

“Let’s Go Over to the Other Side”
“A Journey With Jesus”—Part 8
Mark 4:35--5:20

1. Jesus can be trusted in the storms of life.

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

Mark 4:35-41

Question: Did Jesus know the storm was coming?

7 observations about the journey to the other side:

- Jesus planned to go to the “*other side*.” (Nothing can hinder the working out of His plans. Jesus did not promise an easy trip.

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

John 16:33

Special Note: Understanding the “*other side*.”

- The disciples avoided the other side at all cost.
- The disciples got into the storm because of their obedience to their Lord.
- Jesus was in the storm with them.
- Jesus was at perfect peace during the storm.
- It was their unbelief that caused their fear, and their fear caused them to question whether Jesus really cared.

See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Hebrews 3:12-13

- Jesus is in constant control of every situation.

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

Application: How often in the trials of life are we prone to imitate the disciples and ask, "Lord don't you care?" What has Jesus already done in your life that gives you confidence when the trials of life invade?

2. Jesus shows His disciples that going to the other side is part of the mission.

They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an evil spirit came from the tombs to meet him. This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him any more, not even with a chain. For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

Mark 5:1-5

Question: Did Jesus know what He would encounter on the other side?

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Luke 4:18-19

3. Jesus sets a captive free.

When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me!" For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you evil spirit!" Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area. A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." He gave them permission, and the evil spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

Mark 5:6-13

Question: What was Jesus revealing about the power of God's kingdom?

4. Jesus plants a seed in the Decapolis.

Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well. Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region. As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

Mark 5:14-20

Questions: Why did the people of that region ask Jesus to leave? Why didn't Jesus permit the healed man to follow Him?

Application: God gives us opportunity to go to the other side and bring God's peace into the lives of people. The other side may be found in a class at school or at work. It may be found on mission trips or when we pass a homeless person on the street. It may be found in people's lives who are repulsive to us or who practice and proclaim what we find offensive. In all of these places we must be willing to follow Jesus, get out of the boat, and put God on display.

Question: Where are your opportunities to follow Jesus and go to the other side?