

WONDERFUL THINGS

GRACE IN THE WORD

A STUDY OF THE MIRACLES OF JESUS

WONDERFUL THINGS

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***Praise the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone
does such wonderful things.***

- Psalm 72:18

WONDERFUL THINGS

Name & Contact Information

What is your hope for this study in God's Word?

Wonderful Things

The Miracles of Jesus

ABOUT THIS READING PLAN

This reading plan is designed to help you rediscover the awe and wonder of Jesus through the study of His miracles. Each day's reading includes: a passage of Scripture, thoughts to consider and reflect on to process the biblical reading more intentionally.

Check out graceclarksville.com/giw for additional resources, and follow us on Instagram and Facebook [@GraceClarksville](https://www.facebook.com/GraceClarksville)

Some of the study material in this guide was adapted from *Mark for Everyone* by N.T. Wright, *Enduring Word Commentary* by David Guzik, *Miracles* by C.S. Lewis, *The Wonder-Working God* by Jared C. Wilson, *Surprised by Hope* by N.T. Wright, *Jesus and the Gospels* by Craig Blomberg, and *NIV Biblical Theology Study Bible*.

WHAT IS LENT?

Traditionally, Lent is the 40-day period leading to Resurrection Sunday, during which believers remember the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. This season often involves spiritual disciplines such as prayer, scripture reflection, and fasting, prompting introspection, repentance, and personal growth. Many Christians view Lent as a time to give something up to emphasize their need for Jesus, reflecting on His ultimate sacrifice through acts of self-denial.

Fasting is seen as a historical practice of abstaining from something good to seek something better—drawing us closer to the Lord. As you consider what to fast from between Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, prayerfully ask God to reveal strongholds in your life. This could be things like abstaining from specific foods, social media, or unnecessary spending. Observing Lent is counter-cultural, encouraging us to prioritize our spiritual needs over societal pressures.

So what might that look like for you to practice self-control in a specific area for the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Good Friday?

G.K. Chesterton said, *"a dead thing can go with the stream, but only a living thing can go against it."*

Lent invites us to slow down, reflect, and confront our brokenness while foreshadowing Jesus' ultimate sacrifice. Each miracle in the Book of Mark brings us closer to understanding why He came, culminating in the cross where His identity is fully revealed.

As you spend the next seven weeks in God's Word, may you rediscover the beauty of Jesus. The miracles offer a perfect lens to focus on His work, guiding us as we prepare for Holy Week and Resurrection Sunday.

Prayers & Reflections

Wonderful Things: The Miracles of Jesus

BEFORE YOU READ GOD'S WORD TODAY, SEEK HIS HELP WITH THESE 5 PRAYERS

1. God, give me wisdom, knowledge, and understanding.
2. God, let any knowledge I gain help me love You and others more and not puff me up.
3. God, help me see something new about You I've never seen before.
4. God, correct any lies I believe about You or anything I misunderstand.
5. God, direct my steps according to Your Word.

** Prayers from The Bible Recap Reading Plan by Tara-Leigh Cobble **

TIPS FOR APPROACHING SCRIPTURE

- Pray before you read (use the prayers above)
- Read the words in proper context, taking into consideration when it was written, to whom it was written, and what was happening when it was written (a good study bible is helpful)
- Look for God's character and faithfulness to His people
- Look for themes that point to Jesus
- Look for anything repetitive, unusual, confusing, hopeful, comforting, or challenging

Weekly Checklist

Wonderful Things: The Miracles of Jesus

WEEK ONE

JESUS HEALS AN UNCLEAN SPIRIT

- Day 1 - Mark 1:21-28
- Day 2 - Mark 1:21-28, Luke 4:31-37
- Day 3 - Mark 1:23-26, Matthew 4:1-11
- Day 4 - Mark 1:23-26, Colossians 2:13-15
- Day 5 - Mark 1:21-28
- Day 6 - Reflection Day
- Day 7 - Rest Day

WEEK TWO

JESUS HEALS A LEPER

- Day 1 - Mark 1:40-45
- Day 2 - Mark 1:40-45, Isaiah 53:3-5
- Day 3 - Mark 1:40-45, Leviticus 13:45-46; 14:1-8
- Day 4 - Mark 1:43-45, Mark 7:36-37, Psalm 72
- Day 5 - Mark 1:40-45, Hebrews 4:14-16
- Day 6 - Reflection Day
- Day 7 - Rest Day

WEEK THREE

JESUS HEALS A PARALYTIC

- Day 1 - Mark 2:1-12
- Day 2 - Mark 2:1-5, Matthew 7:7-8, James 1:12
- Day 3 - Mark 2:1-5
- Day 4 - Mark 2:1-12, Luke 5:17-26
- Day 5 - Mark 2:1-12, Matthew 9:1-8
- Day 6 - Reflection Day
- Day 7 - Rest Day

WEEK FOUR

JESUS CALMS THE STORM

- Day 1 - Mark 4:30-41
- Day 2 - Mark 4:35-41, Daniel 3:16-18, 2 Chronicles 20:12, John 16:31-33
- Day 3 - Mark 4:35-41, Psalm 46
- Day 4 - Mark 4:35-41, Job 38:1-11, Psalm 104
- Day 5 - Mark 4:35-41, Isaiah 43:1-3, Hebrews 11:1
- Day 6 - Reflection Day
- Day 7 - Rest Day

WEEK FIVE

JESUS HEALS JAIRUS' DAUGHTER

- Day 1 - Mark 5:21-24 and 35-43
- Day 2 - Mark 5:21-43
- Day 3 - Mark 5:21-24, Mark 2:17
- Day 4 - Mark 5:21-43, John 11:1-44
- Day 5 - Mark 5:21-24, 35-43, John 11:35, Mark 1:41, Matthew 9:36, 10:29-31, Psalm 8:4
- Day 6 - Reflection Day
- Day 7 - Rest Day

WEEK SIX

JESUS HEALS A WOMAN WITH AN ISSUE OF BLOOD

- Day 1 - Mark 5:21-36
- Day 2 - Mark 5:21-34, Psalm 130, Hebrews 13:6-8
- Day 3 - Mark 5:25-34, Psalm 73
- Day 4 - Mark 5:33, Psalm 34, Romans 4:16-25
- Day 5 - Mark 5:25-34; Psalm 147:1-11
- Day 6 - Reflection Day
- Day 7 - Rest Day/Palm Sunday

WEEK SEVEN

JESUS HEALS A BOY WHO IS DEAF AND MUTE

- Day 1 - Mark 9:14-29
- Day 2 - Mark 9:14-29, Mark 3:14-15, Mark 6:7, 12-13
- Day 3 - Mark 9:14-29
- Day 4 - Mark 9:14-29, Mark 11:1-11
- Day 5 - Good Friday - Mark 8:31-35, Mark 14:3-9, Mark 15
- Day 6 - Reflection Day - Mark 15:42-47
- Day 7 - Resurrection Sunday - Mark 16:1-8

Wonderful Things

An Introduction to the Miracles of Jesus

There is something in us that longs to experience something spectacular and full of wonder. Something that catches us off guard by its beauty, glory, and power, that we know does not originate with us. We get glimpses of this when we see sunrises, sunsets, oceans, and mountains.

The Gospels tell the story of Jesus in many ways through teachings, parables, and confrontations, but the miracles invite us into something deeper. They are moments of awe and wonder, where we get glimpses of heaven here on earth, the supernatural breaks in, and ordinary people find themselves face to face with the living God.

In his book, *Miracles*, C.S. Lewis reminds us that miracles are not violations of reality, but revelations of it. In *Miracles*, he argues that a miracle is not God interrupting nature, but God revealing what nature truly belongs to.

In other words, miracles are signs. They are not party tricks designed to coerce belief. They are moments when the curtain is pulled back and we see who Jesus truly is and what kind of kingdom He brings. Miracles are intended to awaken us to a reality that we might be missing. Miracles confront our assumptions. They stretch our imagination. They invite us to reconsider what is possible.

Mark's Gospel tells us again and again that people were "amazed," "astonished," and "filled with fear." Not fear as terror, but fear as reverence. The kind of fear that recognizes, this is no ordinary man.

In his book, *Wonder-Working God*, Jared Wilson reminds us that wonder is not optional to faith, it is essential. Wonder is the posture that allows us to receive revelation rather than try to control it. A heart that has lost its capacity for wonder will struggle to recognize God when He moves.

Wonder does not deny questions or ignore suffering. Wonder simply says, "What if God is greater than the boxes I try to fit him in?"

WHY STUDY JESUS' MIRACLES THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Many people today struggle to believe that God still works in miraculous ways. Scripture presents miracles not as distant spectacles meant to impress, but as signs of a God who chooses to draw near. As N. T. Wright reminds us, the "*deeds of power*" in the Gospels are not interruptions by an absent God, but acts of a present one. With the coming of Jesus, Wright asserts, "*a new age had begun in which the living God was going to do new things in the world,*" a promise that extends not only to those who first heard Him but also to "*everyone who is far away.*" This promise applies to us today as believers: we have a living God who is present in our everyday lives. As Craig Blomberg observes, Jesus' miracles display both God's power and His good character. They reveal His authority and power, as well as His deep love, attention, and care for His creation.

The Gospel of Mark is a particularly helpful place to study Jesus' miracles because Mark uses them to reveal who Jesus is and to provoke a response from those who witness them. Likely the earliest Gospel written, Mark presents Jesus exercising authority over demons, disease, nature, and even death while restoring dignity, calming chaos, and bringing hope to those on the margins. Rather than

using miracles to force belief, Mark depicts witnesses as amazed yet confused and fearful. These miracles reveal their inner struggles and encourage the question:

Would you follow Jesus even without fully understanding His plan?

The Gospel of Mark is shaped by what scholars call the “Messianic Secret,” a pattern in which Jesus repeatedly tells people to remain silent about His identity, even after witnessing His miraculous power. Jesus’ miracles point to His divine authority, but they also prepare the way for the surprising truth that the powerful Son of God is also the Suffering Servant. Especially during Lent and Holy Week, these miracle stories function as signposts leading us toward the cross. As we study them, we will encounter fear, desperation, isolation, and amazement throughout these accounts, emphasizing that the miracles cultivate a holy wonder about who Jesus is and how He meets ordinary people with His extraordinary grace.

THE MIRACLES WE WILL STUDY:

In this study, we will walk with Jesus through moments where His authority, compassion, and power are revealed:

- Jesus Heals an Unclean Spirit - *Mark 1:23-28*
- Jesus Heals a Leper - *Mark 1:40-45*
- Jesus Heals a Paralytic - *Mark 2:1-12*
- Jesus Calms the Storm - *Mark 4:35-41*
- Jesus Raises Jairus’ Daughter - *Mark 5:21-24 and 35-43*
- Jesus Heals a Woman with an Issue of Blood - *Mark 5:25-34*
- Jesus Heals a Deaf and Mute Boy - *Mark 9:14-29*

These are not disconnected stories. They lead us to the final miracle, the one that redefines everything, Jesus’ Resurrection in Mark 16. **Our hope for this study is that you will recapture a genuine wonder for Jesus as The One with ultimate authority to call out demons, forgive sins, bring peace to chaos, conquer death, and bring new life.**

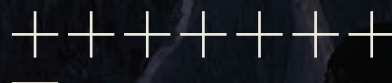
This study is not primarily about explaining miracles away or even proving them, but about encountering the Miracle Worker. As we begin, the invitation is simple: Come curious. Come honest. Come expectant. Because when Jesus reveals Himself, awe and wonder are never the end. They are just the beginning.

WEEK 1

THE WONDER OF AUTHORITY

JESUS HEALS AN UNCLEAN SPIRIT

"The people were amazed at his teaching, for he taught with real authority..." -Mark 1:22



Day 1: Monday

Scripture: *Mark 1:21-28*

INTRODUCTION

This week, you begin a great study. This study will be great, not because of the devotional content of the various authors, but because it is the study of Jesus' miraculous works. Many of us have a basic knowledge and perhaps even a basic admiration for the miracles of Jesus, but we often lack a true understanding and depth of these miracles. The miracles of Jesus are meant to be rocket fuel for our faith. As we read of them, as we even experience them (because yes, these miraculous works are still available to us today), we should be marked by a holy amazement. We should be drawn in with a divine curiosity. We should be found in wonder at the power and authority of the Lord.

Today, you begin a seven-week journey through seven specific miracles of Jesus. Today, hopefully, you begin a journey towards awakening your hearts to the wonder, amazement, and power that our Savior possesses and expresses through us, His creation. As you begin this study, specifically this week, where you will look at the authority of Jesus through His healing words at the removal of an unclean spirit, take time to simply reflect upon the true power of Jesus, and ask Him to help you find a greater sense of wonder in who He is and His miraculous authority.

Reflection

Where do you feel you lack awe and wonder of the Lord? Why? What do you hope the Lord will bring to your heart and faith through this study?

End your time in intentional prayer and ask God specifically to open your eyes and heart towards His miraculous works.

Day 2: Tuesday

Scripture: *Mark 1:21-22, Luke 4:31-37*

TEACHING AUTHORITY

Do you find it significant that before we read of Jesus' miracle here, we are first introduced to the authority of Jesus' words? It's not accidental. The authors of the gospels were not simply writing biographies and recollections of Jesus; they were also seeking to map out His character, theology, and divinity. They knew these words would be studied in great detail for many, many years to come by many different people and cultures. The authors, therefore, even in this short passage about the healing of a man's unclean spirit, are pointing out the divinity of Jesus.

This miraculous account appears in the Gospels of Mark and Luke. Both deliberately highlight that Jesus has authority. Before He performs one miraculous work, the authors want the reader to understand that the very words of Jesus have, and continue to have, power and authority over life, especially over those who hear them.

This sets the stage for what Jesus is about to do here and, ultimately, for what He will accomplish on the cross. Jesus teaches with unparalleled authority because He is the ultimate authority. His words carry power because through them, His authority is exercised. That authority extends over our lives, bodies, minds, hearts, and souls. He has authority over what we say, do, think, and feel because He alone has the power to define what is good and right.

How does He exercise this authority? He performs miraculous works to bring about restoration. This is the same work He is doing in and around us each day. He is still in the miraculous restoration business in and around us each day. The question is do we see it?

Reflection

What is your relationship to authority? Are you a person in a position of authority? Where are you subject to authority? How do you feel about this? For most of us, we exercise some, often considerable, authority over our lives, and when we feel subject to someone else's authority, we experience tension. To truly believe and follow Christ is to fervently submit to the Lord. It is the work of surrender, to relent, willingly, authority over to the Lord. To believe is to see and know that He is the ultimate authority and to respond to that authority.

As you end your time today, reflect on the authority of the Lord and seek to release your grasp on authority. Continue in this work this week in order to open yourself more fully to the amazement of what God does with this authority.

Day 3: Wednesday

Scripture: *Mark 1:23-26, Matthew 4:1-11*

GODLY AUTHORITY

Before Jesus even completes the miraculous healing of removing this unclean spirit, He has demonstrated His great power. He has brought to light His greatest miracle, His power and authority to free the world from the ravages of the enemy, sin, and death. Jesus is demonstrating His authority over the cosmic powers and war at work here. Often we miss this work that is being done. It's an unseen war but it is taking place all the time. It is a great conflict in an unseen realm that Jesus has full authority over. It's vital we open our eyes to this wonderful work because it reminds our hearts that God has authority over both the seen and unseen of our lives.

Jesus is clarifying that through Him and Him alone, the power of the enemy is already defeated. (Romans 16:20) This isn't the first time we've seen Jesus prove this work either. Before He even begins His work of public ministry, we are given this private battle that takes place between Him and the enemy. Jesus overcomes the temptations and deceptions of the enemy, Satan, and proves to the enemy that his walking papers have already been issued and his work against the soul of man has already been predetermined and defeated. Jesus simply has to dot the i's and cross the t's of handing Himself over in love as our eternal sacrifice. This is authority. The authority of Jesus looks and says, "The work is already being done, and this enemy has no authority here anymore, because I am here."

Reflection

Where do you need to be reminded of this kind of authority, that only Jesus possesses, in your life today? How can you begin to believe and find faith, awe, and amazement in this power and authority that the Lord has, and continues, to demonstrate for us?

Day 4: Thursday

Scripture: *Mark 1:23-26, Colossians 2:13-15*

HEALING AUTHORITY

Jesus has shown His power and authority through speaking dominion over this demon spirit that has possessed this man. Now we see the healing. We see the unclean spirit removed. This is often what we attribute as the great miracle here, and it is a miracle, but don't lose sight of the fact that the greatest part of this miracle was demonstrated in what we studied yesterday, that Jesus has authority, power, and is already publicly overcoming the powers of the enemy, sin, and death. The miraculous healing here is a sign of this cosmic spiritual work that is being done. Knowing this, though, let's be reminded and encouraged by this healing.

One of the things that often draws our attention to the miracles of Jesus, just as it did during Jesus' ministry on earth, is the amazement and wonder that come with seeing someone healed. A person, a friend, a co-worker, a family member, a neighbor, approaches, is brought, or is visited by Jesus. They lie, stand, limp, crawl, are lowered to Him in a specific condition, and, after a brief word, a soft touch, a powerful voice, they are in a completely different state. They stand, they jump, they stare wide-eyed and seeing, they are made physically whole and new again. There is no other word that better describes this kind of power and wonder than miraculous.

Jesus has authority over all. He proves His authority in His teaching and His words. He proves His authority over the cosmic forces, which naturally would imply He has authority over all things, but He doesn't simply ask those around to take His word for it; He shows it. He heals and restores the condition of this person's broken, corrupted, unclean, possessed spirit. They are healed. They are restored to their original God-created and intended state. This is the healing work that Jesus is performing in us.

Jesus continues to work, heal, and perform miracles in us today. Don't lose sight of the fact that these are the miracles we most often consider the most awe-inspiring: the physical healings.

More to come on this tomorrow as we end the week.

Reflection

Take a minute and write down some prayer requests. Are you praying for someone's healing? Is there someone who needs to see a miracle? Who is someone you're praying God shows a miracle to? Take some time to specifically pray for this person or persons. Continue to check in with them over the next few days and weeks, and continue to journal the prayer requests and praises of how God answers them.

Day 5: Friday

Scripture: *Mark 1:21-28*

AWE AND WONDER

This week, we've studied Jesus' miraculous authority, and it is clear: He has power over spirit, soul, and creation, and therefore, over our bodies as well. In fact, in a healing we will examine in week three, He makes this very point.

This raises an important question: if we truly believe Jesus can heal our souls, why do we hesitate to trust Him with miraculous works of physical healing today? We read about the reaction of the people who witnessed the healing of the unclean spirit: "Amazement gripped the audience" (v. 27). They were struck by who Jesus was and what He could do.

The challenge for us is living in that same wonder. Too often, we see miracles as hidden or only spiritual. Yet Jesus is still a God of miracles, actively working in the world. We can suffer from "miracle amnesia", praying, seeing an answer, rejoicing briefly, and then moving on. That is why it is powerful to write down our prayers. It helps us remember what we've asked for and notice God's faithfulness over time.

But sometimes the miracles we expect do not come in the form we anticipate. When prayers are not answered with physical healing, we must reject the notion that this indicates we lacked faith or did something wrong. God does not work that way. He invites us to participate in His miraculous work, lifting up those we love, watching in awe as He moves, and to trust that miracles may come in ways we do not expect.

We live between a broken world and our future perfected state. Sometimes the miracle is delayed or unseen; sometimes it takes a physical, circumstantial, or eternal form. And the greatest miracle Jesus has accomplished is spiritual: He has healed our souls, restored us from sin, and prepared a place for eternity. When we open our eyes, partner with Him in prayer, and embrace the miracles He is doing, we open ourselves to lives filled with awe, wonder, and amazement at who He is and all He is doing.

Reflection

Where do you struggle to believe in these kinds of miracles? Why? How has God shown you a miracle before? Did it create amazement and wonder in your heart?

As you end this week, reflect upon this miracle of the cleansing of the unclean spirit. Where were you amazed? How can you begin to seek and find the awe and wonder of Jesus in the world around you?

Day 6: Saturday

Reflection Day

REFLECTION NOTES AND QUESTIONS:

This week, we began our study of Wonderful Things: The Miracles of Jesus. As we wrap up this week's study, reread *Mark 1:23-28*. As you study this passage again, reflect on the miracle of Jesus' authority. Open your heart to the wonderful things He shows us each day about His authority, and open yourself to the awe and wonder of how He exercises this authority in and around us each day.

Reflect/journal your thoughts on the following prompts:

- What does this miracle reveal about Jesus and how does this change the way I follow Him?
 - What is something you looked at this week that you want to receive from God in greater measure? Why?
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Day 7: Sunday

Rest Day

Join us for worship today and prepare your heart to engage with next week's study of God and His word. Use your time today to rest, pray, and reflect on this week's readings.

WEEK 2

THE WONDER OF HEALING

JESUS HEALS A LEPER

"'I am willing,' he said. 'Be healed!'" -Mark 1:41



Day 1: Monday

Scripture: Mark 1:40-45

THE WILLING CHRIST

Last week, we studied Jesus' first miracle in Mark, the healing of a man with an unclean spirit. This week, we will see that Jesus once again encountered what would have been considered unclean when a leper approached him. Much like last week's encounter with the unclean spirit, Jesus was willing to enter into this man's brokenness to cleanse him of this impurity.

In Jesus' time, being impure or unclean was equated to some sort of brokenness; anything that disrupted wholeness, life, and communion with God and others. This man, as a leper, was considered an outcast. His disease rendered him physically unclean, spiritually excluded, and socially isolated. He lived at the margins, cut off from everything and everyone with no physical touch, worship, or community.

When the leper comes to Jesus in Mark 1, he does not question Jesus' power. He questions His willingness to make him clean: *"If you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean,"* And in that moment, we see something extraordinary. Jesus does not step back from this brokenness. He steps toward it. Moved with compassion, Jesus reaches out and touches the man, an act that should have made him unclean, but instead He cleanses him of this impurity.

Jesus' willingness reveals the heart of God. He is not reluctant to heal, hesitant to restore, or fearful of our uncleanness. Jesus does not flee from suffering; he enters into it and seeks to redeem it. With a touch and the simple words, *"I am willing"*, Jesus declares that no one is too unclean to be made whole. This same promise is true for us today.

Reflection

Pause and take time to acknowledge an area of your life that you are afraid to invite Jesus into. A sin you've grown comfortable with. The problem you cannot resolve. The weaknesses you wish were gone by now. Rather than trying to explain it away, offer it to Him as it is. Pray simply that He would enter in, not as a distant God, but as the One who draws near, touches what is unclean, and makes all things new.

Day 2: Tuesday

Scripture: Mark 1:40-45, Isaiah 53:3-5

HUMBLE TRUST

Many burdened ones come to Christ from the deep places of self-abasement; they know their sinfulness and feel it; their self-consciousness has almost driven them to despair. They are down very low, and every step they take to Christ is a step upward. They have a little hope as they look to him, and then a little more, until it comes to a humble trust. Then from a feeble, trembling trust it rises to a simple faith, and so they advance until when they stand near to Jesus they even reach to the full assurance of faith. Thus from soul distress and self-despair they come to the Lord Jesus, and he receives them graciously.

- Charles Spurgeon

Mark draws attention to Jesus' emotional response in verse 41; some translations describe Him as "moved with compassion," while others use the word "angry or indignant." Either way, Jesus is deeply stirred, whether by mercy toward the man living in isolation or by righteous anger toward those who have isolated him. Jesus is not detached from suffering; He is moved toward action to restore what has been broken.

The leper is forced outside the community and burdened not only by disease but by shame. Isaiah's Suffering Servant is described in similar terms, acquainted with grief and regarded as despised. The leper approaches Jesus in humility and desperation, unsure of His willingness to cleanse him, but trusting His power. He comes with a humble trust. He kneels, acknowledging both his unworthiness and Jesus' authority. His faith is not bold or demanding; it is trembling and dependent, reaching out in hope.

Jesus does more than heal; He takes the place of the rejected one. The leper is restored to the community, while Jesus suffers further isolation, staying "outside in lonely places." As Isaiah foretold, "it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down." (Isa. 53:4). This miracle is a preview of the cross, where He will fully take on human suffering to make us whole and give us His miraculous gift of grace.

Reflection

Center your heart today on these words, "But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed." What in your life needs to be restored and brought before the miracle worker? Lay it before him, trusting that He can restore and heal those broken places.

Day 3: Wednesday

Scripture: *Mark 1:40-45, Leviticus 13:45-46; 14:1-8*

RESTORED TO COMMUNITY

Leprosy did more than damage the physical body; it stripped people of their sense of belonging. According to Leviticus, those with the disease lived outside the camp, cut off from worship, family, and the shared life of God's people in community. Isolation was not just painful; it was damaging to their spiritual formation, making them feel like outsiders. When Jesus heals the man with leprosy in Mark 1, He does not allow the story to end with physical restoration alone. He instructs the man to show himself to the priest and complete what the Law requires. This step matters. It opens the way back into the community and back into worship. The priest does not make the man clean; he declares what God has already done.

Why would Jesus insist on this? From the beginning, life with God has been lived in community. Worship was intended to be communal, and restoration meant being brought back into the body of Christ, not remaining on the margins as an outsider. As N.T. Wright reminds us, restoration requires discernment. Obedience to the Law was never meant to block joy; it was meant to lead to fullness of life. Jesus is not interested in just performing a miracle; He is committed to seeing the leper fully reconnected to God and restored to a community of faith, a place where he can be seen, known, and welcomed. We all need a place where we can be known and loved.

The man disobeys, and instead of going quietly, he tells everyone. The result is striking: Jesus can no longer enter towns freely and ends up on the outside, while the once-isolated man returns to the community. They traded places. Jesus makes room for this man's messy, not-quite-right response. He doesn't withdraw the healing or scold the man. He absorbs the cost himself. This is just another signpost of what is to come on the cross: Jesus being willing to take our place, our shame, our guilt, and bear the weight of it so we can be restored.

Reflection

Where have you felt isolated, spiritually, socially, or emotionally? Where might Jesus be inviting you to take a step back toward prayerful involvement in the community of faith today? Our steps into community are often tentative and imperfect, but Jesus honors movement toward wholeness and growth. He meets us as we are and gently leads us forward towards healing.

Consider one small, faithful step toward connection within your church family here at Grace. Joining a group, attending an event, becoming a regular contributor, or serving on a team are all simple acts that can become sacred pathways toward healing, belonging, and restoration.

Day 4: Thursday

Scripture: Mark 1:43-45, Mark 7:36-37, Psalm 72

WONDER THAT OVERFLOWS

There are moments when Jesus meets us so clearly, so personally, that silence feels impossible. That is what happens to the leper in Mark 1. A man who has lived on the margins, isolated, unseen, untouchable, is suddenly restored. Jesus heals him and then gives him a surprising command: Don't tell anyone. Instead, show yourself to the priest, be obedient to the law. The leper is healed, and this good news spills out of him with wonder. His whole life has been transformed, and he wants everyone to know.

When Jesus meets us in places of deep need, when shame loosens its grip, when hope breaks through after a long season, something in us wants to speak. When Jesus does wonder-filled things for us, it should overflow into our lives. Mark 7 echoes this same idea. Once again, Jesus performs a miracle and orders silence. The people proclaim His goodness all the more. *"They were overwhelmed with amazement"* (7:37). Mark is doing more here than recording enthusiastic testimonies. He is carefully shaping how we come to understand who Jesus truly is. Biblical scholars say this pattern of secrecy in Mark is intentional, often called the "Messianic Secret". Jesus' identity is slowly revealed over time. It is not something that can be grasped all at once. It unfolds gradually, deliberately, and often through times of suffering. Jesus is more than just a miracle worker, and he is even more than the demons' declaration that he is *"the Holy One of God."* Mark is guiding us toward a deeper revelation, one that doesn't fully come into focus until the cross.

It is also interesting to note that Jesus insists on obedience in Mark 1:44. Craig Keener, in his book *Miracles*, reminds us that Jesus does not dismiss sacrifice or Torah law, but reads the law through the heart of the God who gave it. God didn't say, *"Obey me so that I will rescue you."* He said, *"I have rescued you; now walk with me in obedience."*

Psalm 72 lifts our eyes to see that God brings justice, peace, restoration, and flourishing for the world through the wonderful things He does for us. The wonder begins in a personal encounter, and grows into a beautiful testimony that we can't help but share. Reflecting on this should produce a wonder that overflows from us in obedience, testimony, and praise.

Reflection

Spend time in prayer today, asking God to remind you of the ways He has met you personally and ask Him for ways to share that testimony with those around you.

Day 5: Friday

Scripture: *Mark 1:40-45, Hebrews 4:14-16*

COME BOLDLY

All week, we have watched Jesus move toward what others avoid. A man marked as unclean kneels in desperation, and instead of retreating, Jesus draws near. He touches. He speaks. He restores. This is not a distant Christ, but a compassionate Savior who is powerful enough to heal all the brokenness.

Hebrews reminds us that this same Jesus, who touched the leper and entered into human suffering, is right now our great High Priest interceding with the Father on our behalf. Because He intimately understands human weakness, we can now approach Him boldly, not cautiously, with honest hearts. The kingdom revealed in this miracle is one in which access to him is intimate and healing is available. He is kind, merciful, and good.

Lent invites us to lay down our defenses and come as we are to trust that our brokenness does not repel the Holy One, but instead comes close and meets us there. The nearness of Jesus calls for a humble, grateful response, receiving what we did not earn and allowing His compassion to shape our own.

Reflection

Pray honestly today, come boldly, without editing yourself.
He is closer than you think, and He wants to hear from you.

Day 6: Saturday

Reflection Day

REFLECTION NOTES AND QUESTIONS:

As we wrap up this week's study, reread *Mark 1:40-45*. This week, we looked at the Wonder of Healing through the Miracle of the Leper. Today let's sit in the **wonder that Jesus is not repelled by our brokenness**. Open your heart to the wonderful things He shows us each day about how he can heal our broken places, and open yourself to the awe and wonder of Jesus' healing power each day.

Reflect on how these words shape our lives. Reflect/journal your thoughts on the following prompts:

- What does this miracle reveal about Jesus and how does this change the way I follow Him?
 - What is something you looked at this week that you want to receive from God in greater measure? Why?
-

Day 7: Sunday

Rest Day

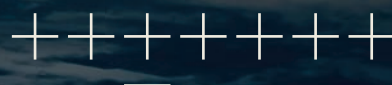
Join us for worship today and prepare your heart to engage with next week's study of God and His word. Use your time today to rest, pray, and reflect on this week's readings.

WEEK 3

THE WONDER OF FORGIVENESS

JESUS HEALS A PARALYTIC

Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, 'My child, your sins are forgiven.'" -Mark 2:5



Day 1: Monday

Scripture: *Mark 2:1-12*

INTRODUCTION

This week, we examine another miracle and healing by Jesus, but we may be surprised to learn there are two miracles and healings here. One is a physical healing, but one is a spiritual healing that takes place before the physical. This week, we will experience an unexpected miracle and healing that is greater than we can imagine. As you study Mark 2 and the healing of the paralyzed man take time to reflect upon your own heart, your own faith, your own awareness or openness to God and His miracles. Specifically, seek the Lord to help you see and reflect on the greater work and miracle that we often miss here, the miracle of forgiveness.

Reflection

Go back and re-read Mark 2:1-12. Write down or think through what parts of this passage stand out to you and why? What are some things you have questions about from this passage? Finally, ask God to help you this week be open to what this healing has to say to you about Him and how you might respond to Him with greater awe and wonder.

Day 2: Tuesday

Scripture: *Mark 2:1-5, Matthew 7:7-8, James 1:12*

THE MIRACLE OF PERSEVERANCE

When we truly believe in the power of God's presence and care for us, there is nothing that feels out of reach for God to be able to do. One of the great hopes of this study is that your sense of spiritual imagination and belief increases. As you look upon the works of Jesus, we hope you will find your spirit uplifted and your mind opened to the works and abilities of God. We are invited to witness this in the example of Jesus healing a paralytic, but what's unique in this miracle is that it isn't solely what the Lord does but what God's people do, spurred on by their courageous faith in Him.

Jesus works a miracle in healing this man, physically and spiritually, but we can easily miss the miracle hidden in the response of his faithful friends. They carried him a long distance, pushed through exhaustion, and then faced an unexpected barrier: a crowded house. Though they were close, they couldn't get in. Instead of giving up, they acted with urgent faith and did the unthinkable, they carried him up to the roof.

Next, they dig, rip, and tear through the roof of Jesus' home and lower their friend down to the Lord. What a scene. What strength. What courage. What impossibly miraculous, perseverant faith they must have.

In the miracles of Jesus, we are drawn into amazement and wonder at who He is. But when we look closely at the people in those stories, we often find a measure of awe and wonder in the strength of their faithful perseverance. In many ways, faith itself is a miracle. For anyone to have faith, knowing how sinful, broken, and corrupt we are, and how cruel, selfish, and broken this world can be, it is a wonder that any of us has even a small measure of faith. Yet the miracle of faith, when it is placed in the One who is faithful, not only allows us to persevere but to grow deeper in faith.

Reflection

Let us be reminded of what it means to be faithful. Faith should move us toward God's door, to knock, to pound, to cry out until we find ourselves back in His arms. Let us also remember the power of our faith community and the miracles that can grow from shared faith. Our community helps lead us to God's door and stand with us as we knock, pound, and press our way back to Him.

Today, reach out to your faith community, someone in your small group, someone you sit near on Sundays, a staff member or pastor, or a close friend, and ask them what they need you to faithfully and persistently bring to the Lord on their behalf. Remember, this power and intention of the church to carry one another faithfully to the feet of Jesus.

Day 3: Wednesday

Scripture: Mark 2:1-5

THE MIRACLE OF FORGIVENESS

There are moments in Scripture that paint a clear, dramatic, and powerful picture. This miracle is certainly one of them. The author isn't adding extra drama; this story doesn't need it; it is already powerful in its own right. Jesus returns home after a long journey of preaching and healing in nearby villages. Word spreads, and people flock to His house. So many gather that no one can even get through the door.

Then four sojourners come, carrying their paralyzed friend, desperate for Jesus' healing. Blocked by the crowd, they climb onto the roof, tear it open, let sunlight pour into the room, and lower their friend on his mat down to Jesus' feet. After all this effort, after all this faith, surely now comes the miracle everyone is expecting. But what does Jesus do? *"Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, 'My child, your sins are forgiven'"* (v. 5).

If we're honest, this is not what we expect. It almost feels like a disappointment. After all they did, after all the determination it took to bring their friend to the feet of the Healer, Jesus forgives his sins? As Christians, we know that this should matter most, but it still feels like something is missing. Where is the physical healing they were hoping for, and are waiting to see?

We cannot miss what Jesus is doing here. Ever the teacher, Jesus, is showing us something. He teaches that His greatest miracle is something that each of us can receive right now: forgiveness. Physical healing is a beautiful gift, and many people can participate in that work through training, skill, and knowledge. Humans can learn in some measure how to heal bodies. But there is something no human, no power, no idol, no entity can do, no one can forgive sins or heal a broken, corrupted heart. Only Jesus can heal what is truly paralyzed within us: the soul.

Here, He shows that His greatest miracle is forgiveness. Without the touch of the true Physician, we are not only broken in this life, but lost for eternity. His word heals the man's soul first, and in doing so, invites all of us into the wonder of the grace of forgiveness that is still being offered to us today.

Reflection

Re-read Mark 2:1-12, but this time through the reminder of what Jesus' greatest miracle is, and see if this narrative hits you a little differently. Allow yourself to be filled with the wonder of Jesus forgiving our sinfulness and brokenness.

Now, take a moment to pray. Thank God for His miracle of forgiveness. Ask Him to bless you with this miracle now, and if this is your first time seeking this miracle from Him, know that you're opening yourself to the greatest miracle and healing you will ever know. Also, make sure to share this great news with those in your faith community!

Day 4: Thursday

Scripture: Mark 2:1-12, Luke 5:17-26

THE MIRACLE OF HEALING

The ripples of yesterday's dramatic first miracle echo in what we look at today as we continue this account of Jesus healing the paralyzed man. In measure with the extravagance of Jesus healing this paralyzed man's soul by forgiving him of his sins, the teachers of the Torah become outraged.

The teachers are outraged: "Only God has authority over the soul!" They recognize the seriousness of Jesus' claim, even if they reject it. Yesterday, we discussed our own disappointment when Jesus forgave this man's sins before healing him, and how that often stems from overlooking the deeper work Jesus came to do. The teachers, however, understand the weight of His words; they just aren't ready to accept what they mean.

So Jesus meets them where they are. He asks why they are confused, then proves His authority in a way they can see. If they think healing a body is harder than healing a soul, He will show them. He tells the paralyzed man to get up and walk, and he does! Jesus shows that He has power over both body and soul, and that the greater miracle has always been the saving of the soul, the unseen internal work.

In his commentary, William Barclay notes another notable aspect of Jesus' response to the teachers here. He writes, *"Jesus also met the scribes on their own scholarly ground. The Rabbis had a saying, 'There is no sick man healed of his sickness until all his sins have been forgiven him'... to the Jews a sick man was a man with whom God was angry."* Jesus shows them the truth; He is Lord of all, and He has come to bring restoration, not vengeance upon His people.

Reflection

For some of us, we have lost the truth of who Jesus is and what He can do. We are like the scribes but flipped. We believe He can do invisible work within our souls, but we have lost sight of the holy wonder of what He can do in our physical lives, whether that is physical healing, relational healing, or personal healing.

Take a moment to sit silently and ask the Lord to help you be touched by Him with a sense of wonder and belief about what He can do. Take an extended time to do this. Recollect the wonderful things you have read in Scripture, heard Him do in the lives of others, and maybe even have seen Him do in your own life. Finally, bring before Him the things you wish to see Him do, heal, and restore. Open your heart to the wonder of the Lord, and see what He may do.

Day 5: Friday

Scripture: *Mark 2:1-12, Matthew 9:1-8*

AMAZEMENT AND PRAISE

If you haven't noticed it yet, there is a theme that seems to happen often after Jesus' miracles. Amazement. Awe. Wonder. Sometimes there's even praise as we see here. These are the natural responses to what seem to be such supernatural works. God acts beyond our expectations and the order of nature. At least, that's how it feels to us.

What Jesus is really doing here, though, is restoring order. We are people of the world; naturally, we have been raised in a broken and disordered world. We are so used to pain, sickness, hurt, and confusion that this seems right or orderly to us. It is reasonable in light of what we have seen and know about the world, but it is important to recognize that none of these things are orderly. None of the distorted things of this world are part of God's intended and created order. This world has been fractured by the corruption of sin, but what Jesus demonstrates through His miracles is that He is here to restore order.

This world is being made right by the Lord. It is slow but powerful and intentional work. One day, the Lord will rapidly upend the destitute and disordered world and bring righteousness and order to reign supremely again. What this means for us today is that we are called to open our eyes to the Lord, to His heart of order and making what is wrong right, and to respond in the natural, appropriate way of amazement and praise.

Reflection

When was the last time you were amazed by something? Why did you feel amazement? What did that amazement lead you to do/how did you respond to it?

Today, seek opportunities to be amazed by God. Look for the ways He is bringing order, wonder, and miracles to this world. At each sign or reminder of this work, take time to praise Him.

Day 6: Saturday

Reflection Day

REFLECTION NOTES AND QUESTIONS:

This week, we continued our study of Wonderful Things: The Miracles of Jesus by looking at Jesus' miracle of forgiveness. As we wrap up this week's study, reread Mark 2:1-12. As you study this passage again, reflect on the miracle of Jesus' forgiveness. Open your heart to the wonderful things He shows us each day about His forgiveness, and open yourself to the awe and wonder of how He exercises this forgiveness in and around us each day.

Reflect on how these words shape our lives. Reflect/journal your thoughts on the following prompts:

- What does this miracle reveal about Jesus and how does this change the way I follow Him?
 - What is something you looked at this week that you want to receive from God in greater measure? Why?
-

Day 7: Sunday

Rest Day

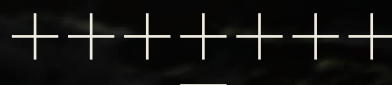
Join us for worship today and prepare your heart to engage with next week's study of God and His word. Use your time today to rest, pray, and reflect on this week's readings.

WEEK 4

THE WONDER OF POWER

JESUS CALMS THE STORM

"The disciples were absolutely terrified. 'Who is this man?' they asked each other. 'Even the wind and waves obey him.'" -Mark 4:41



Day 1: Monday

Scripture: *Mark 4:30-41*

WONDER AT THE POWER OF JESUS

In Mark 4, Jesus had just finished teaching in parables about the kingdom of God, illustrating how something small like a mustard seed could grow into something mighty. The disciples were a bit confused by Jesus' teaching, but they had already seen His power on display, so they followed him, quite literally, into a storm. As they sailed, the wind kicked up, waves began crashing over the boat, and fear gripped the disciples. They were terrified. Their first instinct was to wake Jesus and cry out for help.

The disciples trusted Jesus enough to follow Him into the boat, but their trust was still new and incomplete. They wanted to believe in His power, yet they had not fully grasped who He was. In the storm, their fear reveals not the absence of faith, but faith in its early stages; learning that trust does not mean fear disappears. It means learning to rest in His presence, even when questions remain, and even when we feel small. It means to wonder at His power, even when we don't yet understand.

Jesus responded with authority, commanding the wind and waves: *"Silence! Be still!"* Immediately, the storm ceased. The disciples were amazed and fearful, asking each other, *"Who is this man?"* (vs. 41). Their question reminds us that miracles often provoke awe and wonder rather than complete understanding. Faith grows as we see glimpses of God's power and presence, even if we don't yet grasp the whole picture.

Think of the mustard seed. Though tiny, it grows into something remarkable. It is the same with faith. It begins small, in the act of trusting that Jesus is with us, and it grows as we experience His power and presence in our lives. The disciples' partial faith grew through experience; they witnessed firsthand that Jesus had power over nature itself. Sometimes, our first step in faith is simply resting in His presence, noticing His authority, and letting the wonder grow in our hearts.

The invitation to "cross over" reminds us that faith is often about stepping into uncertainty with Jesus. The storm is real, the waves are high, yet His power is greater. When we follow Him, we see that the One who commands nature also has very real power in our lives.

Reflection

Identify one area of fear, worry, or uncertainty in your life. Invite Jesus into it: as you go through today, talk to Him about your fears. Imagine placing each worry into His hands by faith, trusting His power over the storm.

Day 2: Tuesday

Scripture: *Mark 4:35-41, Daniel 3:16-18, 2 Chronicles 20:12, John 16:31-33*

JESUS IS PRESENT IN OUR CHAOS AND SUFFERING

God is our refuge, even when He seems silent. The storms of life are very real: chaos, uncertainty, fear, or pain may crash around us. But like the disciples in the boat, we are never alone. Jesus is with us. His presence does not remove every wave or wind, but it can give us a calm heart in the storm, if we are willing to give our worry and anxiety to Him.

Jared C. Wilson, in his book *The Wonder-Working God*, says this about Jesus's presence with us in hard seasons.

"Jesus may come to your pity party, but he won't participate. He will sit by you, loving you, caring about you, and overseeing all of your troubles, but he won't for a second share in your anxiety unless you're trying to get rid of it. We tend to assume that a loving God would not let us suffer... Real, genuine, self-forgetful, self-abandoned faith in God... is the kind of faith that says, 'Though he slay me, I will hope in him' (Job 13:15). The kind of faith that believes our God will deliver us from the fiery furnace, but even if he doesn't, we will still keep from idolatry (Dan. 3:17-18). The kind of faith that says, 'We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you' (2 Chron. 20:12).

When Christ calls a man into the boat, he bids him give himself up for dead from the start... Thus, it is imperative that we have our theology straight before we even get in the boat... the bad things that happen to us... are not outside of his sovereignty, they are not outside of his plan. We may not know what God is doing in our suffering, but we can trust that he is doing something! Our God may take us through a fire, but we will come out refined. He may take us through a storm, but we will come out washed. He may ask us to take up our crosses in this life, but he will deliver us safe and sound for all eternity. The miracles that demonstrate Jesus's control of the natural world... reveal Christ as sovereign Lord, as master of the universe, as maker and therefore commander of the laws of nature. Jesus doesn't just walk around like he made the place. He rests like he does, too."

This should bring us real hope in our suffering and real peace in the middle of our chaos. Jesus is WITH us in it, we can rest in Him, we are not alone.

Reflection

In what ways might God be calling you to trust Him in the chaos rather than panic? How might this miracle begin to shape the way we pray or feel during the storms of life?

Day 3: Wednesday

Scripture: *Mark 4:35-41, Psalm 46*

BE STILL

The storm on the Sea of Galilee was sudden, fierce, and terrifying. The disciples, seasoned fishermen, were gripped with fear, shouting, *"Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?"* (Mark 4:38). Yet in the midst of the chaos, Jesus slept on a cushion. This simple detail signals both his human weariness and his absolute confidence in God's authority over creation.

When they woke Him, He spoke two words: *"Be still!"* (Mark 4:39). The wind ceased. The waves calmed. Creation obeyed His voice. As Psalm 46 declares: *"Be still, and know that I am God"* (v. 10). Here, we see a profound truth: the same God who commanded the seas at creation, who parted the Red Sea, and who redeems His people in history, is present in our storms today.

Notice the contrast: the disciples panic; Jesus remains perfectly calm. The disciples' fear reminds us of how easily we can fall into fear and anxiety when life feels out of control. Jesus' power reminds us that the same voice that calmed the storm still speaks over our circumstances, calling us to trust, to pause, to rest in Him.

C.S. Lewis puts it beautifully: *"Each miracle writes for us in small letters something that God has already written, or will write someday, in letters almost too large to be noticed, across the whole canvas of Nature."* When Jesus restores sight, health, or order, it is to restore things to how God intended creation to be and to point ahead to the ultimate restoration of all things when Jesus returns.

The stilling of the storm is both an invitation to awe and a subtle nudge to faith. It provokes the question the disciples asked in trembling wonder: *"Who is this man? Even the wind and waves obey him!"* (vs. 41). Our storms may not always be literal seas and wind, but we all face moments of fear, uncertainty, and chaos. The invitation is the same: pause, breathe, and remember who is in control. Even the forces of nature obey Him. Even the storms in our lives are not beyond His command. Faith is learning to rest in His presence amid fear, trusting that the One who calms the waters is also present in our hearts.

Reflection

"Be still." Sit silently for 3 minutes. See if you begin to notice small signs of God's presence with you. How does seeing Jesus' authority over nature strengthen your faith?

Day 4: Thursday

Scripture: Mark 4:35-41, Job 38:1-11, Psalm 104

WHO IS THIS?

There are moments when fear reveals how small we feel, but they can also show us how big God truly is. The disciples were experienced fishermen who were very familiar with this body of water. They had survived storms on these waters before, but this one was different. This one made them feel inadequate and scared. When they wake Jesus, He speaks, not only to the storm, but to them: *Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?*" (v. 40) He rebukes the wind and the waves, and there is absolute calm and instant peace. No wonder they ask the only question that makes sense: *"Who is this man? Even the wind and waves obey him!"* (v. 41) This is similar to the questions that we see echoed in Job 38.

Psalm 104 helps us answer this question. It celebrates the God who "set the earth on its foundations" and still sustains creation moment by moment. As D. A. Carson notes, the psalm reminds us that "the Lord, who brought all things into existence, continues to maintain the order of that creation." This matters because in the Old Testament, it is God alone who stills the sea. When Jesus does what only God can do, He isn't just rescuing frightened disciples; He is revealing His divine identity. Jesus is showing that He reigns supreme over chaos, fear, and the forces of nature.

Craig Blomberg puts it this way: *"The miracle is meant to instill greater faith in Jesus as the Son of God... Jesus does not always still the storms of life, but He always has the power to preserve spiritually those who believe in Him in the midst of those storms."*

Understanding that Jesus is God means our faith is not anchored in an idea or example, but in the living Lord who has absolute authority over creation and over us. It means that when fear rises, we are not simply hoping Jesus will help; we are trusting the Sovereign God who cannot fail. To know who Jesus truly is transforms fear into worship and uncertainty into faith, because the God who rules the seas has chosen to be with us in the storm. This is an invitation to wonder, to trust in His power and provision, to follow Him even when we don't understand, to ask, *"Who is this Jesus I'm following?"*

Reflection

Spend time in nature today. Marvel at the work of the creator of the universe, who even the wind and waves obey. Ask Him to show you His glory in His creation.

Day 5: Friday

Scripture: *Mark 4:35-41, Isaiah 43:1-3, Hebrews 11:1*

FAITH AND FEAR

If we look closely in this story, we will notice that the disciples are much like us. When the storm rises, and the waves overwhelm the boat, fear takes over. We know Jesus is present and powerful, yet our fear often feels louder than our faith. Mark tells us that while the chaos churned around them, Jesus rested. When the disciples woke Him, their question wasn't really about the weather: *"Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?"* (v. 38). Fear distorts what we believe about God, causing us to question both His care and His power.

Jesus speaks two rebukes in this passage. First, He rebukes the wind and the waves: *"Silence! Be still!"* Creation immediately obeys. Then He turns to His disciples and asks, *"Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?"* (v. 40). From Jesus' perspective, they had already seen enough of His authority to trust Him. Hebrews 11:1 reminds us that *"faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."* Faith doesn't wait for clarity or control; it settles into the nearness of Jesus and says, *"I don't fully understand this moment, but I know Who is here with me."*

This is where the mustard-seed faith we talked about at the beginning of the week matters. Jesus invites us into a growing faith: that starts small, is willing to be stretched, is still learning who Jesus is, and chooses to follow Him anyway. After the storm, the disciples experience a different kind of fear: one marked by awe, wonder, and reverence. The miracle doesn't resolve everything; it opens new questions. That is often how Jesus works, as He reveals Himself to us, we begin to realize how much more there is to know. Our faith grows not because the waters are shallow, but because God is faithful in the deep.

Jesus doesn't shame fearful disciples. He invites them into deeper faith. They were learning to trust His authority, respond to His power, and rely on His presence. The disciples' need for growing faith matters for what they were about to face, and it is essential for us today as well. Deeper faith carries us when storms of life threaten to take us down. Faith is not something we muster up; it is a gift that God grows in us as we respond to Him. Faith grows as we rest in Jesus, trusting that His presence in the boat matters more than the size of the waves and believing that the One who calms the sea is also the One who walks with us through the waters.

Reflection

Ask God to show you where you need to go deeper with Him. What might He be gently inviting you to trust Him with today? Where does fear feel louder than faith?

Day 6: Saturday

Reflection Day

REFLECTION NOTES AND QUESTIONS:

As we wrap up this week's study, re-read *Mark 4:35-41*. This week, we looked at the Wonder of Jesus' Power through the Calming of the Storm. Today let's sit in the **wonder that Jesus has the power to calm the chaos**. Open your heart to the wonderful things He shows us each day about how he can bring peace to the storms of life, and open yourself to the awe and wonder of Jesus' power each day.

Reflect on how these words shape our lives. Reflect/journal your thoughts on the following prompt:

- What does this miracle reveal about Jesus and how does this change the way I follow Him?
 - What is something you looked at this week that you want to receive from God in greater measure? Why?
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Day 7: Sunday

Rest Day

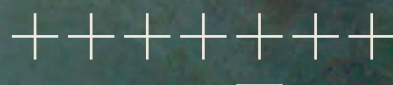
Join us for worship today and prepare your heart to engage with next week's study of God and His word. Use your time today to rest, pray, and reflect on this week's readings.

WEEK 5

THE WONDER OF FAITH

JESUS HEALS JAIRUS' DAUGHTER

"Jesus overheard them and said to Jairus, 'Don't be afraid. Just have faith.'" -Mark 5:36



Day 1: Monday

Scripture: Mark 5:21-24, 35-43

INTRODUCTION

This week, we examine the healing of Jairus' daughter. Specifically, this week we have the opportunity, in multiple ways, to be brought to awe and wonder at God's faithfulness to us and at what faith can do in us. Faith is a miracle to which we are invited to participate with God. Through faith, we see Him more clearly and are struck by the wonder of what He can and is doing around us.

As you prepare for reflection upon the wonder of faith this week look to these words by Fleming Rutledge about the faith of Jairus.

"The faith which is evoked by Jesus' dialogue with the father... is radical trust in the person of Jesus, the One 'who calls into existence the things that do not exist' (Rom. 4:17), the One who creates faith where there is no faith."

- Fleming Rutledge

Reflection

Take time to reflect and ask yourself where you feel like your faith is lacking. Where do you lack the ability to see and experience the wonderful things of God because of a lack of faith?

As you end this reflection, take intentional time to seek and ask the Lord to help you experience faith in a new and amazing way this week as you study His word and miracles in Mark 5. Ask Him to help create faith in you where there is no faith.

Day 2: Tuesday

Scripture: *Mark 5:21-43*

THE LANGUAGE OF FAITH

Mark explicitly links two miracle narratives in Mark 5:21-43. Mark presents a true account of Jesus' miraculous work, but he also points to these two accounts as reminders of what the power of faith can do. Jairus and the woman with the issue of blood speak the language of faith. Jairus, the leader of the local synagogue, places his faith in Jesus to heal his daughter. The woman with the issue of blood has faith that just by touching the robes of this miracle Savior, Jesus, she would be healed in a way that no other has been able to for twelve years.

Their faith not only proves true, but it also draws Jesus' attention and affection. Jairus and the woman with the issue of blood are speaking the language of Jesus; they are speaking the words after His heart, the language of faith. The language of faith is difficult to learn. It's a language that can't be developed through Duolingo or a class. It can't be mastered through a good tutor. It can only be spoken when your heart truly surrenders its ways and strength over to the ways of God.

Faith is developed over a lifetime of surrender and trust, but it begins in each moment that you turn over the ruling of your life, your circumstances, your desires, your hopes to the Lord. For many of us, we speak the language of faith only on occasion, typically only in the valleys of desperation and despair, but we are invited to become linguists of faith through every facet of our lives.

Reflection

What language do you think you're an expert on? The language of anxiety? The language of pride? The language of indifference or coasting? We all live and think in certain ways. Those ways inform and influence everything about us. What Jesus shows us here is that we are invited and able to speak, live, and think in a new way, the ways of faith in Him.

End your time today and ask the Lord to help you begin to become fluent in speaking the language of faith. Ask Him to give you the words, the thoughts, and the actions of faith in Him.

Day 3: Wednesday

Scripture: *Mark 5:21-24, Mark 2:17*

READY TO SAVE

One of the names attributed to Jesus is “The Great Physician.” He receives this title for obvious reasons as we look back over the last five weeks of His miraculous healings, but I see it most clearly in passages like Mark 5:24. Jairus comes to Jesus in what seems like a hurry to have Him perform a healing miracle that he believes only Jesus can do. Jesus hears him, and in verse 24 we read, “Jesus went with him...”

When I read this, I can’t help but picture a paramedic quickly but intentionally jumping from their ambulance, grabbing their medical bag, and coming to the aid of those in need. I picture a code blue in a hospital where nurses and doctors rush to the aid of a patient. I picture Jesus moving alongside this fearful but faithful father to aid in the way only He can. I love this verse in this passage because it is such a reminder for us that Jesus is ready to save. Jesus is ready to restore and eager to make all things right again. This is the heart and purpose of the Lord, and He cares for us, His people, and He is intentionally coming to our sides to offer His healing aid.

At times, this means physical healing and a miracle on this side of heaven, and these moments awaken a time of faith and wonder in Him. Ultimately, though, He is working and healing our very souls. The work by which only He can do, so that we may be eternally healed, whole, and new with Him. He is truly our great physician, and what a privilege that He is ready to walk beside us and save us all.

Reflection

How have you felt or been affirmed by Jesus’ healing? Why do we struggle to believe that Jesus really is ready to restore, heal, and save? Journal or reflect on these two questions today and take time to ask the Lord to help you see Him as our great physician and ask Him to help you believe in His healing and miraculous works.

Day 4: Thursday

Scripture: *Mark 5:21-43, John 11:1-44*

RIGHT ON TIME

Have you ever been cooking and realized you tried to do too much? Maybe it was a big holiday meal, a special dinner, or even a treat for yourself. Suddenly, the stove is full, the oven is beeping, the sink is overflowing, and you realize you're in way over your head, trying to do something nice, but now surrounded by stress and chaos.

When I read Mark 5:21-43, I can't help but feel this way for Jesus. Although we are focusing this week on the miracle of Jesus' healing of Jairus' daughter (and there is much to unpack in this), we would be remiss not to consider the full narrative as the author of Mark intended. Jesus performs two incredible miracles in this passage. He does one while He is pressing forward to perform the other. This one, which we will examine next week, is conducted in the midst of a hectic, closing-in, and eager crowd. The other occurs when the crowd and the seeker of the miracle believe that He is too late.

As we read this account, we can't help but feel the stress of the situation before the Lord. We also can't help but feel great disappointment when we read verse 35. It's too late. She is dead. She is beyond the miracle-working of Jesus. But there's something striking about this; Jesus isn't stressed. Jesus isn't anxious. Jesus isn't worried. Jesus isn't distraught or defeated. Jesus looks to this poor girl's father and says, "Just have faith."

Jairus had come to Jesus in faith; Jesus had healed the woman afflicted with bleeding because of her faith; and Jesus is now strengthening Jairus' faith again by reminding him of something vital about faith: **faith is trusting that God is always on time**. We see this truth in another miraculous healing of Lazarus from the dead. We have the records of Jesus' miracles to attest to this, but when we remind ourselves of God's sovereignty over all things, we can begin to see that God is the author, ruler, and worker of all time. He's never too early, too late, or slow. He's always on time. A key to faith is understanding that God is working something in His time. Our patience allows us to be open to partner with Him and His plan.

Reflection

It's hard to be patient when we are hurting, stressed, or seeking help for those we love, but faith is boldly and faithfully going to God with our requests and opening ourselves to be surprised by His work and timing. We are invited to partner with Him and His work through faith.

Where do you need faith in God's timing today? Take time now to slow down and sit patiently and confidently with the Lord. Lift up this place where you need to slow down and where you desire His speedy work. Ask Him to help you walk in faith as you seek His hand.

Day 5: Friday

Scripture: *Mark 5:21-24, 35-43, John 11:35, Mark 1:41, Matthew 9:36, Matthew 10:29-31, Psalm 8:4*

THE CARING HEALER

At the end of this long and powerful account, we see Jesus not only heal but also resurrect Jairus' daughter from the dead. This should remind us of Jesus' power over death. This is an apparent nod to what Jesus can and will do, not only for Himself but for all of humanity, as He is slain on the cross.

But if we look just a little further, as we wrap up this passage, we see something that may seem so simple, but is far from it. We see that after Jesus raises Jairus' daughter back up, He tells them not to say anything about this. Why? (Because remember, He is right on time and has a plan for revealing this powerful work of His in due time, aka the cross), and then He tells them to give this girl something to eat. This may seem like an afterthought or a passing comment in Mark, but there are no accidents in what we read in scripture.

Jesus cares. Jesus cares about Jairus' daughter. Jesus cares about the woman who has been bleeding for twelve years. Jesus cares about the broken hearts that see the lifeless body of this girl. Jesus cares about her being nourished upon her return to life. Jesus obviously cares about us, too. He is drawn to us. He is attentive to us. He is broken for us. Scripture demonstrates this repeatedly.

As we wrap up this week, I think it's imperative that we don't miss this final verse. In this life, there will be days when we feel the stress, concern, burden, fear, and pain of Jairus, but we see that Jesus, the healer, is near us and cares for us. We are meant to feel true and palpable wonder at His miraculous works, but we are meant to find a baseline and overpowering wonder and awe at His care for us. He cares for every part of us, our souls, our bodies, our hearts and emotions.

Psalm 8:4 asks, 'What are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them?' To God, there is nothing 'mere' about us. We are more than mere; we belong to Him, and He delights in us.

Reflection

Take time to think about this final verse in Mark 5:43. Do you feel cared for by the Lord? Why or why not? Take the remainder of your time to pray and thank Him for His care. If you feel a lack of His care right now, ask Him to remind you that you are more to Him than "mere". Ask Him to help you see and feel His nearness and His deep care for you.

Day 6: Saturday

Reflection Day

REFLECTION NOTES AND QUESTIONS:

This week, we continued our study of Wonderful Things: The Miracles of Jesus by looking at Jesus' miracle of faith. As we wrap up this week's study, re-read *Mark 5:21-24, 35-43*. As you study this passage again, reflect on the miracle of Jesus' faith. Open your heart to the wonderful things He shows us each day about faith, and open yourself to the awe and wonder of how He invites us to be faithful each day.

Reflect on how these words shape our lives. Reflect/journal your thoughts on the following prompts:

- What does this miracle reveal about Jesus and how does this change the way I follow Him?
 - What is something you looked at this week that you want to receive from God in greater measure? Why?
-

Day 7: Sunday

Rest Day

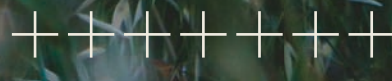
Join us for worship today and prepare your heart to engage with next week's study of God and His word. Use your time today to rest, pray, and reflect on this week's readings.

WEEK 6

THE WONDER OF COMPASSION

JESUS HEALS A WOMAN WITH AN
ISSUE OF BLOOD

*"Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in
peace. Your suffering is over." -Mark 5:34*



Day 1: Monday

Scripture: Mark 5:21-36

WHAT SUFFERING CAN PRODUCE

Last week, we studied the story of Jairus' daughter. Before Jesus reaches the bedside of his dying child, He stops for a woman whose suffering has lasted twelve long years. These two stories are intentionally intertwined in Mark's gospel. One girl has lived for twelve years and is dying. One woman has been living like the dead for twelve years: bleeding, isolated, unseen. Mark places these stories together so we read each one in the light of the other.

It's essential to recognize that not every miracle functions in the same way. Sometimes Jesus acts first, and faith follows; His display of power awakens trust. At other times, faith has been slowly formed long before the miracle ever comes. As Craig Blomberg observes, *"A miracle...can be designed to produce or strengthen faith...or it can be worked in response to faith (as it is here)."* For twelve years, this woman had suffered in every way imaginable. Her condition drained her physically and financially and cut her off socially and spiritually. Mark tells us she had "suffered a great deal from many doctors", yet only grew worse. The very people she trusted to help her had let her down. After so many failed treatments and so much disappointment, it would have been entirely understandable for her to lose hope, not only in healing, but in the possibility that her life could ever be restored.

Under Levitical law, her bleeding made her ceremonially unclean. She was barred from worship, excluded from the community, and forbidden to touch others. She lived on the margins, unseen and unnamed. Yet somewhere in the long stretch of her suffering, something was formed in her. Pain did not erase her faith; it refined it. Desperation did not harden her heart; it pushed her toward Jesus. Her suffering produced courage. It has taught her where to turn when every other option has failed. When Jesus stops and speaks to her, He names what has been taking shape all along: *"Your faith has made you well"* (v. 34). Her healing is not just physical. She is restored publicly, relationally, and spiritually. What years of suffering had stripped away, Jesus gives back in a moment of grace.

This miracle reveals a deeper truth: faith is often forged slowly in places of disappointment, waiting, and loss. Long-term suffering can become the soil where deep trust grows, not because the suffering is good, but because Jesus meets us in it. The quiet faith formed in this woman over years of anguish moved her to reach out to the One who could bring true healing.

Reflection

Name something you've carried longer than you expected. Where have you felt let down or tempted to lose hope? What might it look like to allow that pain to deepen your faith and lead you to reach for Jesus in the midst of it courageously?

Day 2: Tuesday

Scripture: Mark 5:21-34, Psalm 130, Hebrews 13:6-8

IT'S TIME TO MOVE TOWARD JESUS

Both Jairus and this woman approached Jesus in desperation, but it begs a question for us: Why do we often wait until we are desperate to ask Jesus to intervene? Do we believe He can still act in the supernatural ways that interrupt ordinary life with divine power and grace? The woman with the issue of blood had waited twelve long years through pain, unanswered prayers, and quiet disappointment. Her waiting was not wasted. It likely refined her in ways that nothing else could. She likely did not know whether this miracle worker she had heard about could actually help her, but she had the courage to move toward Him anyway. She took a risky step of faith, entering the crowd and reaching out for help. In a crowd pressing in on Him, where many were touching Him, Jesus stopped. He perceived that *"healing power had gone out from him"* and asked, *"Who touched my clothes?"* Jesus wanted more than to heal a body; He wanted a personal encounter. He drew her out of hiding and said, *"Daughter, your faith has healed you."*

This miracle shows us that His supernatural power is intentional and relational. Sometimes Jesus intervenes immediately, and sometimes He asks us to wait. In the waiting, our faith is refined, our expectations are challenged, and our vision of who Jesus is becomes clearer. Mark's Gospel invites us to recover wonder, not by chasing the miracle, but by remembering who Jesus is. As N.T. Wright reminds us, *"There is still room for us to creep up behind Jesus, if that's all we feel we can do, and reach out to touch him, in that odd mixture of fear and faith that characterizes so much Christian discipleship."*

Discipleship is how we recover the wonder of our Savior. As we walk with Jesus through Scripture, prayer, and obedience, we are reminded of who He is and what He can do. Following Him shapes our identity, strengthens our trust, and keeps us from shrinking Jesus down to what feels manageable or predictable. Many people brushed against Jesus that day, but only one reached out in faith and touched Him. To recapture the wonder of Jesus, we begin where this woman did: by leaning into the stories of who He is, daring to believe that His power is not confined to the past, and taking one small, brave step toward Him.

Reflection

Where has disappointment or familiarity diminished your sense of wonder? How might intentional discipleship help you remember who Jesus is and what He can do? Ask Him to forgive the places where we diminish our expectations of His power. Ask him to restore your wonder and belief in His power, mercy, love, and grace. Ask Him to help you wait with hope and expectancy.

Day 3: Wednesday

Scripture: *Mark 5:25-34, Psalm 73*

THE CARE AND TOUCH OF JESUS

The woman with the bleeding condition had spent twelve years seeking help, but nothing worked until she touched Jesus' garment. In that moment, her faith connected with His holiness, and healing flowed. Jesus notices what others overlook; He sees not just the crowd, but the individual in need. He doesn't wait for perfection or the perfect moment. He notices and responds to faith reaching out to Him.

In the Old Testament, only things ritually purified or holy could convey holiness or healing when touched (Exodus 29:37; 30:29; Leviticus 6:18,27). Objects like the altar, priestly garments, and offerings were set apart for God's purposes. Touching them could symbolically confer consecration or life. The woman's condition made her ritually unclean under the law, meaning she could not fully participate in the religious life of Israel.

Jesus is holy, consecrated, and filled with God's presence. Everything about Him is set apart for God's work. When the woman touched Him, she was touching the source of ultimate holiness, not just a symbol or ritual object. Just as touching a purified object in the Old Testament could bring consecration, touching Jesus brought healing and restored her life. He is the living fulfillment of the ritual laws: the source of true holiness, cleansing, and wholeness. Unlike a ritual object, Jesus requires faith. The woman had to believe that simply touching His garment would heal her. This shows the difference between the law and the living Christ: holiness and power are not mechanical, but relational and responsive to faith.

The Old Testament taught that contact with purified things could confer holiness. In Mark 5, Jesus Himself is the purified, consecrated One, and touching Him in faith brings life, healing, and restoration, far surpassing the symbolic effects of the law. Jesus' holiness is contagious. The closer we get to Him, the more it rubs off on us.

Reflection

Today, slow down and look for where Jesus might be inviting you to pause. Where in your life are you waiting, overlooked, or desperate for healing: physical, emotional, or spiritual? How might Jesus be inviting you to reach out to Him in faith, even in a small, simple way?

Day 4: Thursday

Scripture: Mark 5:33, Psalm 34, Romans 4:16-25

WHERE FEAR MEETS COMPASSION

Mark says the woman came to Jesus *"frightened and trembling."* Though healed, she fears being seen in all her honest vulnerability. Jesus meets her honesty not with shame, but with compassion. He draws her out into the open so that He can restore dignity, wholeness, and community. N.T. Wright observes that Jesus is not performing magic for a distant audience. The woman's faith, by itself, has no power, but it reaches out to the One who does have power. Even her trembling faith counts, because she is participating in God's renewing work. This woman's story shows that faith often risks us coming to Him with our vulnerability and the truths we would rather hide. But when we come, He meets us where we are, and we are fully seen, fully known, and fully loved.

"Clearly, it was Jesus' power, but he says, 'Your faith has rescued you.' The answer must be that faith, though itself powerless, is the channel through which Jesus' power can work... And faith, however much fear and trembling may accompany it, is the first sign of that remaking, that renewal, that new life."

- N.T. Wright

In Psalm 34, David does not say fear disappeared before he sought the Lord; he says he sought the Lord with his fear. Verse 5 says, *"Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame will darken their faces."* This psalm reframes fear as a starting point rather than a spiritual failure, reminding us that God does not shame fearful seekers.

Fear, when turned toward God, becomes the very space where God's presence can be experienced most deeply. It is a place of awe, wonder, and reverence where He meets us. The reminder of Abraham in Romans 4 also helps us understand that faith is not certainty, perfect confidence, or the absence of fear, but a trust in who God is and what he can do. Abraham's faith relied on God's power, not his circumstances, and the woman's faith works the same way. She does not know how Jesus will respond, but she knows that he can heal, so she comes, in all her honesty and vulnerability, to the compassionate, powerful feet of Jesus.

Reflection

Where might Jesus be inviting you to seek Him with honesty and vulnerability, even with fear and trembling, trusting that He will meet you there? Come to Jesus honestly today. Speak the whole truth to Him without editing, minimizing, or hiding.

Day 5: Friday

Scripture: Mark 5:25-34; Psalm 147:1-11

RESTORED FULLY

In Jesus' day, this woman was not only physically suffering, but according to Israel's purity laws, her condition rendered her continually unclean. As Craig Blomberg explains, *"Various kinds of sicknesses, disabilities, or bodily discharges could render one more or less permanently unclean, so the social ostracism became a worse malady than the physical discomfort."*

For twelve long years, her life was defined by exclusion. When she reaches out and touches Jesus' garment, she is healed immediately, but Jesus does not allow the story to end there. He ensures that her healing is not private or partial, but complete. What Jesus offers is more than physical relief; it is complete restoration.

Jesus publicly names her "Daughter", the only time He addresses a woman this way in the Gospels. With that single word, her belonging and identity is affirmed. She is no longer defined by her condition, her shame, or her isolation. She has been fully cleansed, sanctified, and her place among God's people reclaimed. She is now free to walk in this new identity as a sanctified child of God. Here, Jesus takes on the role of a priest, pronouncing her clean and restoring her to worship, yet He does this outside the familiar temple system. This moment quietly anticipates what is coming: Jesus Himself will become the place where true cleansing and restoration are found.

As D. A. Carson observes, Jesus' healings are consistently interpersonal because God's salvation is ultimately about a restored relationship with a personal God. The "mystery of the kingdom" is not merely an idea; it is Jesus Himself, drawing near and making whole. This story also points us forward to the cross. The woman's restoration reveals the beauty of Jesus bringing wholeness, peace, and belonging. He will bear rejection and suffering, so others can be restored.

As we move toward Holy Week, we are reminded that what sin, suffering, and shame strip away, Christ restores by stepping into suffering for our sake. He invites us not only to seek relief, but to receive restoration: of identity, relationship, and belonging.

Reflection

Sit quietly with this truth and let it settle deeply in your heart: Jesus wants a deeper relationship with you that brings peace to your suffering and restores you back to life.

Day 6: Saturday

Reflection Day

REFLECTION NOTES AND QUESTIONS:

As we wrap up this week's study, re-read *Mark 5:25-34* and focus on the Wonder of Jesus' Compassion, take a minute to reflect on how Jesus has shown compassion to you. Reflect on places in your life where you still need his healing power to restore and spend some time bringing those before him.

Reflect on how these words shape our lives. Reflect/journal your thoughts on the following prompt:

- What does this miracle reveal about Jesus and how does this change the way I follow Him?
 - What is something you looked at this week that you want to receive from God in greater measure? Why?
-

Day 7: Sunday

Rest Day

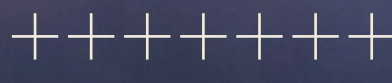
Join us for worship today and prepare your heart to engage with next week's study of God and His word. Use your time today to rest, pray, and reflect on this week's readings.

WEEK 7

THE WONDER OF RESTORATION

JESUS HEALS A BOY WHO IS
DEAF AND MUTE

"A murmur ran through the crowd as people said, 'He's dead.' But Jesus took him by the hand and helped him to his feet, and he stood up." -Mark 9:26-27



Holy Week

PREPARE YOUR HEART

This week, leading up to Easter, invites us to wonder at the power and miraculous work of Jesus' sacrifice. Throughout this study, we have been encouraged to find awe and wonder at the wonderful things Jesus has done and what they reveal about Him. Take time to look back at just some of the wonderful things we have examined, and open your heart to be in awe and surprised by Him this Holy Week.

The Wonder of His Authority- Mark 1:21-28

Jesus removes a demon inflicted upon a man and cleanses his unclean spirit through the power of His authority.

The Wonder of His Healing- Mark 1:40-45

Jesus heals a man of his leprosy and invites him back into the society that had shunned him.

The Wonder of Forgiveness- Mark 2:1-12

Jesus forgives the sins of a man paralyzed and then, through the power of His voice, heals him to be able to walk again.

The Wonder of Power- Mark 4:35-41

Jesus speaks calm to a raging storm and proves His great power over all of creation.

The Wonder of Faith- Mark 5:21-24, 35-43

Jesus heals Jairus' daughter by raising her from the dead, proving that, through faith in Him, all things are possible.

The Wonder of Compassion- Mark 5:25-34

Jesus heals a woman with an issue of consistent bleeding and shows His great compassion for the people of this world.

The Wonder of Restoration- Mark 9:14-29

Jesus restores a boy who was possessed by a demon, and He ultimately proves His power to restore by dying on the cross and rising three days later, securing restoration for the world.

Day 1: Monday

Scripture: *Mark 9:14-29*

INTRODUCTION

This week, we are looking at two final miracles. We are examining one that causes considerable confusion, and then we're examining one that we probably know well. We are starting the week by examining a miraculous healing of a boy who is possessed by an intense demon that is causing him to be deaf, mute, and physically lash out and hurt himself. There is much to unpack with this miracle, and we will assess it as best we can for two days.

The second miracle is, of course, the death and resurrection of Jesus. I say, of course, because we are in Holy Week as we are concluding this study. Holy Week is the week in which we reflect on this sacrifice and the culmination of Jesus' miraculous works: His resurrection. As we prepare to examine these final two great works of Jesus, prepare your heart and mind to be filled and moved to wonder and awe at Him and His great works and character. Seek the Lord to open up in your heart what these accounts, and the accounts of the previous weeks, should teach you about the Lord and what it means to be engulfed in the wonderful things of our Savior.

Reflection

Take a moment and ask yourself: What does Holy Week really mean for you? Does this week feel like that, holy, or does it feel simply like another week? Holy Week is intended to be a week of reflection on the Lord and an examination of our hearts. Are our hearts attuned to the Lord and in wonder at His works? Reflect upon this question today and seek the Lord to prepare you to be amazed by Him this week as we reflect upon Him and the awe of a resurrected, restored life.

Day 2: Tuesday

Scripture: *Mark 9:14-29, Mark 3:14-15, Mark 6:7, 12-13*

THE FEAR

There's no way to read Mark 9:14-29 without feeling some fear. It's a dark and unsettling story, a boy tormented by a demon that no one can remove. Even the disciples, who have cast out demons before, are powerless this time. The scene feels heavy, as if a storm cloud hangs over it, and all hope turns to Jesus.

This passage is frightening because it forces us to face what we don't understand. Demons are real here, harming the innocent, and we're given very few answers. We don't know how the boy became possessed or what's already been tried. The mystery itself is unsettling, reminding us that this isn't a how-to guide on stopping demons, but a reminder that there is much that we face in life that is too big for us to handle. This story is meant to point us to the remedy for our too big problems of life, Jesus.

This passage reminds us of God's power, strength, goodness, and faithfulness, and of Jesus as the one who brings restoration to our broken, attacked, confused, fearful, and weakened souls. This passage should evoke fear, not so much from the demon as from what a life without the power of Jesus and faith in Him entails. The evil works of demons are scary, but what is scarier is the life where there is no Savior to bring us out of the clutches of the demons, the enemy, the evil, the isolation of a life without Christ.

There is a remedy to the fear we feel here, and it is the power and presence of the Lord. When we are marked by faith, when we are moved into His arms, when we are people of wonder at Him and His power, then we walk a life not of darkness and fear but of assurance and hope. Our strength comes from Him. Jesus calls us to seek help in prayer, whether it is a cosmic force we face or the severe pain of fear and suffering. He is standing here with us. He is our hope and strength. As we draw nearer to Him in prayer, we are not only invited to experience His strength and assurance, but also to the faith to continue to walk confidently and boldly into this fearful world.

Reflection

What about this passage unsettles you? Why? Remember, this is an unsettling passage; there is no doubt about that. Don't feel shame about feeling that way. What do you think Jesus is showing us, though, about how to approach the scary or unknown and unfamiliar?

Reflect on these questions and take intentional time today to ask the Lord to enliven within you a faith that brings about boldness and confidence in His restoring powers and work.

Day 3: Wednesday

Scripture: *Mark 9:14-29*

HELP ME WITH MY UNBELIEF

One of the most important things about this passage in Mark 9:14-29 is not the fear, but the ray of light that shines in the darkness. As we discussed yesterday, this passage conveys a sense of fear and darkness, yet a light seems to radiate naturally in the father's response to Jesus about his son.

Jesus is approached in haste to help and heal this boy. As the good physician that He is He asks follow-up questions, "How long has this been happening?" Jesus asked the boy's father. Jesus has the father explain what's happening to his son, and then begins to teach him the essence of what brings light to the darkness. Belief in the Lord ushers in the possibility of light. This father has lived in darkness and struggled with his son for years now. He is at the end of his rope and is coming to Jesus to seek help. How often is this also the place we come to? Jesus almost seems to be teaching the father here that what will truly heal, not only his son, but the father as well, is belief, faith in Jesus. Why? Because faith in Jesus brings light to our dark lives and hearts, enabling us to see beyond our circumstances.

But where the real light seems to shine the brightest is in the father's response to Jesus. In verse twenty-four, it says, "The father instantly cried out, 'I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!'" This is the cry of not only a father in need, but a truly faithful person. He is humble enough to admit that he believes in Jesus, but there are still pockets of his heart that lack faith. He not only recognizes this problem but also knows that it can be healed by submitting to the power of Jesus by faith. The father is essentially crying out, "Heal and restore not only my son, but me too! Help me with my unbelief!"

"I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!" Is the cry of the heart that desires to be filled with the wonder of the Lord. "I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!" Is the prayer that heals the fractured heart of faith that we all face. "Help me with my unbelief!" are the words of the heart that seeks restoration with the Lord. None of us has a heart fully engulfed in faith. We all lack faith. We all have lost sight of the wonder that is God, but when we not only address these areas of lack but then return to the Lord in prayer and ask for His hand of healing to produce greater faith in us, then we are welcomed with a light that allows us to see Him more clearly.

Reflection

Where do you feel that you lack faith in God's restorative power? Why? Today, as you end your study of this first miracle of Holy Week, may the Lord help you to see how He is restoring you. Ask Him to help you see how He is always, through every word, every miraculous work, restoring us, His people, back to Him and His light. Prepare to see this truth as we look at Jesus' greatest miracle for the remainder of this Holy Week.

Day 4: Maundy Thursday

Scripture: *Mark 9:14-29, Mark 14:27-42*

WHEN WE ARE OUT OF OPTIONS

This miracle teaches us that there are limits to our strength, but there are no limits to Jesus' strength. In Mark 9:14-29, we meet a family at the end of their rope. The disciples have tried and failed. The father's hope is wearing thin. His prayer: *I believe; help my unbelief* is not confident, but it is honest. Jesus does not rebuke him for it. This is faith that knows it has no options left.

The boy convulses, and Mark tells us he *"appeared to be dead."* Death seems inevitable, but Jesus takes him by the hand and lifts him up, and life returns. As N. T. Wright writes, *"Death is the enemy, and it has been defeated."* In this moment, this victory over death is only a glimpse of what is to come, the boy will eventually die. This week, our hearts are centered on Jesus entering death Himself to undo it from the inside, and to claim victory over death once and for all.

Seeing these people at the end of their rope feeling like there is no option left but death, prepares us for the road to the cross. The disciples cannot heal the boy, they cannot stay awake in the garden, they deny Jesus, and doubt that He is who He says He is. We are not much different. We cannot heal the world or ourselves. Awe and wonder begins when we admit our helplessness and place what we cannot fix into Jesus' hands trusting His supernatural power.

As C. S. Lewis reminds us, *"The Power that always was behind all healings puts on a face and hands."* Those hands will soon be pierced. That power will soon be poured out in obedience and love. Holy Week invites us to lay down our expectations of how God "should" work and to trust the Savior who walks willingly toward suffering for the sake of the world.

As Holy Week unfolds, we move from awe at His power to wonder at His surrender. In Mark's Gospel, miracles are not signs meant to prove something; they are mighty works that reveal who Jesus is, and they can only be fully understood in light of the cross and resurrection.

Jesus is powerful, compassionate, and holds all authority, and **yet Jesus still humbly chooses the cross.**

Reflection

Ask God to help you lay down expectations of how He "should" work. Bring Him what you cannot fix and ask him to help your unbelief.

What is Good Friday?

Often we wonder why the day of Jesus' crucifixion is called "Good Friday", Isaiah 53:5 gives us an indication of why it is good: "But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed."

Eugene Peterson paraphrases Isaiah 53 in this way:

The servant grew up before God-a scrawny seedling, a scrubby plant in a parched field. There was nothing attractive about him, nothing to cause us to take a second look. He was looked down on and passed over, a man who suffered, who knew pain firsthand. One look at him and people turned away. We looked down on him, thought he was scum. But the fact is, it was our pains he carried-our disfigurements, all the things wrong with us. We thought he brought it on himself, that God was punishing him for his own failures. But it was our sins that did that to him, that ripped and tore and crushed him-our sins! He took the punishment, and that made us whole. Through his bruises we get healed. We're all like sheep who've wandered off and gotten lost. We've all done our own thing, gone our own way. And God has piled all our sins, everything we've done wrong, on him, on him.

HE was beaten, so WE could be whole. HE was whipped, so WE could be healed.... that is good news! May we spend today reflecting not only on the good news but also grieving the weight of our sin and the suffering it caused our Savior. May we spend today reflecting again on these seven wonders of Jesus that remind us who He is, what He is doing, and what He ultimately fulfilled by dying on the cross to give us a future home with Him..

The Wonder of His Authority- Mark 1:21-28

Jesus sacrifices Himself because only He has the authority to determine what makes the soul of man clean.

The Wonder of His Healing- Mark 1:40-45

Jesus takes on our impurities and uncleanness on the cross to make us clean and new again.

The Wonder of Forgiveness- Mark 2:1-12

Jesus forgives the sins of the world by being our pure and holy sacrifice.

The Wonder of Power- Mark 4:35-41

Jesus uses the power of His humble and loving sacrifice to free the world from the power of the grave.

The Wonder of Faith- Mark 5:21-24, 35-43

Jesus dies to offer the world a righteous sacrifice of faith to find miraculous and eternal healing for the soul.

The Wonder of Compassion- Mark 5:25-34

Jesus saw us, while we were still sinners, and died for us out of His great compassion to see us restored to Him.

The Wonder of Restoration- Mark 9:14-29

We are restored to Him if we are moved to a faith of true awe and wonder at His sacrifice.

Day 5: Good Friday

Scripture: *Mark 8:31-35, Mark 14:3-9, Mark 15*

**Make plans to join us for our Good Friday Drop In Service. The auditorium will be open for self-guided prayer, reflection and communion from 8:00am to 1:00pm.*

WONDER AT THE CROSS

Good Friday invites us to pause and stand in awe, not at the power displayed, but at love poured out. In Mark's Gospel, we see this love revealed in its fullest: costly, suffering, and surrendered.

In Bethany, a woman breaks open an expensive perfume jar and pours it on Jesus. What some might call waste, Jesus calls beautiful. Her extravagant act flows from awe and wonder, a wholehearted response to who Jesus is. She senses what the disciples do not yet grasp: that Jesus is moving toward death. This was a genuine act of love and worship that cost her something. Jesus makes it clear: salvation and victory will not come the way the world thinks they will; instead, they will come through sacrificial love. Even the miracles that reveal His authority came with a cost, sending Jesus further toward rejection, suffering, and death.

N. T. Wright writes, *"The cross is the shocking victory through which God's kingdom is established."* Wonder deepens when we realize that resurrection hope is born through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. New life comes through loss, and victory through self-sacrifice. In the Garden of Gethsemane, we see this miracle worker, the one who casts out demons, calms the storm, and raises the dead, as he cries in anguish and submits Himself to suffering. As the Suffering Servant, Jesus enters this so that we might be made whole. In His humanity, Jesus feels the fear, understands weakness, and bears sorrow. In His divinity, Jesus reigns victorious three days later, conquering death.

Good Friday calls us not only to observe the cross, but to stand before it in wonder, humbled, sober-minded, and deeply grateful. It reminds us that the kingdom is won through the costly, suffering, and surrendered love that Jesus poured out for us.

Reflection

Offer Jesus something costly today: your time, your attention, your control, your surrender. Pray with open hands: "Not my will, but Yours."

Day 6: Holy Saturday

Scripture: Mark 15: 42-47

WONDER AT HIS LOVE

"In the Christian story God descends to reascend. He comes down; down from the heights of absolute being into time and space, down into humanity; down further still, if embryologists are right, to recapitulate in the womb ancient and pre-human phases of life; down to the very roots and seabed of the Nature He has created. But He goes down to come up again and bring the whole ruined world up with Him. One has the picture of a strong man stooping lower and lower to get himself underneath some great complicated burden. He must stoop in order to lift, he must almost disappear under the load before he incredibly straightens his back and marches off with the whole mass swaying on his shoulders."

—C. S. Lewis, *Miracles*

Holy Saturday is a quiet holy space in the Christian story. The cross is behind us, the empty tomb ahead. Mark's Gospel lingers here in silence. Jesus is not merely a worker of wonders; he is the suffering servant.

Graham Twelftree reminds us, *"The powerful miracle worker without the suffering Jesus is an incomplete and misunderstood Messiah."* The ultimate miracle of Mark is not calming storms or casting out demons, but surrendering himself in the ultimate act of love, then being raised by God, and thereby gaining victory over every moment of suffering.

Our wonder now begins to shift from His works to His love. *"What love would carry this?"*

On this Holy Saturday, we wait in that tension that those early followers must have felt. Death has won for the moment, but joy is coming.

Reflection

Sit in silence for an extended period of time today and wonder at this love poured out on the cross. Journal what God reveals to you during this time.

Day 7: Resurrection Sunday

Scripture: Mark 16:1-8

*Join us for worship today and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus!
We will have services at 9:00 am and 10:45 am.*

RESURRECTION AND WHY IT MATTERS NOW

The resurrection does not erase suffering; it brings hope into our suffering. In Jesus' rising, we see that evil, sin, and despair do **not** have the final word.

As N.T. Wright reminds us:

"Jesus's resurrection is the beginning of God's new project—not to snatch people away from earth to heaven, but to colonize earth with the life of heaven."

This means resurrection hope is not only something we wait for, but it is also something we live into now. Every act of love, every step of faith in the midst of suffering, every choice to trust God when the outcome is unclear becomes a quiet declaration: death does not win. Easter invites us to carry resurrection life into broken places, confident that God is still making all things new.

Fleming Rutledge reminds us that Resurrection Sunday is the day that reveals that God is "out ahead of us". Because God has already won the final victory, our present struggles are no longer determined by our past patterns of sin, but by **God's advancing kingdom**.

Reflection

Pray "Risen Jesus, let Your new creation begin in me." Write down one place where you long to see God bring new life, not someday, but **beginning now**.

What Now?

"The most incredible thing about miracles is that they happen."-G.K. Chesterton

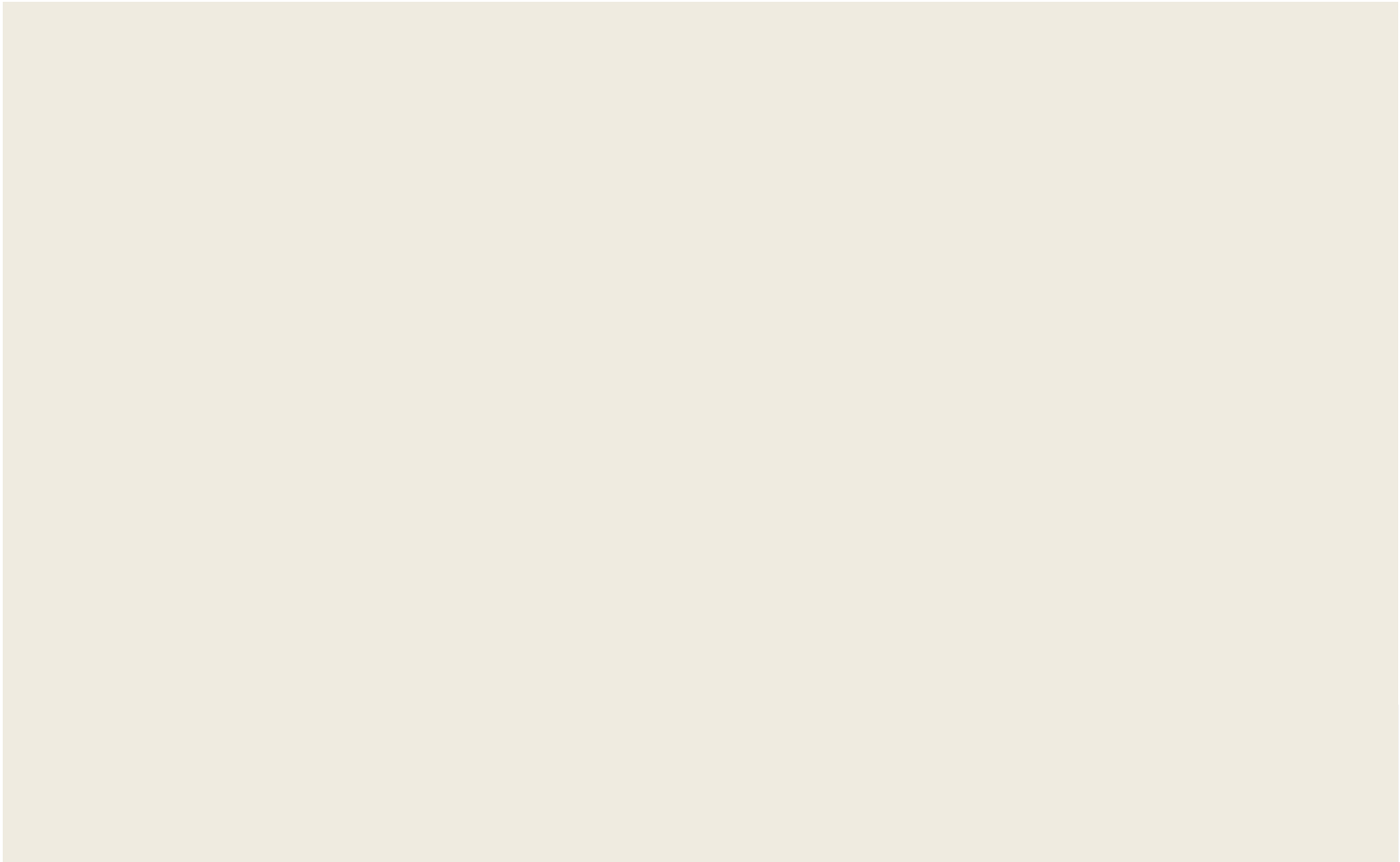
Awe and wonder do not end at an empty tomb. They begin there, because resurrection means God is making all things new, starting now. As we have journeyed through miracle after miracle in Mark, ending with the resurrection, we see again and again that Jesus has power over sickness, death, and everything that tries to hold us back. These stories serve as a wake-up call for us today. The same God who calmed storms, healed the unclean, and raised the dead is alive and our faith is meant to be alive too, not stuck in comfort or routine.

So the real question is: How will we live expectant to see the supernatural power of Jesus at work in our lives today? The Church is called to step out in compassion, stand in faith, and trust that resurrection power is already at work, in our hearts, in our homes, and in the world. Mark's miracles invite us not just to stare in wonder, but to step into wonder and live it, to love boldly, serve courageously, and proclaim with everything we do that Jesus is Lord. God is doing wonderful things all around us, may we be people who are aware of His supernatural power, and may we step into and participate in the wonderful work He is doing in our midst.

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