



First Person Week Two

Opening Prayer: God, thank you for the gift we find in Jesus. As we look through the eyes of your disciples at the different impressions described, help us to see truth. Speak to us through your scripture.

Talk It Over: Desperation causes us to do things we wouldn't normally do. As we look at the book of Mark this week we see a few examples of some people stuck in some desperate circumstances. Through their stories, we see the character of Jesus unfold and the type of king he is revealed.

- Have you ever had a time where you were so desperate you did something out of character for you? If so, and you are comfortable, share that with the group.
- During your time of desperation how did you want those around you to respond? How have you responded to others desperate needs?

Read Mark 5:24-34 NIV

Within this story we see that Jesus is an approachable and compassionate king. Jesus takes time with this woman who bravely touched him. He desires to see her not just heal her. He desires the same for us today. We are free to approach him, not just for him to meet our needs, but also for him to truly get to know us and interact with us.

- How does it make you feel to imagine Jesus desiring to truly see you?
- What keeps you from approaching Jesus and spending time with him?
- Have you ever met someone you felt a connection with and desired to spend more time around them? Imagine for a second Jesus waiting for you with excitement, anticipation, and compassion?

Read Mark 5:35-36 NIV

As the story continues to unfold it takes a tragic turn when Jarius' daughter dies. The people around him told him not to bother the teacher, but Jesus was nearby and not finished yet. Just like Jarius we can often get stuck in "Why bother" thinking: when life is not going as planned, tragedy strikes, or we are struggling with anxiety/ depression.

- How quickly are you discouraged when things are not going as they should?
- Do you tend to fight, run away, or freeze in the face of stressful times or events?
- When you are stuck in "Why bother" thinking, what helps you shift that into trust and reaching out for Jesus?

Read Mark 5:38-40 NIV

Jesus decides to heal Jarius' daughter and gives two commands: give her something to eat, and don't tell anyone. In this we see that Jesus is a persevering and humble king. Sometimes we can't see what's happening and we feel hopeless. Remembering that Jesus perseveres can help us to trust that he is with us in our pain even when we can't see the end to our suffering.

- Jesus is close to the brokenhearted. Is there a time where you felt hopeless but looking back now you can see how Jesus carried you?
- In the daily stress of life can you recognize God's fingerprints in the little things?
- What are some ways you can feel God's love even in difficult times?

Closing Prayer: God, we thank you that you use your power to love us. Help us to do the same this week as we go about our lives. Grant us the ability to pause each day and choose love.

Challenge: We would like to invite you to follow along with us as a church as we read through the books of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. You can do that through the eDevotional. <http://eastlakechurch.com/next-steps/e-devotional/> If you have already started this reading, share some thoughts or insight about your experience this week.