Series: Starting Line

February 11, 2024

Message: Power, Problems, and Cheerios

Mark 4:35-41; 5:1-20, 21-43; 6:1-6, 30-56

Jesus heart for me is love.

His will for me is to trust God.

Jesus has the power over...

- Danger.
- Demons.
- Want and Need.
- Disease and Death.

The problem of unbelief:

The unbelief of His acquaintances.

The unbelief of His enemies.

The unbelief of His disciples.

How do I get started?

- Know Him. Accept Jesus as Savior.
- Trust Him by asking in prayer.
- Trust Him by praising and through generosity.

My response: In light of what I have learned today, what do I need to do to obey God?

Life Group Questions

The theme of "don't be afraid, just believe" permeates these passages in Mark 4 & 5. This is a whole lot easier to read than to put into practice when you are in the midst of fearful times. In these passages we find a number of different people in desperate straits. Their experiences with Jesus can help us to trust Him with the fearful areas of our own lives.

Fear can be a very powerful emotion. What kinds of fear keep you from doing some things you think you should?

Read Mark 4:35-41. In the first incident the disciples are quite naturally afraid of the storm and disturbed that Jesus seems not to be concerned about their drowning. Once Jesus calms the storm, however, they are still terrified. How does their fear after the storm differ from their previous fears?

Read Mark 5:1-20. Many people find it hard to understand why Jesus allowed the demons to destroy the pigs. It could have been to prevent a violent exit from the man or to show him visibly that he was now free. Even if we can't pin down exactly why Jesus allowed this, what does the fate of the pigs show about what the demons were trying to do to the man?

What does this show about the value Jesus places on the man?

In Mark 5:21-43 two stories are woven together—that of Jairus's daughter and the woman with a hemorrhage. What sorts of fears are involved in these two incidents?

The word "fear" doesn't appear in the account of Jesus' return to his hometown, yet a kind of fear is evident here as well? What are the people afraid of?

Which of the different kinds of fear that have been described in these incidents might we label as *good* fears and which as *bad?*

What are the relationships between fear and faith in each of these incidents?

What keeps you from turning your fears into faith?