Opening Up:

- Are you more likely to work hard, play hard, or chill out?
- On Mondays do you find motivation in the hard working demands of the week, the playful exceptions of the weekend, or opportunities to kick back and relax?
- Do you manage work, play, and rest well? Which is hardest or easiest for you?
- How do you know when you need to work, play, or rest? What symptoms show up in your life when you're lacking rest, play, or work?

Read (or reference): Mark 5:21-43

Discuss:

1. In verses 21 and 24 it seems that Jesus was never without the demanding needs of other people. How can you relate to Jesus? Do you have people demanding time and energy for you? How do you handle it?
2. Both the woman with the discharge and Jairus are desperate people. This text points us to the divine possibilities available through Jesus. How does desperation in your life affect your faith? How does someone get a faith that believes in the divine possibilities?
3. Elton Trueblood says that faith is "closer to courage than mere belief." Do you think this true? How so?
4. When Jairus' daughter dies in verse 35, Jesus responds in verse 36 this way: "Do not fear, only believe." When all hope was lost, Jesus provides hope. Have you ever been hopeless and the only resource you had left was belief? How does your faith help you when it seems all hope is lost?
5. In verses 25-30 the woman shows Jairus what it means to have faith even when all of the evidence says otherwise. She heard about Jesus and acted in faith. She has taught us how to "fear not, only believe." What lessons should we be learning from this woman?
6. Jesus confronts the woman in verse 34. She was being tempted to believe that her action saved her, while it was faith that saved her. She was willing to be anonymous, but Jesus wanted her to be known. What lessons do we need to learn from this?
7. When the woman was healed in verse 30, Jesus felt a drained. What does this teach us about the ministry of Jesus? What does this teach us about the nature of our ministry?
8. What does Jesus allowing the interruption (of the woman) to his ministry of Jairus teach us about Jesus?
9. Jesus heals the woman and he calls her "daughter." He heals the girl like he is waking her from a nap. Jesus loves us like children. How does it affect your relationship with God when you know how he perceives you as a child? What does Jesus' interaction with the 12-year-old girl teach about his character?
10. James Edwards wrote in his commentary: "When Jesus says the girl is but sleeping, lamentation turns to derision. 'They laughed at him.' The professional mourners represent the hard-core realists of every age who decide when empirical realities have foreclosed on divine possibilities." **How can our group keep the "empirical realities" from foreclosing on the "divine possibilities?"**
11. Pray.