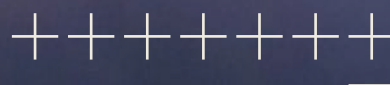


WEEK 7

# 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.