

Mark: The Mysterious Messiah

Week 11: Mark 5:35–6:13

Introductory Exercise.

When Jesus receives word that the synagogue ruler's daughter has died, what has he just finished doing (or having done to him) in the book? What does the scene look and sound like when Jesus arrives? How does Jesus respond when the people tell him that the girl is dead, and how do they in turn react?

Was the girl ever dead? Why do you think so or think not? What instructions does he give the people after the girl has gotten up and started walking around?

When Jesus returns (once more) to Nazareth, what are people saying about him this time? What does being a *tekton* have to do with their reaction? What is being implied by the way that they name his family?

In the context of the book of Mark, what might Jesus's followers have expected him to do in a new town? What is it that keeps such a *dynamis* (work of power) from happening in Nazareth?

In the logic of the story, what big narrative event immediately follows from Jesus's rejection at Nazareth? What instructions does Jesus give to the apostles, and what Old Testament stories does this seem to echo?

When the apostles go forth, what things do they do? What do they preach? Whose message do they seem to be echoing?