

Begin with the preflight checklist:

Ask for God's blessing:

Pray: Father God, as I seek a deeper encounter with your Son, speak directly to my heart and mind through your Holy Spirit. Guide my prayers that they might be sincere. May the truth of your word accomplish its purpose in me. Please thwart any attempt by the evil one to interfere in any way with what follows. Amen.

Assert spiritual authority:

Say aloud: As a child of God and with the authority of Jesus, I forbid any spirit that is not of God from interfering in any way with what follows. I command this in Jesus' Name.

Ask for forgiveness:

Pray: "God, please bring to mind anything I've done that is offensive to you." (If nothing comes to mind, skip the next prayer. If something comes to mind, continue:)

"Father God, I want to confess my sin to you and ask for your forgiveness. Specifically, I confess the sin (or sins) of _____. (Be as specific as possible. Make a list if necessary.) Please forgive me and change me and cleanse me. Please grant me strength that I might truly turn from my sin. I receive your forgiveness. Thank you. Amen."

Forgive others:

Pray: God, please bring to mind anyone I need to forgive.

(If no one comes to mind, skip the next prayer. If someone comes to mind, continue:)

Pray: God, I forgive _____ (name of person) for _____. (Name the sin as specifically as possible.) Please help me to forgive them from the heart. Amen.

(If you find yourself unable to forgive someone, pray this prayer: "Jesus, you know why it's so difficult for me to forgive _____. Please help me to desire to forgive them and please heal me so completely that I am able to forgive them from my heart. Amen.")

Pray for the people you know who need physical healing.

The Holy Spirit

a deeper dive

(conclusion)

Over the past two weeks we've focused on the Holy Spirit. In summary, the Holy Spirit:

is promised from ancient times

is a gift from the Father

is promised by the Son

is given to those who believe in (put their faith in) Jesus

lives in and with us
marks us as belonging to God
is a “down payment” of the fullness of our salvation
prays for us
produces fruit in us
causes us to be reborn
washes us clean
is the source of abundant life
is the source of our joy.

Questions:

- 1) Reflect on the fact that the God who created the universe has chosen to live in and with you. How should awareness of this impact your life?
- 2) Which of the summary items would you like to be more mindful of on a day to day, moment to moment basis?

Worship:

Invite the Spirit to help you worship God for the completeness of the salvation he has prepared for you.

Concluding Prayer:

Father God, you gave us your Son and, because of your Son’s work, we can receive the gift of your Holy Spirit. These gifts are beyond measure and comprehension, but our lives are transformed as we understand and enjoy them. Please help us to do so! Amen.

[Text your Accountability Partner(s): Finished Monday’s Exercises.]

Begin with the preflight checklist:

Ask for God's blessing:

Pray: Father God, as I seek a deeper encounter with your Son, speak directly to my heart and mind through your Holy Spirit. Guide my prayers that they might be sincere. May the truth of your word accomplish its purpose in me. Please thwart any attempt by the evil one to interfere in any way with what follows. Amen.

Assert spiritual authority:

Say aloud: As a child of God and with the authority of Jesus, I forbid any spirit that is not of God from interfering in any way with what follows. I command this in Jesus' Name.

Ask for forgiveness:

Pray: "God, please bring to mind anything I've done that is offensive to you." (If nothing comes to mind, skip the next prayer. If something comes to mind, continue:)

"Father God, I want to confess my sin to you and ask for your forgiveness. Specifically, I confess the sin (or sins) of _____. (Be as specific as possible. Make a list if necessary.) Please forgive me and change me and cleanse me. Please grant me strength that I might truly turn from my sin. I receive your forgiveness. Thank you. Amen."

Forgive others:

Pray: God, please bring to mind anyone I need to forgive.

(If no one comes to mind, skip the next prayer. If someone comes to mind, continue:)

Pray: God, I forgive _____ (name of person) for _____. (Name the sin as specifically as possible.) Please help me to forgive them from the heart. Amen.

(If you find yourself unable to forgive someone, pray this prayer: "Jesus, you know why it's so difficult for me to forgive _____. Please help me to desire to forgive them and please heal me so completely that I am able to forgive them from my heart. Amen.")

Pray for the people you know who need emotional healing.

Authority Over Evil Spirits

Bible Reading:

Mark 1: 21 - 27 Then they went to Capernaum. When the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people there were amazed by his teaching, because he taught them like one who had authority, not like the experts in the law. Just then there was

a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, “Leave us alone, Jesus the Nazarene! Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” But Jesus rebuked him: “Silence! Come out of him!” After throwing him into convulsions, the unclean spirit cried out with a loud voice and came out of him. They were all amazed so that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He even commands the unclean spirits and they obey him.”(NET)

Meditation:

Imagine that you are present to observe the scene. Watch as the events unfold:

See Jesus teaching in the synagogue.

Share the amazement of the crowd at his teaching.

Hear the man with an unclean spirit cry out, “Leave us alone, Jesus the Nazarene! Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

Hear Jesus rebuke him, saying, “Silence! Come out of him!”

Watch as the unclean spirit throws the man into convulsions.

Hear the spirit cry out and leave the man.

Questions:

- 1) What does the unclean spirit fear?
- 2) Who does the spirit recognize Jesus to be?
- 3) Why, do you suppose, Jesus commands the spirit to be silent?
- 4) The unclean spirit says, “Leave us alone.” Jesus commands, “Come out of him!” Who obeys whom?

Worship:

Reflect on the fact that the entire spirit world knows exactly who Jesus is. Notice Jesus’ complete control over the situation. Worship Jesus for using his authority to set a man free from that which afflicted him.

Concluding Prayer:

Jesus, you move in power and authority. Please set me free from any and all things that keep me from living a life of complete dependance on you. Amen.

[Text your Accountability Partner(s): Finished Tuesday's Exercises.]

Begin with the preflight checklist:

Ask for God's blessing:

Pray: Father God, as I seek a deeper encounter with your Son, speak directly to my heart and mind through your Holy Spirit. Guide my prayers that they might be sincere. May the truth of your word accomplish its purpose in me. Please thwart any attempt by the evil one to interfere in any way with what follows. Amen.

Assert spiritual authority:

Say aloud: As a child of God and with the authority of Jesus, I forbid any spirit that is not of God from interfering in any way with what follows. I command this in Jesus' Name.

Ask for forgiveness:

Pray: "God, please bring to mind anything I've done that is offensive to you." (If nothing comes to mind, skip the next prayer. If something comes to mind, continue:)

"Father God, I want to confess my sin to you and ask for your forgiveness. Specifically, I confess the sin (or sins) of _____. (Be as specific as possible. Make a list if necessary.) Please forgive me and change me and cleanse me. Please grant me strength that I might truly turn from my sin. I receive your forgiveness. Thank you. Amen."

Forgive others:

Pray: God, please bring to mind anyone I need to forgive.

(If no one comes to mind, skip the next prayer. If someone comes to mind, continue:)

Pray: God, I forgive _____ (name of person) for _____. (Name the sin as specifically as possible.) Please help me to forgive them from the heart. Amen.

(If you find yourself unable to forgive someone, pray this prayer: "Jesus, you know why it's so difficult for me to forgive _____. Please help me to desire to forgive them and please heal me so completely that I am able to forgive them from my heart. Amen.")

Pray for salvation and/or spiritual breakthrough for friends and family members who need it.

The Crowds Seek Out Jesus

Bible Reading:

Mark 3: 7 - 12 Then Jesus went away with his disciples to the sea, and a great multitude from Galilee followed him. And from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, beyond the Jordan River, and around Tyre and Sidon a great multitude came to him when they heard about the

things he had done. Because of the crowd, he told his disciples to have a small boat ready for him so the crowd would not press toward him. For he had healed many, so that all who were afflicted with diseases pressed toward him in order to touch him. And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, “You are the Son of God.” But he sternly ordered them not to make him known. (*NET*)

This text takes us back to the earliest days of Jesus’ ministry and it is something of a summary of his ministry and of the response to it up to this point. Word about Jesus’ ability to heal has gotten out and crowds form wherever he goes. In the spiritual realm, the unclean spirits know exactly who Jesus is and cry out, “You are the Son of God”. Whenever a spirit testifies to Jesus’ identity, Jesus orders it to be quiet. This is because Jesus wants the people (and his disciples) to figure out who he is on the basis of his words and deeds, and not on the testimony of demons.

Questions:

- 1) If you lived in the days of Jesus’ earthly ministry, how far would you be willing to travel to see him?
- 2) What would you ask him to do for you?

Worship:

Worship Jesus as if you were present with him during the days of his earthly ministry and encountering him for the first time.

Concluding Prayer:

Jesus, your Spirit testifies to my new reborn spirit that I am your child. I thank you that your ministry to me is from one family member to another. Amen.

[Text your Accountability Partner(s): Finished Wednesday’s Exercises.]

Begin with the preflight checklist:

Ask for God's blessing:

Pray: Father God, as I seek a deeper encounter with your Son, speak directly to my heart and mind through your Holy Spirit. Guide my prayers that they might be sincere. May the truth of your word accomplish its purpose in me. Please thwart any attempt by the evil one to interfere in any way with what follows. Amen.

Assert spiritual authority:

Say aloud: As a child of God and with the authority of Jesus, I forbid any spirit that is not of God from interfering in any way with what follows. I command this in Jesus' Name.

Ask for forgiveness:

Pray: "God, please bring to mind anything I've done that is offensive to you." (If nothing comes to mind, skip the next prayer. If something comes to mind, continue:)

"Father God, I want to confess my sin to you and ask for your forgiveness. Specifically, I confess the sin (or sins) of _____. (Be as specific as possible. Make a list if necessary.) Please forgive me and change me and cleanse me. Please grant me strength that I might truly turn from my sin. I receive your forgiveness. Thank you. Amen."

Forgive others:

Pray: God, please bring to mind anyone I need to forgive.

(If no one comes to mind, skip the next prayer. If someone comes to mind, continue:)

Pray: God, I forgive _____ (name of person) for _____. (Name the sin as specifically as possible.) Please help me to forgive them from the heart. Amen.

(If you find yourself unable to forgive someone, pray this prayer: "Jesus, you know why it's so difficult for me to forgive _____. Please help me to desire to forgive them and please heal me so completely that I am able to forgive them from my heart. Amen.")

Pray for the specific needs of immediate family members and loved ones.

The Lost Coin

At the beginning of week twelve, we looked at Jesus' parable of the lost sheep. If you recall, Jesus told the parable in response to the Pharisee's grumbling about Jesus' eating with sinners. Through the parable, Jesus let it be known that he came to seek and to restore the lost and that doing so was a matter of great joy to him. After Jesus told the parable of the lost sheep, he immediately followed it with the parable of the lost coin.

Bible Reading:

Luke 15: 8 - 10 “Or what woman, if she has ten silver coins and loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search thoroughly until she finds it? Then when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of God’s angels over one sinner who repents.”
(NET)

Questions:

- 1) What does it suggest that Jesus followed up on the parable of the lost sheep with this parable?
- 2) The woman searches for a thing of value. What does this suggest about Jesus’ attitude toward the lost?

Worship:

Reflect on the fact that the finding of the lost is a matter of joy to all of heaven. Thank Jesus that this is so and for reveling it to us.

Concluding Prayer:

Jesus, if there is any part of me that remains lost to you, please search for me until my whole being is found in you. Amen.

[Text your Accountability Partner(s): Finished Thursday’s Exercises.]

Begin with the preflight checklist:

Ask for God's blessing:

Pray: Father God, as I seek a deeper encounter with your Son, speak directly to my heart and mind through your Holy Spirit. Guide my prayers that they might be sincere. May the truth of your word accomplish its purpose in me. Please thwart any attempt by the evil one to interfere in any way with what follows. Amen.

Assert spiritual authority:

Say aloud: As a child of God and with the authority of Jesus, I forbid any spirit that is not of God from interfering in any way with what follows. I command this in Jesus' Name.

Ask for forgiveness:

Pray: "God, please bring to mind anything I've done that is offensive to you." (If nothing comes to mind, skip the next prayer. If something comes to mind, continue:)

"Father God, I want to confess my sin to you and ask for your forgiveness. Specifically, I confess the sin (or sins) of _____. (Be as specific as possible. Make a list if necessary.) Please forgive me and change me and cleanse me. Please grant me strength that I might truly turn from my sin. I receive your forgiveness. Thank you. Amen."

Forgive others:

Pray: God, please bring to mind anyone I need to forgive.

(If no one comes to mind, skip the next prayer. If someone comes to mind, continue:)

Pray: God, I forgive _____ (name of person) for _____. (Name the sin as specifically as possible.) Please help me to forgive them from the heart. Amen.

(If you find yourself unable to forgive someone, pray this prayer: "Jesus, you know why it's so difficult for me to forgive _____. Please help me to desire to forgive them and please heal me so completely that I am able to forgive them from my heart. Amen.")

Pray for government and world leaders—that God would grant them wisdom, courage, knowledge of the truth and genuine faith in him.

The Lost Son

(part one)

After Jesus told the parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin, Jesus followed up with the parable of the lost son. Because this parable is so long, we will be spending several days with it. Today, we'll just be introducing the text.

Bible Reading:

Luke 15: 11 - 32 Then Jesus said, “A man had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the estate that will belong to me.’ So he divided his assets between them. After a few days, the younger son gathered together all he had and left on a journey to a distant country, and there he squandered his wealth with a wild lifestyle. Then after he had spent everything, a severe famine took place in that country, and he began to be in need.

So he went and worked for one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He was longing to eat the carob pods the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired workers have food enough to spare, but here I am dying from hunger! I will get up and go to my father and say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired workers.”’ So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way from home his father saw him, and his heart went out to him; he ran and hugged his son and kissed him. Then his son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Hurry! Bring the best robe, and put it on him! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet! Bring the fattened calf and kill it! Let us eat and celebrate, because this son of mine was dead, and is alive again—he was lost and is found!’ So they began to celebrate.

“Now his older son was in the field. As he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the slaves and asked what was happening. The slave replied, ‘Your brother has returned, and your father has killed the fattened calf because he got his son back safe and sound.’ But the older son became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and appealed to him, but he answered his father, ‘Look! These many years I have worked like a slave for you, and I never disobeyed your commands. Yet you never gave me even a goat so that I could celebrate with my friends! But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and everything that belongs to me is yours. It was appropriate to celebrate and be glad,

for your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost and is found.’”
(NET)

Meditation and worship:

Return to one of the meditations that has had the most impact on you and make two passes through it. On the first pass, observe the scene as it unfolds; on the second pass, enter into the scene from the perspective of the main participant. If possible, do so from memory, unaided by scripture. If necessary, refresh your memory with scripture. (For a list of the encounter meditations, see below.) Thank Jesus for the aspect of his character that is revealed in the encounter.

Concluding Prayer:

Jesus, as we begin to look at your parable of the lost son, help us to understand its riches and its depth, that it might have the impact on us that you intend for it to have. Amen.

[Text your Accountability Partner(s): Finished Friday’s Exercises.]

Begin with the preflight checklist:

Ask for God's blessing:

Pray: Father God, as I seek a deeper encounter with your Son, speak directly to my heart and mind through your Holy Spirit. Guide my prayers that they might be sincere. May the truth of your word accomplish its purpose in me. Please thwart any attempt by the evil one to interfere in any way with what follows. Amen.

Assert spiritual authority:

Say aloud: As a child of God and with the authority of Jesus, I forbid any spirit that is not of God from interfering in any way with what follows. I command this in Jesus' Name.

Ask for forgiveness:

Pray: "God, please bring to mind anything I've done that is offensive to you." (If nothing comes to mind, skip the next prayer. If something comes to mind, continue:)

"Father God, I want to confess my sin to you and ask for your forgiveness. Specifically, I confess the sin (or sins) of _____. (Be as specific as possible. Make a list if necessary.) Please forgive me and change me and cleanse me. Please grant me strength that I might truly turn from my sin. I receive your forgiveness. Thank you. Amen."

Forgive others:

Pray: God, please bring to mind anyone I need to forgive.

(If no one comes to mind, skip the next prayer. If someone comes to mind, continue:)

Pray: God, I forgive _____ (name of person) for _____. (Name the sin as specifically as possible.) Please help me to forgive them from the heart. Amen.

(If you find yourself unable to forgive someone, pray this prayer: "Jesus, you know why it's so difficult for me to forgive _____. Please help me to desire to forgive them and please heal me so completely that I am able to forgive them from my heart. Amen.")

Ask God to bless and protect your congregation. Pray for its members, its ministries and its leaders. Pray that God would bless, encourage, protect and deliver the persecuted church.

The Lost Son

(part two)

As we begin to work our way through the parable of the lost son, I want to mention the scholar to whom I owe my understanding of this great parable. Dr. Kenneth Bailey was a biblical scholar who lived and taught in the middle east for

much of his life. Dr. Bailey helps his students understand the cultural assumptions that Jesus' listeners would bring to the parable—assumptions that those of us from the modern, western era don't share. Yet it is only in light of the culture of Jesus' day that the parable communicates the full meaning Jesus intends for it to have.

I recommend Dr. Bailey's books to you and also note that he has many videos available on youtube. They are easily found by searching for "Kenneth Bailey." I highly recommend his work to you.

Bible Reading:

Luke 15: 11 - 32 Then Jesus said, "A man had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that will belong to me.' So he divided his assets between them. After a few days, the younger son gathered together all he had and left on a journey to a distant country, and there he squandered his wealth with a wild lifestyle.

It is difficult for someone from this day and age to understand just how offensive, insulting and foolish the younger son is behaving. By asking for his share of the inheritance early, he is, in essence, saying to his father: "I can't wait for you to die." He is clearly signaling to his father that he has no love for him, and that he has grown impatient waiting for his death.

A middle easterner from Jesus' era would know that a family's land may have taken many, many generations to accumulate and develop. It was the family's heritage and security and it would be sold only under the most dire of circumstances.

As unthinkable as the son's behavior was, the father's response was, perhaps, even more shocking to Jesus' listeners: The father granted the request, dividing his assets between the two sons.

In a mere three sentences, Jesus' listeners have been introduced to a son who is the epitome of an ungrateful fool and to a father who, by granting his son's request, is behaving in a very puzzling manner.

As the parable continues, we see that the son quickly sells his share of the estate and journeys to a distant country where he squanders the wealth that had likely taken generations to accumulate.

At this point, Jesus listeners could only view the younger son with the deepest disgust and contempt. As we shall see, the younger son not only squanders the family's wealth, he does it among the gentiles—something Jesus' listeners would find unforgivable.

We'll continue with this parable tomorrow...

Questions:

- 1) Remember that Jesus told the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son in response to the Pharisee's grumbling about Jesus' eating with sinners. Who or what are the sinners represented by in each of these three parables?
- 2) In the first parable, a sheep behaves the way sheep normally behave. It gets itself lost, but that's just what sheep do. In the second parable, the coin is an inanimate object and, therefore, it doesn't bear any responsibility for being lost. But in the third parable, who is responsible for the situation in which the younger son finds himself?
- 3) To Jesus' listeners, the younger son behaves in a manner that is unthinkable. Given that, how might Jesus' listeners view the father in light of his granting the younger son's request?

Meditation and worship:

Return to one of the meditations with which you're the least familiar. On the first pass, observe the scene as it unfolds; on the second pass, enter into the scene from the perspective of the main participant. If possible, do so from memory, unaided by scripture. If necessary, refresh your memory with scripture. (For a list of the encounter meditations, see below.) Thank Jesus for the aspect of his character that is revealed in the encounter.

Concluding Prayer:

Jesus, through your Spirit, open my heart and mind to the depths of your teaching. Help me to find my place within this parable. Amen.

[Text your Accountability Partner(s): Finished Saturday's Exercises.]

A List of the Encounters (so far)

The Leper

Matthew 8: 1 - 3 After he came down from the mountain, large crowds followed him. And a leper approached and bowed low before him, saying, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." He stretched out his hand

and touched him saying, "I am willing. Be clean!" Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. (NET)

The Blind Man

Luke 18: 35 - 43 They [Jesus and his disciples] came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus the son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the road. When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many scolded him to get him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called the blind man and said to him, "Have courage! Get up! He is calling you." He threw off his cloak, jumped up, and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man replied, "Rabbi, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go, your faith has healed you." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the road. (NET; brackets added)

The Synagogue Rule

Mark 5: 22 - 24 Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. He pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." So Jesus went with him. (NIV)

The Hemorrhaging Woman

Mark 5: 24 - 34 Now a woman was there who had been suffering from a hemorrhage for twelve years. She had endured a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all that she had. Yet instead of getting better, she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she kept saying, "If only I touch his clothes, I will be healed." At once the bleeding stopped, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Jesus knew at once that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" His disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing against you and you say, 'Who touched me?'" But he looked around to see who had done it. Then the woman, with fear and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your disease." (NET)

Blessing the Children

Mark 10: 13 - 16 Now people were bringing little children to him [Jesus] for him to touch, but the disciples scolded those who brought them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me and do not try to stop them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.” After he took the children in his arms, he placed his hands on them and blessed them. *(NET)*

The Bent Over Woman

Luke 13: 10 - 13 Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath, and a woman was there who had been disabled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten herself up completely. When Jesus saw her, he called her to him and said, “Woman, you are freed from your infirmity.” Then he placed his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God. *(NET)*

The Widow

Luke 7: 11 - 15 Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don’t cry.” Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!” The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother. *(NIV)*

The Wind and the Waves

Luke 8: 22 - 25 One day Jesus got into a boat with his disciples and said to them, “Let’s go across to the other side of the lake.” So they set out, and as they sailed he fell asleep. Now a violent windstorm came down on the lake, and the boat started filling up with water, and they were in danger. They came and woke him, saying, “Master, Master, we are about to die!” So he got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they died down, and it was calm. Then he said to them, “Where is your faith?” But they were afraid and amazed, saying to one another, “Who then is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him!” *(NET)*

Healing All

Matthew 15: 29 - 31 When he left there, Jesus went along the Sea of Galilee.

Then he went up a mountain, where he sat down. Then large crowds came to him bringing with them the lame, blind, crippled, mute, and many others. They laid them at his feet, and he healed them. As a result, the crowd was amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled healthy, the lame walking, and the blind seeing, and they praised the God of Israel. (NET)

The Ten Lepers

Luke 17: 11 - 19 Now on the way to Jerusalem, Jesus was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. As he was entering a village, ten men with leprosy met him. They stood at a distance, raised their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” When he saw them he said, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went along, they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He fell with his face to the ground at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. (Now he was a Samaritan.) Then Jesus said, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to turn back and give praise to God except this foreigner?” Then he said to the man, “Get up and go your way. Your faith has made you well.” (NET)

“Help My Unbelief”

Mark 9: 14 - 27 When they came to the disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and experts in the law arguing with them. When the whole crowd saw him, they were amazed and ran at once and greeted him. He asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” A member of the crowd said to him, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that makes him mute. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they were not able to do so.” He answered them, “You unbelieving generation! How much longer must I be with you? How much longer must I endure you? Bring him to me.” So they brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw him, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell on the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. It has often thrown him into fire or water to destroy him. But if you are able to do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” Then Jesus said to him, “If you are able?” All things are possible for the one who believes.” Immediately the father of the boy cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!” Now when Jesus saw that a crowd was quickly gathering, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “Mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” It shrieked, threw him into

terrible convulsions, and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, “He is dead!” But Jesus gently took his hand and raised him to his feet, and he stood up. (NET)

“Do You Want to Become Well?”

John 5: 1 - 9 After this there was a Jewish feast, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool called *Bethesda* in Aramaic, which has five covered walkways. A great number of sick, blind, lame, and paralyzed people were lying in these walkways. Now a man was there who had been disabled for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and when he realized that the man had been disabled a long time already, he said to him, “Do you want to become well?” The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up. While I am trying to get into the water, someone else goes down there before me.” Jesus said to him, “Stand up! Pick up your mat and walk.” Immediately the man was healed, and he picked up his mat and started walking. (NET)

Peter’s Mother-In-Law

Mark 8: 14 - 16 Now when Jesus entered Peter’s house, he saw his mother-in-law lying down, sick with a fever. He touched her hand, and the fever left her. Then she got up and began to serve them. When it was evening, many demon-possessed people were brought to him. He drove out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick. (NET)

Jesus On the Cross

Luke 23: 32, 33a... ...39 - 43 Two other criminals were also led away to be executed with him. So when they came to the place that is called “The Skull,” they crucified him there, along with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left... ...One of the criminals who was hanging there railed at him, saying, “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!” But the other rebuked him, saying, “Don’t you fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we rightly so, for we are getting what we deserve for what we did, but this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom.” And Jesus said to him, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.” (NET)

“Doubting” Thomas

John 20: 24 - 29 Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he replied, “Unless I see the wounds from the nails in his hands, and put my finger into the wounds from the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe it!”

Eight days later the disciples were again together in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and examine my hands. Extend your hand and put it into my side. Do not continue in your unbelief, but believe.” Thomas replied to him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are the people who have not seen and yet have believed.” (NET)

The Man with the Withered Hand

Mark 3: 1 - 6 Then Jesus entered the synagogue again, and a man was there who had a withered hand. They watched Jesus closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they could accuse him. So he said to the man who had the withered hand, “Stand up among all these people.” Then he said to them, “Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath, or evil, to save a life or destroy it?” But they were silent. After looking around at them in anger, grieved by the hardness of their hearts, he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. So the Pharisees went out immediately and began plotting with the Herodians, as to how they could assassinate him. (NET)

The Man with an Unclean Spirit

Mark 1: 21 - 27 Then they went to Capernaum. When the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people there were amazed by his teaching, because he taught them like one who had authority, not like the experts in the law. Just then there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, “Leave us alone, Jesus the Nazarene! Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” But Jesus rebuked him: “Silence! Come out of him!” After throwing him into convulsions, the unclean spirit cried out with a loud voice and came out of him. They were all amazed so that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He even commands the unclean spirits and they obey him.” (NET)

© Bruce Byrne 2021

All rights reserved. Users of this devotional have permission from the author to download the material for personal use. Users are invited and encouraged to share the links to these pages with others.

The majority of the biblical quotes are from the New English Translation (*NET*)

NET

New English Translation

Scripture quotations marked "NET" are taken from New English Translation: NET Bible, electronic edition. Dallas, TX : Biblical Studies Press, 1998. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

The remainder of the biblical quotes are from the New International Version (*NIV*)

THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.