

Pastor Grady Covin  
The Mission  
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## Lesson 13

So tonight we're going to continue in our study on How to Study the Bible. And we're still learning how to observe and how to answer the question, What do I see?

Now, we started out in the very beginning working with just one verse, Acts 1:8. And then we moved up to a paragraph, and that was Nehemiah's prayer in Nehemiah 1:4–11. And tonight we're going to look at a segment. And a segment is a collection of paragraphs united by a common theme.

And so I'm going to go through a section, and show you what observation looks like on this scale. And then I'm going to give you a list of ways to help you observe segments in the Bible on your own.

So the section we're going to be look at is Mark chapters 4–5. And hopefully you've already read it, but if not go ahead turn there anyway and we'll talk about it.

Now, in these two chapters we actually have two segments as well. Mark 4:1–34 contains what we call the **parable segment**. And that's how the chapter begins. Jesus is teaching by the Sea of

Galilee. And in verse 2 we're told that, "**He was teaching them many things in parables.**"

So this is a teaching situation, and parables are the main medium of communication. In fact, in **verses 33–34** we read,

**And with many such parables He was speaking the word to them as they were able to hear it; and He was not speaking to them without parables; but He was explaining everything privately to His own disciples.**

And then, beginning in chapter 4 and verse 35 and continuing through chapter 5 and verse 43, we have the **miracle segment**. And in this segment, we told about four miracles: the miracle of the storm (4:35–41); the miracle of the demoniac (5:1–20); the miracle of the hemorrhaging woman (5:25–34); and the miracle of Jairus' daughter (5:21–24, 35–43).

Now, first of all, what can we observe about the order in which Mark gives us these miracles? Notice how they're arranged. They go from great to greater!

He starts out with a miracle over nature and ends up raising somebody from the dead.

Now, what do you notice when you read over the parables in chapter 4? Is there an expression that's repeated?

What about, "**He who has ears to hear, let him hear**" (4:9, 23).

Now, what does that mean? What else would you do with your ears? Well, you could do a lot of things beside listen. You could get them pierced and put earrings on them, you could wear ear plugs or ear muffs or air pods. Or you could let them fill up with wax. There are a lot of things you could do with them besides hear or listen. And that's the point. Jesus is saying this is important and you need to listen very carefully to what I'm saying.

Now, I'm going to let you examine this first segment in detail on your own when you go home.

But after Jesus finishes teaching through these parables, then He moves into the testing mode. Now, Jesus was a great teacher: but along with great teaching comes tests.

But Jesus didn't written tests like we give or get in school. Jesus gave real life tests. He gave tests that had to do with real life. So the first thirty-four verses of chapter 4 represent if you will the lecture; then He moves things into the laboratory, because Jesus knew that you learn faith, not by listening to a lecture, but by actually performing what you learn in the laboratory of life.

So we're going to focus tonight on the four miracles, but we're going to do it in a little different way than we've been doing it. Because when you look at this much material at one time, you're going to be making a lot of observations. And it's going to get really hard to organize everything so it's still useful.

So one of the suggestions to make a lot of material useful is to use what we call a grid chart.

Which looks something like this: **Handout**

Now, in the one I've given you, I've already listed the four miracles in the first column and the five different areas that we want to observe across the top:

Miracle	Realm	People	Means	Results	Faith

And those are;

What was the realm in which the miracle took place?

Who were the people involved?

What means did Christ use to effect the miracle?

What was the result?

And finally—and most important, in light of what we observed in the parables section—what was the component of faith?

So let's talk about the "Realm" and you can fill out your chart as we go along.

So let's start with the stilling of the storm. That's in 4:35–41. Now, in what realm does this miracle take place? Physical, mental, spiritual or emotional?

Well, clearly this miracle takes place in the **physical realm**.

So we can write that on the chart.

Miracle	Realm	People	Means	Results	Faith
Stilling the storm	Physical				
Demoniac					
Woman with an issue of blood					
Raising Jairus' Daughter					

They are out on the lake when a tremendous storm comes up, and Jesus calms the storm.

But what about the demoniac? Well, that one's a bit more difficult. Without question he was demon possessed, which is largely a spiritual problem. But I think most people would say that he also had mental problem as well as a psychological problem. And so I would lean more toward the mental.

So we can write that on the chart.

Miracle	Realm	People	Means	Results	Faith
Stilling the storm	Physical				
Demoniac	Mental				
Woman with an issue of blood					
Raising Jairus' Daughter					

What about the woman with the hemorrhage? Well, she had a physical issue right?. But after trying for twelve years to find

somebody to help her, I'm sure there was probably an emotional need there as well. So write down physical/emotional.

So we can write that on the chart.

Miracle	Realm	People	Means	Results	Faith
Stilling the storm	Physical				
Demoniac	Mental				
Woman with an issue of blood	Physical/ Emotional				
Raising Jairus' Daughter					

What about the raising of Jairus's daughter? Well, that one involves all three—physical, emotional, and spiritual.

So we can write that on the chart.

Miracle	Realm	People	Means	Results	Faith
Stilling the storm	Physical				
Demoniac	Mental				
Woman with an issue of blood	Physical/ Emotional				
Raising Jairus' Daughter	Physical, Emotional, Spiritual				

And that's something very important to observe. That's why this miracle climaxes this section. All the other miracles sort of lead up to this greater miracle.

You see, somebody might could say about the stilling of the storm, "Well, that was just a coincidence." And then somebody else might say of the demoniac, "Well, He lived before the days of

psychiatric help. But if he were alive today we have psychiatrist or doctors for that sort of thing.

And just the same, somebody could say of the woman with the blood issue, “She just needed a good gynecologist.”

But what could somebody legitimately say about Jesus raising Jairus’s daughter? Who even in our day and time could solve her problem?

Nobody! Right? We don’t find people down at the local morgue or cemetery raising folks up from the dead do we?

So it’s important to note the order of these four miracles; and the fact that they’re arranged in the order of their importance or in the order of their difficulty, if you will.

And the bottom line is that Jesus not only has power over the mental, and the psychological, and the physical, He also has power over our greatest enemy which is death.

**And then the next category is the “People.”**

Who are the people involved?

Well, notice first who experienced the stilling of the storm—the disciples.

And what Now, a number of them had been fishermen. It’s very important to notice the connection between the realm of the miracle and the people involved in it. This wasn’t a group of inexperienced sailors out there on that boat. This was a group of

professional fishermen. They had lived and fished on this lake all their lives and they had seen plenty of storms before.

That was common on the Sea of Galilee. It still is in fact. Violent storms can come up at any time and these men had experienced storms all of their lives—but never anything like this.

But notice who else was there: Jesus, sound asleep.

So we can write them on the chart.

Miracle	Realm	People	Means	Results	Faith
Stilling the storm	Physical	Disciples, Jesus			
Demoniac	Mental				
Woman with an issue of blood	Physical/ Emotional				
Raising Jairus' Daughter	Physical, Emotional, Spiritual				

Now, let's look at the demoniac. There were some interesting people here, to be sure. Certainly Jesus is involved. But the most obvious person is the demoniac. Here's a man whose problem a lot of other people had tried to solve, but none were successful.

And then there's another group—the townspeople and they're rather interesting. Here's this poor, demon-possessed man, and they all know him. “And they're warning Jesus to watch out for him and they're answer is to put him in chains and keep him away from society.

And then one day the guy gets cured, and you'd think everybody would , but they're not. In fact, they're anything but excited—especially when they find out that Jesus sent his demons into their pigs, caused them to run off a cliff and drown.

Now, He's messing with their pocketbooks. And now they're mad! Because they're more concerned with the local economy than they are about the cure of a fellow human being.

So we can write them on the chart as well.

Miracle	Realm	People	Means	Results	Faith
Stilling the storm	Physical	Disciples, Jesus			
Demoniac	Mental	Jesus, Demoniac, Townspeople			
Woman with an issue of blood	Physical/ Emotional				
Raising Jairus' Daughter	Physical, Emotional, Spiritual				

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Well, we know the disciples were there. They were the ones when Jesus asked who touched Me turned around and asked Jesus, “How in the world would we know who touched You in the midst of all these people?”

And then of course, there's the woman herself. And the text says she had been ill for twelve years. Now, that's a long time and so she no doubt had a very serious problem. And then of course there was Jesus.

So we can write all them on the chart.

Miracle	Realm	People	Means	Results	Faith
Stilling the storm	Physical	Disciples, Jesus			
Demoniac	Mental	Jesus, Demoniac, Townspeople			
Woman with an issue of blood	Physical/ Emotional	Jesus, disciples, woman			
Raising Jairus' Daughter	Physical, Emotional, Spiritual				

Then we move to Jairus's daughter. There's Jairus and his daughter, and also her mother. There's Christ, who takes Peter, James, and John. And then there's also a collection of professional mourners.

So we can write all them on the chart.

Miracle	Realm	People	Means	Results	Faith
Stilling the storm	Physical	Disciples, Jesus			
Demoniac	Mental	Jesus, Demoniac, Townspeople			
Woman with an issue of blood	Physical/ Emotional	Jesus, disciples, woman			
Raising Jairus' Daughter	Physical, Emotional, Spiritual	Jesus, Jairus, Daughter, mother, Disciples, Mourners			

Next, we need to look at the "Means" Jesus uses in each of the miracles. Now, in the storm, all He does is speak. "Be quiet," He says. And the winds still and the sea becomes completely calm.

And then with the demoniac, again all He needs to do is speak.

As for the woman, He doesn't even need words. He uses a touch; and actually it's not even His touch; it's hers. She actually touches Him.

And then in the Jairus experience, He uses both touch and words. He takes the little girl by the hand, and then He also calls her by name.

So we can write all them on the chart.

Miracle	Realm	People	Means	Results	Faith
Stilling the storm	Physical	Disciples, Jesus	Speaks		
Demoniac	Mental	Jesus, Demoniac, Townspeople	Speaks		
Woman with an issue of blood	Physical/ Emotional	Jesus, disciples, woman	Touch		
Raising Jairus' Daughter	Physical, Emotional, Spiritual	Jesus, Jairus, Daughter, mother, Disciples, Mourners	Touch Speaks		

## The Results

Now, we need to link the means with the results.

What was the result in the stilling of the storm? It was "a great calm," the text says.

And common sense tells us that even if we've never experienced a storm at sea that just because a storm stops, the sea doesn't immediately stop. It continues to churn, even sometimes for days. But this was a miracle, and so there was an immediate calm.

With the demoniac, the spirits come out, and the man returns to normalcy. In fact, the text says he was sitting, “clothed and in his right mind.” And we know that was a miracle because he couldn’t do that prior to the miracle.

For the bleeding woman, the result of touching Jesus is immediate healing. And that’s significant because her problem has been going on for twelve years. But it didn’t take even twelve seconds for Jesus to heal her and for her to recover.

And then finally we have Jairus’s daughter. And immediately she becomes alive and stands up and starts to walk, and then she even takes some food.

So we can write all those on the chart.

Miracle	Realm	People	Means	Results	Faith
Stilling the storm	Physical	Disciples, Jesus	Speaks	A great calm	
Demoniac	Mental	Jesus, Demoniac, Townspeople	Speaks	Normalcy sitting calmly, clothed, right mind	
Woman with an issue of blood	Physical/ Emotional	Jesus, disciples, woman	Touch	Immediate healing	
Raising Jairus’ Daughter	Physical, Emotional, Spiritual	Jesus, Jairus, Daughter, mother, Disciples, Mourners	Touch Speaks	Stands, walks, eats, lives	

And then the last category is “faith”. What was the component of faith like in each of these four miracles?

Well, in the storm, there was none. In fact, it seems that the disciples had lost all their faith. They’re scared to death. Even

after Jesus calms things down, they're still afraid. So they had no faith, only fear.

Even though they had just heard Jesus teach on faith in the first part of chapter 4. Even though they were sitting under the greatest Teacher in the world, when it came testing time, they failed. They made a big fat “F” on their test. And that “F” didn't stand for “Faith.” It stood for flunked.

In fact, Jesus even asks them in verse 40, **“How is it that you [you, of all people] have no faith?”**.

As for the demoniac, his faith begins with a recognition of who Jesus is. He knows right away, he's come to the right Person. And he wants to follow Him—which is a clear expression of his faith and commitment. But Jesus says, “No, you need to go home and give your testimony.”

And then there's the woman with the blood issue. And of all the rest, she stands at the top when it comes to faith. She takes everything she has heard about Jesus and put's it to work. And Jesus says that it was her faith that healed her.

And then Jairus also demonstrates great faith in Christ. First he comes and he says, “My daughter is at the point of death.” But then his friends rush in and tell him that his little girl has died. Well, can you imagine what he was feeling? I hope not.

Now, we all know that as long as there's life, there's hope. But once she was dead, well, I'm sure he just wanted to give up.

But Jesus says, "No, don't stop believing; keep on believing." And he does.

So not only does he begin in faith, but he continues in faith. He continues to believe even after all hope would normally be gone.

And guess who sees that? The disciples. The ones who had no faith? They're right there watching as this man who has no reason to hope anymore, still has the faith to believe in Jesus.

And he hasn't been to the lectures. He hadn't been sitting under the Teacher of all teachers. Yet he has great faith, because the Lord told him "Just hang in there. Just trust Me and follow Me." And he does.

And so we can write all them on the chart.

Miracle	Realm	People	Means	Results	Faith
Stilling the storm	Physical	Disciples, Jesus	Speaks	A great calm	No faith/only fear
Demoniac	Mental	Jesus, Demoniac, Townspeople	Speaks	Normalcy sitting calmly, clothed, right mind	Recognition ' Desire to follow
Woman with an issue of blood	Physical/ Emotional	Jesus, disciples, woman	Touch	Immediate healing	Her faith healed her
Raising Jairus' Daughter	Physical, Emotional, Spiritual	Jesus, Jairus, Daughter, mother, Disciples, Mourners	Touch Speaks	Stands, walks, eats, lives	Great faith

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## Lesson 13 Exercises

This is for you to try out, now that you've learned how to observe a section. It's the parable of the soils in Matthew 13:1–23.

And here's a grid chart to help you get started. It considers four questions for each of the four kinds of soil: How does Jesus describe the soil? What sort of growth took place? What were the hindrances to growth? What was the outcome, or result, of the planting?

Soils	Description	Growth	Hindrances	Results

# Chart 1

Miracle	Realm	People	Means	Results	Faith
Stilling the storm					
Demoniac					
Woman with an issue of blood					
Raising Jairus' Daughter					