

**SPEAKER:** Ryan Lingbloom

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**SERIES TITLE:** Defining Moments

## **Sermon Title**

**TRUST**

### **Introduction**

This week, we started a new series that will take us from now until Easter called **Defining Moments**. Throughout the Gospel of Mark, we see story after story of ordinary people encountering Jesus and having to make real, everyday decisions about who Jesus is and what He calls them to. These moments **define** these people, as their lives get changed when they encounter the King. Through this series, we are going to be unpacking these **Defining Moments** in the Gospel of Mark and how our own **Defining Moments** with Jesus shape our lives today.

**Seek the Word:** Before discussing this week's questions, read through Mark 5:1-34 out loud as a group. What stands out to you from this passage?

**TRUST**

*How would you define the word "trust"? How does trust change when it comes to trusting Jesus compared to other things in our lives?*

- Mark 5:1-20: Do You Trust Jesus With Your Mess?
  - How have you let your "mess" influence your relationship with Jesus? Do you truly believe that He steps toward you in your struggles, and not away?
  - It's hard for us to relate with a man possessed by thousands of demons, but we all have things that weigh us down and "control" our lives. What are some of the "demons" that you need to ask Jesus to clean out of you?
- Mark 5:25-34: Do You Trust Jesus With Your Desperation?
  - How do you react when God's answer in your struggles is "not yet"? What does that do to your level of trust in Him?
  - How far would you be willing to go in order to get out of your desperation? How much are you willing to trust Jesus to be the answer to your desperation? How do we connect those things together?
- Mark 5:21-24, 35-43: Do You Trust Jesus With Your Future?
  - What are the parts of your story that you have already written the end of? (ex. This is how my marriage ends, this is how my child turns out, this is how my health declines, this is who I am, etc.) What has caused you to "give up" on any of that changing?
  - Do you truly believe that Jesus can and will bless your future if you surrender to Him? What does that step of trust look like for you right now?

## Wrap Up

*Reminder:* **Jesus is inviting you to trust Him deeper.** Jesus wants to step into your mess, step into your despair, step into your future, and step into your doubts and make you clean, whole, secure, and free. Jesus wants to meet you where you are and bring you up and out into something greater and better. But Jesus will never force Himself upon you. He wants and needs you to trust Him. In that trust, we might have to let go of things that provide us comfort, we might have to be uncomfortably transparent with people in our lives for the first time, or we might have to be patient in God's timing. But in that trust we can also be confident that Jesus is not going to leave us where we are but will bring us along with Him into what he has designed for us. **Jesus is worthy of your trust, and trusting Jesus will change your life.**

*Challenge:* Where is Jesus inviting you to trust Him deeper?

Who in these stories do you resonate with?

- The man in the tombs: You're following Jesus but there is anger. Addiction. Pride. Secret sin. You need to let Him step into the graveyard you've kept private. Maybe this week you need to ask some questions about Jesus and about baptism, about how you can start trusting Jesus with these things.
- The woman in the crowd: You believe, but you're exhausted. Your step is to reach honestly. To tell the whole truth like she did. To stop pretending you're fine. Maybe this week you need to be honest with your Life Group about what is going on and let them be the hands and feet of Jesus to help you.
- Jairus: You're respected. Stable. Capable. But privately afraid. Your step isn't an activity. It's surrender. It's continuing to walk when He doesn't move at your speed. Maybe this week you need to ask for someone to be praying for you, and you need to spend some more intentional time with Jesus to rest in His presence and patience.

*Prayer:* Close your time together praying for each individual in your group. Pray for the things that have been brought up today: the hidden struggles, the desperate feelings and thoughts, and the futures that seem uncertain. Ask that God be moving in those things, and pray for **defining moments** this week where trust in Jesus can be deepened as you all pursue Him and His presence.