

*Series: The Gospel of Mark*  
**Chapter Five: True Faith**  
Sunday February 12, 2012

*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!"*

He *gave them permission* to go into the pigs (v. 10).

*The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned* (v. 11).

This man was set free from what possessed him.

And his healing was a picture of what Jesus came to do: to set all people free of the evils that possess them – to destroy the work of the devil (1 Jn. 3:8).

"EVERYTHING hangs on the openness of the observers to seeing beyond the miracle to the person at its heart." Donald English

Jesus sent the man back to be a witness for Christianity.

Jesus sent the man back to be the first seed in a mighty harvest.

How 'bout us?

Are we living lives that demonstrate what Christ can do for a man?

Christ must always begin with someone. In our own circle and city – why should he not begin with us?

How 'bout us?

Are there any prejudices that we hold that keep us from being blessed?

Will we swallow our pride to receive whatever healing we might from Jesus?

Whose opinion carries the most weight in our lives?

Jesus realized that power had gone out of him. *He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched me?"* (v. 30)

She stepped forward to answer the question – and she told him the *whole truth* (v. 33).

*He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering" (v. 34).*

This unnamed woman cut through all of the barriers – impelled by her need – and found the secret of faith: *trusting Jesus and telling him everything.*

We are all born with one need – the need to be forgiven.

Will we move toward Jesus for forgiveness and healing?

Will we trust him and tell him everything?

Will we believe in him so that we can see the miracles all about us?

Did Jairus?

Jesus took the child's father and mother and Peter, James and John into where the child was. He took the child's hand and said to her, "Little girl, I tell you, get up!"

What is the nature of true faith?

Some – out of their deepest need – have grasped it because they came to the end of themselves.

*True faith is self-sacrificing trust in Jesus himself.*

What about us?

Do we need miracles to sustain our faith? Will we trust God even when he seems to be quiet?

Do we have faith to see miracles? Are we ready for them?