



KIDPAK ADVENTURES

MIRACLES

MONTHLY
DEVOTIONAL



DAY ONE

MIRACLES

"The Lord makes secure the footsteps of the person who delights in Him. Even if that person trips, he won't fall. The Lord's hand takes good care of him."

Psalm 37:23-24 NIRV

Blind Bartimaeus could have dreaded that scripture in Proverbs 29:18. It reads, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." He himself had no vision, because he was blind!

But God wasn't necessarily speaking of physical eyesight in that verse. In fact, in regards to what God was talking about, Bartimaeus had better vision than most!

See, Bartimaeus had the right vision about who God was. That's why he wouldn't stop yelling out to Jesus as he passed by. Bartimaeus knew his salvation and healing came from Jesus, because he knew that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Light.

He had a vision about who Jesus was, but Bartimaeus also knew who he was too. Sure, others looked down on him every day as the blind beggar, but Bartimaeus had a vision of what God saw him as: a wonderfully made creation.

That's why he had a vision of something else: where he was going. He jumped up to his feet and came to Jesus, something pretty tricky for a man who was blind. But he had a vision of where he was going, and what he could be after an encounter with Jesus.

It was only a matter of time before Bartimaeus' eyes had the same vision the rest of his body did. He was healed by his faith in Jesus, and could now see the colors, shapes and textures of the world around him. He saw the light!

As the story ends, the last thing we read about Bartimaeus is where his fresh eyesight was now gazing: it says he followed Jesus along the road. He had vision of God, of himself, and of where he was going.

You may have twenty-twenty eyesight, but do you have the sort of vision Bartimaeus had? Get a vision of who God is, who you are, and where you're going. In other words, do you see the light?



DAY TWO

MIRACLES

"Some of the Pharisees in the crowd spoke to Jesus. 'Teacher,' they said, 'tell your disciples to stop!' 'I tell you,' he replied, 'if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.'"
Luke 19:39-41 NIRV

In a picturesque cavern in Virginia, a man constructed a remarkable musical instrument. By hitting the keys on an organ, tiny hammers all over the walls strike many different sized stalactites and stalagmites, making beautiful music that fills the cave. When the organist plays *"Amazing Grace,"* the rocks really do cry out in praise!

Jesus himself once said that the rocks would cry out, though he probably wasn't referring to this unusual cave's stones. He was directing his comment at the jealous Pharisees, who wanted to quiet the people of Jerusalem down.

As always, Jesus had the greatest response. He told these Pharisees if the people kept quiet, "the stones will cry out."

You see, the people were excited. The people were excited to see Jesus carried to them – they needed a savior and here he was. What an honor for that colt that carried the King of kings through the gates of Jerusalem.

Yet as Christians, we are much like that colt that carried Jesus to the people. It is *our* job to bring Jesus to those that need Him. We do that each and every day, carrying the message of salvation to people around us. We do that with the things we say and the things we do. Here's a question only you can answer: are you bringing Jesus to people around you?

The colt was such a small animal. You'd think that Jesus, the King of kings, would have chosen a stallion, an elephant or something else magnificent. Yet, this was the perfect choice, as Jesus entered the city gates with humility. Sure, he had the most important message ever given. But he came to us as a servant. We can learn a bit from this as well, as we strive to be more and more like Jesus in our lives. We too must have humility. We too must be humble.

Palm Sunday was a glorious day filled with joy, as the people rejoiced at the approach of the King of kings. They put palms down on the ground along His path and waved them in praise and adoration. If the song "Amazing Grace" was around back then, it no doubt would have been sung. If you or I were there, no doubt we'd join in with one of the greatest moments of praise and worship in history. No one would let the rocks cry out in our place!



DAY THREE

MIRACLES

"Jesus is not here! He has risen! Remember how he told you he would rise. It was while he was still with you in Galilee. He said, 'The Son of Man must be handed over to sinful people. He must be nailed to a cross. On the third day he will rise from the dead.'" Luke 24:6-7 NIRV

Just one week after the people were celebrating Jesus' arrival into Jerusalem with palms and songs of praise, now they were screaming for him to be crucified. It was a horrific way to die. He was there at the beginning when mankind was created, yet now he allowed himself to be the Lamb of God, hung on a cross for all of our sins.

Why would he do this? Look at the crown of thorns placed on his head. Inside his mind he was thinking of you and I as he hung there. Inside his mind were also the plans God had set up from the beginning of time – plans to give us peace and a future. God's thoughts toward us are of love and hope, and Jesus knew this was the only way for us to be closer to Him. But also in his mind was the knowledge that even this death on a cross could not keep him in the grave.

Look at the nails in his hands. The hands that had done countless miracles were stretched out on the beams of that cross, reaching out to us in a love with no equal. As some looked on in horror, surely there were those that thought the miracles would now end. Yet the power of God in these hands was not done yet, and the greatest of miracles was about to shake the earth.

Look at the nail through his feet. These very feet showed us the way, the truth and the light. It was a path we could not find on our own, as we were all once lost but now are found. These feet walked with the authority of the King of kings, yet he allowed soldiers to nail them to a cross. Nevertheless those very feet would walk again, and crush the serpent's head, destroying the power of sin forever.

The journey to the cross is only a small part of the story. Only three days after his death, the earth reeled and rocked – and the stone covering his grave was rolled away. He was raised, just as he said! Though we once were lost and doomed because of our sins, our hope has risen. He has risen!



DAY FOUR

MIRACLES

"Instead, blessed are those who hear God's word and obey it." Luke 11:28 NIRV

Ephphatha! With just one word, Jesus performed yet another miracle that changed a man's life for the better. Most of us could never even pronounce that word to begin with, but even if we could, it wouldn't matter: it was Jesus who healed the deaf man.

Jesus cares about what we hear. He cares about what we say as well. This man could hardly speak, but after Jesus took him aside, everything changed.

Like this man did, we too need to spend some alone time with Jesus, taken aside. Our private place of prayer is the best place to be, in order to learn how to have ears to hear what He is saying. Jesus told us to "have ears to hear" many, many times in the Bible and like this man, many of us have suffered damage to our ears in the past. This comes from listening to the wrong things, either from the people we hang around with or from the things we watch or listen to. Video games, music, television shows and movies can cause harm to our spiritual ears if we continue to listen to things we shouldn't. Even worse, what garbage goes into our ears will come out of our mouths eventually if we keep listening.

Once his ears were opened, the man who Jesus healed could also speak clearly. Surely his first words were of thanks and praise to Jesus. We should be cautious in the words we speak, just as we are careful in what we listen to. God merely spoke and created the world – and we too were made in His image. We create when we speak, but what is it we are making? Is it a blessing – or is it trouble for others? The Bible says we will be accountable for every word uttered from our lips, and that's saying a lot. Perhaps that's why we should do as James advises – be quick to listen and slow to speak.

There's a lot of power in words, whether they are traveling in our ears or out from our lips. That's why we all should be careful in what we speak, and have ears to hear!



DAY FIVE

MIRACLES

"So I say, walk by the Spirit. Then you will not do what your sinful nature wants you to do." Galatians 5:16 NIRV

For thirty-eight years, this man could talk the talk, but never walk the walk. He was crippled for so long, he couldn't make a stand. He couldn't even take a dip in the pool of Bethesda, where he longed to take a dive if only he could.

Jesus spotted him there stretched out by the pool, and as you read the story in John, chapter 5, you'll walk through another amazing miracle: the man was healed on the spot, picking up his bedroll and walking.

It must have been difficult learning to walk for the first time. Imagine not knowing *how* for the first thirty-eight years of your life.

Perhaps His apostles could give him some tips. If this man had asked, surely Peter would tell him first you've got to walk *to* Jesus. Focus on Jesus, and like Peter, you'll be walking over the waves. Walk in any other direction and you'll find yourself sinking under, so keep your head up and focused on Him.

John would tell this man to walk *with* Jesus. John stayed with Jesus all the time, part of an inner circle with James, Peter and of course Jesus. John was with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration, with him in the Garden of Gethsemane, and even with him as He was crucified. Walking with Jesus can be tough, but he can show us the way as we read God's word and talk with him daily.

Other apostles would tell him this: walk *like* Jesus. They all heard Jesus say at one point that he was the light of the world. As you try to be more like him, you'll reflect the light of the world that shines within. It will draw others to you, and to Jesus, and that's what our walk is all about.

Even if we've been walking all our lives, if we don't follow these three simple rules, we'll be walking in the wrong direction. So walk *to* Jesus, walk *with* Jesus and walk *like* Jesus. Your steps are ordered of God, and your feet are planted on the solid rock. So take a step of faith and walk the line!



DAY SIX

MIRACLES

"Jesus asked, 'Weren't all ten healed? Where are the other nine?'" Luke 17:17 NIRV

Be thankful that leprosy is no longer a disease as widespread as it used to be. It is terrible, and infectious. That means that you could get leprosy from just hanging around a person with it! How awful it must have been to be separated from everyone, so sick and lonely.

That's why ten men with leprosy knew what they had to do. No doubt, they heard that Jesus had healed others, so they figured this was their big chance.

"Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" they cried as he approached.

He *did* have mercy on them, healing all ten of this awful disease. We can only assume that each was obedient to go and see a priest as Jesus instructed, but here's the stunner: only one of these guys ever came back to say, "thank you."

Can you picture Jesus scratching his head and looking about as he asks, "Where are the others?"

No doubt they were grateful and no doubt they were rejoicing – but the nine other lepers forgot one major thing: to say "thank you" to Jesus.

Jesus had done many miracles, and as you know he still does miracles to this day. You probably don't have leprosy, but Jesus has done so much more for all of us. If you're reading this, you yourself are a miracle.

That's why it is important to be unlike those other nine lepers. So many never return to Jesus with praise and thanks. So many are too busy with life, enjoying what they have and forgetful of where it all came from.

Be the one to say thanks. You owe it to Jesus for the miracles – seen and unseen – that he has done in your life. Don't be like the nine other lepers who forgot. Be like the one former leper whose faith had made him well. Be the one to say thanks!



DAY SEVEN

MIRACLES

"But God is faithful and fair. If we confess our sins, he will forgive our sins. He will forgive every wrong thing we have done. He will make us pure." 1 John 1:9 NIRV

Can you imagine Peter hearing a rooster crow, and then breaking down into bitter tears? What a terrible feeling he must have felt. Earlier, Peter had told Jesus that nothing could keep him from turning away.

But Jesus corrected him, telling Peter that before the rooster crowed twice, Peter would deny knowing Him. And just as Jesus had said, it all came true.

Peter broke down and sobbed. But he wasn't the only one that failed. All the other apostles had earlier agreed that they would never let Jesus down. They even said they would die with him if it came to that.

But the others failed too. In fact, we've all let Jesus down in our lives at one point or another. Paul said it best when he said, "all have sinned and fallen short." We've all messed up. We can all hear that rooster crowing, reminding us of our failures.

That's why we need to do what Peter did when he later saw Jesus along the shoreline. Peter was so anxious to be with Jesus that he jumped out of his fishing boat and into the water, swimming all the way to shore. When we've messed up, we too should get to Jesus as quickly as we can, because it is there that we can find forgiveness when we ask.

Peter blew it, but he didn't give up. With help from Jesus, he turned his life around. Every morning, he no doubt heard that rooster still crowing, but with Jesus he knew that his sins were forgiven and that he could move forward.

That's how this same Peter – the one that was once sobbing at the sound of a crowing rooster – came to the forefront of a massive revival service recorded in the second chapter of Acts. It was there that Peter delivered a fiery message, seeing thousands of people turn to Jesus over the course of one morning. Surely those people were glad Peter didn't give up at the sound of the rooster crow.

There are people desperate for *our* help as well, and that's why we can learn from Peter. We should do what he did: get to Jesus as quickly as possible – and keep moving forward. There are others counting on us, so learn a lesson from Peter and know what to do when the rooster crows!



DAY EIGHT

MIRACLES

"May the God who gives hope fill you with great joy. May you have perfect peace as you trust in Him." Romans 15:13 NIRV

If it all ended at the cross, the world would be in a terrible place. No question about it: we'd be filled with hopelessness, doubt, and despair. It would be a dark world - a nightmare that never ends.

And yet we know the truth, something worth rejoicing about: the story didn't end at the cross. The story didn't end in the garden tomb either. In fact, the story never ends at all. Jesus walked out of that grave more than a conqueror, carrying with him the spoils of victory. When those around him were weak, he was strong. He conquered death and the grave, and he was ready to deliver in person the promises that we too can take hold of.

Promise One: Hope. Mary knew despair and deepest darkness, having seen the worst. It was more than she could understand. Yet Jesus came, and gave her the one thing she needed most: hope. That same confidence is available to those who believe. Thanks to him, we don't live in despair like those who have no hope.

Promise Two: Faith. Thomas had doubts - everyone knew that. His faith was challenged severely, but Jesus quickly erased all doubt with just one conversation. Thomas was honest about his uncertainties, and when we struggle, it's good to go to Jesus. Just one meeting with him will change everything.

Promise Three: Restoration. Peter was bitterly crushed because of his own failure. He broke his own promise, but that wasn't about to stop Jesus from fulfilling a promise of his own. Walking out of that tomb, Jesus had a message for Peter. Immediately, he extended his forgiveness and grace, restoring Peter. The best part of all is that this is also extended to us, a reason to rejoice - and a reason to share the Good News.

Jesus had promises for his dearest friends, but these same promises are for us too - no matter where we are in life. Grab hold of them, and believe. You can rise from hopelessness and doubt, all because his promises are for you.



DAY NINE

MIRACLES

"You are the God who does miracles. You show Your power among the nations."

Psalms 77:14 NIRV

Nearly two thousand years ago on the other side of the world, the greatest miracle of all occurred and it would shake the very foundations of the earth. That miracle grew to be a man who would do amazing and wonderful things wherever He went. That man was Jesus, the Son of God. He came to live among all of us – and wherever He went, miracles followed. The lame could rise and walk again. The deaf could immediately hear clearly the word as He spoke. And the blind could suddenly see the way, the truth and the life standing before them.

But the greatest miracle of all was this: He came. Jesus came to earth in the form of man to save us from ourselves. You see, because of sin, no one could fill the great gap between God and us. But God's love for us was so great that He sent His only Son.

This is quite simply the greatest miracle of all. But the miracles didn't end there. No, wherever He is today, you can still find ... miracles!



DAY TEN

MIRACLES

"I have already told you. But you didn't listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?" John 9:27 NIRV

In John 9, Jesus healed a man blind all his life. Using mud.

Later, the Pharisees, full of knowledge and wisdom, spoke to the ex-blind man and asked him, "What do you think about this Jesus?"

The guy hadn't a clue. All he knew was that he was blind but now he sees. So he told the Pharisees how he was healed and that Jesus must have been a prophet or something. He felt this way because he was blind, but now he sees. It was a pretty amazing miracle, of course!

Right on cue, the Pharisees, full of knowledge and wisdom, didn't believe a word this guy said. So they asked his parents, as if this was going to get a better answer.

And his parents stated the obvious, and what everyone already knew: "He was blind and now he sees. He's a big boy now. Why don't you ask *him* about it?"

So the Pharisees, full of knowledge and wisdom, are now officially going in circles to try and find dirt on Jesus. But the only dirt Jesus had was the mud he used to put on this man's eyes when he healed him!

Anyway, these Pharisees actually brought back the formerly blind man and tried to tell him what really happened: "You can't have been healed by Jesus, because Jesus is a sinner."

The man must have thought they were crazy. Were they saying he is still blind? Or that he was pretending to be blind his whole life?

He said to them, "Look, (*you see, I can do that now*) I don't know who this guy is – but as I told you before, I once was blind but now I see!"

"We see," said the Pharisees, who evidently didn't, "And exactly how did he do that?"

The guy answered, "I just got done telling you! You want to hear it again? Hey, you must want to become his disciples or something!"

This was evidently the wrong thing to say. The very angry Pharisees said, "Look, you! We're disciples of Moses. We don't even know this Jesus guy!"

To which this man responded, "Well, duh! You don't know this guy Jesus. And yet, and I know I've probably said this before sometime today, *he healed my eyes*. That convinces me right there: this guy's from God."

What's funny about this conversation is that an "uneducated" man lays the smack-down on all these Pharisees. There was not a thing they could say that could change the fact that he was blind and now he sees. It trumped all arguments! The simple fact was that a single ounce of experience with Jesus outweighed anything those knowledgeable and wise Pharisees had to say.

You see, with all that knowledge the Pharisees probably had, nothing they knew was more important than this: knowing Jesus. They weren't too bright - if only they could see the Light.

He was right there all along! Maybe they were the ones who couldn't see.



DAY ELEVEN

MIRACLES

“Jesus wept.” John 11:35 NIRV

John 11:35 is a famous scripture in many versions of the Bible, simply because of one thing: it’s the shortest! Yes, if you’re going to pick a verse to memorize and show off with, this one might be the best!

Of course, the scripture itself is nothing to get too happy about. It tells us that Jesus was weeping, which can’t be a good thing. Jesus was so filled with grief and sadness that he shed tears. But why?

If we look to the entire chapter where you can find this verse, we see a lot of reasons for sadness: a man named Lazarus had died. But what happens in this story is so miraculous, this short devotional entry here does not do it justice. You really should read it! Jesus told his disciples he was going to see Lazarus, and go wake him up. The disciples were confused and thought that Jesus said Lazarus was just sleeping. But that’s when Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead.” Basically he told them to get ready to see a miracle.

Some had warned Jesus not to go, but you know nothing was going to stop him. Can you imagine trying to warn Jesus not to do something because you think it might be too dangerous for him? Ha!

When Jesus arrived, Lazarus was already in the tomb for four days. Four days! It was too late, right? No, of course not. It’s never too late for Jesus.

But the people there did not know that. The Bible tells us while there, Jesus saw Mary crying. The Jews who had come along with her were crying also. His spirit became very sad, and he was troubled.

So why was Jesus sad? Reading this chapter, you can tell he knew very well what was going to happen next. He was going to raise Lazarus from the dead! And in fact that very thing soon happened: Jesus called out in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”

And Lazarus did exactly that. He came out of that tomb, and you could find him sharing a meal with Jesus at the table in the very next chapter.

So again, why was Jesus weeping? The answer may be rather simple, actually. He was weeping because he was looking around at Mary and the others, and he saw how very sad they were. His grief came from seeing how upset others were around him.

Jesus knew how they felt, and he shared their sadness. He understood how they felt, and do you know something? He knows how *you* feel too. Yes, he shares your joy when you’re happy. But he knows what your sadness feels like too. He’s been through it.

John 11:35 may be the shortest verse in the Bible, but... when you read the whole story, it says a whole lot.



DAY TWELVE

MIRACLES

“But Jesus walked right through the crowd and went on his way.” Luke 4:30 NIRV

This scripture has always been fascinating. There was a crowd of people upset with Jesus for telling the truth, and things got out of hand. One moment, he’s speaking to them in a synagogue, talking about scriptures. And the next moment, they’re planning on throwing him off a cliff. That escalated quickly!

They took him to the edge of the hill on which the town was built... and that’s when their plan sort of fizzled. How? Some versions of the Bible say “he gave them the slip.” But most tell us that Jesus *walked right through the crowd* and went on his way.

Are you picturing that? We’re talking about a mob of people who were angry enough to take Jesus all the way out of town, and to the edge of a cliff where they’d push him over. And he just walks right through the crowd to go on his way. He doesn’t sprint through the crowd, dodging and juking. He doesn’t even do taekwondo. No, instead he just walks right through the crowd and goes on his way.

How? The only explanation you need is this: Jesus was untouchable. There was a plan in place, and until God’s plan was followed through, nothing was going to stop Jesus. Nothing. There were certainly many attempts, and probably many more that weren’t recorded. But nothing can stop God’s plan.

This is good news for us, because we follow in Jesus’ footsteps, don’t we? That’s why it’s good advice to just keep moving forward the best you can, no matter what comes at you. This is because God has great plans for you, and if those plans are from God, then they are unstoppable. With His help, nothing can hold you back. Yes, trouble may stir up, and yes, it can escalate quickly. But don’t worry. No one and nothing can lay a hand on His plans for you.

He’s promised to be with us always, until the very end. With Him right there, you can walk right on through any situation untouched, and go right on your way.



DAY THIRTEEN

MIRACLES

“Once more Jesus put His hands on the man’s eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.” Mark 8:25 NIV

There are many recorded miracles of Jesus healing the blind. However, this story is very different from the others! If you just simply read over it, you could completely miss a BIG point.

The story tells us that people brought a blind man to Jesus, begging him to restore his sight. Jesus took him by the hand and led him outside of the village... and then did such a strange thing to him. He spit in his eyes! Then Jesus asked, “Do you see anything?” and the man looked up and answered, “I see people; they look like trees walking around.”

Now, do you notice something strange? He says that he sees people walking around, and they *look like trees*. This shows us that the man hadn’t been born blind! Had he been born blind, he wouldn’t know what trees looked like!

After Jesus puts his hands on the man’s eyes once more, it says he could then see everything clearly! After this, Jesus says to him, “Don’t even go into the village.” He first brought him out of the village and then told him not to return.

Sometimes in life we can lose our vision of who we really are and where we’re supposed to be going. We have a “village” of people around us that influences us, sometimes in the right ways, and other times in the wrong ways. But we simply can’t stay in this village too long, because it’s very important to leave it in order to spend time with Jesus, alone. If we don’t do that, we risk losing sight of who we ourselves are, who God really is, and where He wants to take us in life!

That’s why Jesus wants to take us *out* of the village. When we spend more time with him, we’ll see so much more! He’ll restore our vision, so that we can see Him clearly!

And if you feel like your vision is getting a little fuzzy, perhaps you should take Jesus’ advice: Don’t go back into the village!



DAY FOURTEEN

MIRACLES

“Unless you people see signs and wonders,” Jesus told him, “you will never believe.”
John 4:48 NIV

Often in Jesus’ ministry, people would ask him for a miracle. Some were doing it because they needed a miracle desperately. Others were doing it because they wanted to see one happen before their eyes. And let’s be honest, who wouldn’t want to see Jesus perform a miracle?

But consider how some were making that request. In Luke 11:6, we read that “Others tested Jesus by asking for a sign from heaven.” Seriously? You’re testing Jesus?

In John 6:30, some even asked, “What sign will you give us? What will you do so we can see it and believe you?”

Oh boy. Can you imagine being that demanding to God Himself? They’re basically telling Jesus here, “We don’t want to have anything to do with you unless you show us a miracle!”

As crazy as that sounds, it seems that some people never change. Even today, there are many that know of Jesus and know of God’s miraculous power. They even know of His amazing love. But some don’t want to have a relationship with Him, not unless they get to see a miracle. It’s as if they’re still saying, “Show me a miracle, and then I’ll believe in You.”

What they fail to see is *that their very existence* is a miracle! Yes, some miracles are so commonplace that they might not seem as miraculous in our eyes anymore. For example, we’re still alive despite all the amazingly dumb things we’ve done in the past. How are we still even here? How is it that we haven’t all gotten exactly what we deserved? God’s love and grace is on full display here, a miracle for all to see!

Let’s add a few more miracles: we have food, family and a church to go to. Despite what you may feel at times, you actually have more possessions than many people on this planet. Or here’s another astounding miracle: the earth is spinning 1,000 miles per hour as it zooms 67,000 miles per hour on a fixed path through space – and we don’t even notice. Or fall off.

The point is this: Don’t test God, or wait for a miracle to happen before you decide to believe. And if you really want to see a miracle, just look at yourself in the mirror. We don’t have to ask for miracles from God, because they’re happening to us right now. Every. Single. Moment.



DAY FIFTEEN

MIRACLES

"And when they had come to Capernaum, those who received the temple tax came to Peter and said, 'Does your Teacher not pay the temple tax?' He said, 'Yes.' And when he had come into the house, Jesus anticipated him, saying, 'What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take customs or taxes, from their own sons or from strangers?' Peter said to Him, 'From strangers.' Jesus said to him, 'Then the sons are free. 'Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you.'"

Matthew 17:24-27 NKJV

When you're younger, it seems you've got a lot more time and energy. Take for example a time when you got into an argument with someone, and you just knew that you were right. How much time and energy did you spend trying to prove you were right, or talking about the argument hours after it occurred? It doesn't matter how young you are, most of us spend too much time trying to prove we were right in some matter. That might be because of a little thing called pride.

In today's Bible story, Jesus did what he always does. He cut through all the nonsense and got right to the heart of a matter. Jesus showed Peter that it wasn't right for them to be forced to pay the government to come to church. Jesus was right, as usual.

Nevertheless, he told Peter to go fishing. And in a wonderful miracle, Peter found their payment inside a fish, after catching it. Jesus had every right not to pay, based on his own words of wisdom. He could have stood his ground. Yet, notice he paid them anyway.

While we are here on this planet, we have to choose our battles. There are times we know for a fact that we're right and others are wrong. Yet, we have more important things that are going on too. Jesus knew he needed to be in Judea when he was done speaking, where he prayed for and laid hands on children. Jesus didn't want to invest the time in an argument.

That leads us to these questions that you should ask yourself, next time you feel like you have to get involved in an argument. What sort of witness do YOU become when you give in to pride and start fighting over something? Is it worth your valuable time to get into the argument in the first place? Your Bible says there is a time and a place for everything. Jesus did stand his ground at many other times, of course. But there's a time and a place for everything, and he had wisdom enough to know just what times it was worth it to stand up for something. You should try and do the same!



DAY SIXTEEN

MIRACLES

“Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, ‘Bring some of the fish which you have just caught.’ Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken. Jesus said to them, ‘Come and eat breakfast.’ Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, ‘Who are You?’ knowing that it was the Lord. ” John 21:9-12 NKJV

Jesus didn’t have a problem cooking up a meal – did you know that? It says in our Bible that Jesus had prepared breakfast one morning for Peter and the other disciples. Wait, what? Can you see that in your mind? That must have been incredible! What a great breakfast that must have been. Picture that in your mind: Jesus, the Son of God, cooking up breakfast and sharing an early morning meal with his disciples. What a wonderful occasion that must have been! Can you imagine that?

But now imagine also, if you will, two chapters earlier in the Bible. It was there that Jesus paid the ultimate price for not only these disciples of his, but of all mankind. It was a terrifying moment in world history. It was brutal. It was awful. Jesus, the Son of God, endured punishment far greater than any man should ever endure. He did this even though he was innocent. He did this even though he was the Son of God. He did it all anyway, because of his love for us.

Yet here we are, just two chapters later, enjoying breakfast. He’s alive! Jesus, the Son of God, had conquered death and the grave. Yet here he is by the lake side, still the servant, cooking up a wonderful breakfast for some of his closest friends. After his resurrection, he could have gone first, as I certainly would have, to those who had crucified him. He could have gone to Pilate, to Herod, the Pharisees and to the Romans and he could have said (*in Aramaic*) “In your face! Nanny-nanny-boo-boo!”

But not Jesus. In a small, quiet breakfast on the shore of a lake, Jesus showed us the example of how to live, by serving others.



DAY SEVENTEEN

MIRACLES

"And they said to Him, 'We have here only five loaves and two fish.' He said, 'Bring them here to Me.' Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes."
Matthew 14:17-19 NKJV

One of the greatest miracles of the New Testament involves a nice, big dinner. It was one that nobody was prepared for – except for Jesus. On one occasion, there was a large crowd of people coming to him for help, and he wouldn't let them down.

But when it came time to eat, there was not enough food for everyone. The Bible tells us there were over 5,000 men there, plus women and children. That's a lot of hungry mouths to feed.

The disciples noticed this. They said to Jesus, "There's nothing here. It's already getting late. Send the crowds away. They can go and buy some food in the villages."

Jesus didn't think that was necessary though. He told his disciples, "They don't need to go away. You give them something to eat."

Do what? Uh... Jesus? There are only five loaves of bread and two fish. How exactly is that going to happen?

Jesus didn't explain and didn't need to. He told the disciples to bring the loaves and fish to him. And as you know, that's when the story got really interesting! Jesus took the food and blessed it, and fed ...*everyone!* This was a huge miracle!

And though this is a story about a miracle of feeding, it is also a perfect picture of the church in action. Notice in our Bible verse who handed out the loaves to the multitudes: His disciples!

Jesus didn't do everything, and wasn't planning on doing everything either. He had his disciples help him pass out the food to the five thousand men, plus all the women and children that were there. Everyone was fed! The Bible tells us all of them ate and were satisfied, and that there were twelve baskets filled with leftovers.

In this story, we see a little about how the church should act. In your church, one person should never be expected to do all the work, no matter how great we might think that person is. Everyone needs a helping hand, and that's what they should get from the church, especially when it comes to doing something for Jesus. In fact, helping out is so important that Paul mentions it as a spiritual gift! So lend a hand at church and let's start passing out the blessings of Jesus. There are hungry people out there - hungry for real food and hungry for a great church. Together, let's show them what we got!



DAY EIGHTEEN

MIRACLES

“What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!”

Matthew 8:27 NIRV

The Bible tells us that Jesus got into a boat, and disciples followed him. And this seems like the beginning of a rather dull part of the gospel. That is, until suddenly, a terrible storm came up on the lake! The waves were crashing over the boat. The weather started getting rough – the tiny ship was tossed!

Everyone on the boat was in a panic, as you’d expect. Everyone... except Jesus. He was pretty calm, actually. Can you believe this? Jesus was actually asleep! What? He didn’t wake up when he heard those cracks of thunder? What about the huge waves? How could he be sleeping?

It rains on the just and unjust. That just means storms come and visit all of us from time to time. And when menacing weather looms, the best thing to do is exactly what Jesus did. Keep calm. In fact, you can praise Him through that storm. Look, the rain cloud isn’t just over your head alone – Jesus said that rain comes to *everyone*. Ever since sin swept into this world, we’ve all had to encounter seasons where severe storms advance across the skies, threatening destruction.

But remember that your footsteps are ordered of the Lord. Jesus said to the apostles, “Let’s go over to the other side of the lake.” They had no idea what they were heading into – He sent those apostles right into the heart of a storm! It was quite an adventure, but Jesus knew everything would be okay.

Don’t be afraid when the dark clouds start to form around your life. Your steps are ordered from the Lord! Just make sure Jesus is in your boat. The key to riding out any storm is having Him with you. Just ask the apostles, who marveled, “Who is this? Even the wind and waves obey him!” He can certainly calm the storms in our lives.

In fact, with Jesus in our lives, we can have complete calm. He has made us to be greater than the storms that come. We can’t necessarily stop them all, but we can do the next best thing: keep calm and praise Him through the storm.



DAY NINETEEN

MIRACLES

"Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son?" Mark 6:3 NIRV

They don't call Jesus the Master Carpenter for nothing. He's the one who knows how to build. Have you ever considered his skills in construction? Can he build it? Yes he can. Consider this:

Jesus knows about nails. Jesus' family knew all about carpentry. How incredible that he spent a lot of time around nails and wood, and worked with tools to build things. Others may have looked down on his position of carpenter, yet he is the one that would build the greatest legacy the world has ever known.

Jesus knows about wood. The high beams of the wooden cross stretched wide, showing God's fathomless love for us. He didn't have to suffer, but we are alive today because he *would*: He *would* suffer, he *would* rise from the dead, and he *would* announce the light of life to all.

Jesus knows about building. Through Him the world was created. And through Jesus the church was built, something that will last for all time thanks to its solid construction. It was built with wood and nails on a cross, and on a foundation of solid rock that cannot be shaken.

Have you met the Master Carpenter yet? He has given us the blueprints for a life free from sin and death, and the resources we need to build ourselves.

Even now, He is still building. He's hard at work, constructing for us a place in heaven so that we can be with him forever. He is the Master Carpenter, and his love for us is greater than anyone can measure. Nowhere is this more clearly shown than at the cross, where he used nails and wood.



DAY TWENTY

MIRACLES

"They found the stone rolled away from it." Luke 24:2 NIRV

Have you ever really thought about the stone that was rolled in front of the tomb of Jesus? If it were just one person trying to move that thing, he would need some heavy equipment – like a bulldozer!

After personally seeing many a play where this mighty stone just looked like a rock about two feet in diameter, some research was in order.

According to a group of professors from Georgia Tech in Atlanta, Georgia, the stone in question would actually be called a boulder. It was around two tons and would take at least twenty strong men to roll it.

Joseph of Arimathea wanted to make sure Jesus had a proper burial. The theory is that Joseph used the same method to move the boulder into place as pyramid builders would have used. That's because this stone was huge! When someone was put in a tomb, they were meant to stay!

How much more amazing does that make the resurrection of Jesus. Our Lord and Savior, after suffering an excruciating death on the cross, was placed in this tomb. The Romans and Pharisees thought that would be the end of it all. His miracles would be silenced as the stone was rolled in place, they thought.

They didn't count on that angel, who could move things easier than a bulldozer. At sunrise on Easter morning, the stone was discovered to be rolled away, and our Savior not resting in his grave. His shroud had been neatly folded and he was out of the tomb.

The stone was rolled away just like a little pebble. Praise the Lord, our Savior has risen!



DAY TWENTY ONE

MIRACLES

"Jesus and those with him left the synagogue. Right away they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. Simon's mother-in-law was lying in bed with a fever. They told Jesus about her right away. So he went to her. He took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her. Then she began to serve them."

Mark 1:29-31 NIRV

Simon's mother-in-law was sick. You probably know that feeling, which isn't good. She was in bed with a fever, and when anyone is that sick, the best thing to do is just stay in bed. Again, you might know this feeling exactly.

But some people told Jesus about her right away, and he did what he always does: he healed her!

Now some people might be tempted to take that "I'm sick" license and run with it, deciding that they're going to spend the rest of the day in bed. But not her! No, we read in Mark 1:31 how fast she moved: "The fever left her. Then she began to serve them."

She got to work serving Jesus right away! That was a good thing, too, because the very next verse tells us, "That evening after sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who were sick." And our Bibles tell us that Jesus healed many of them.

Simon's mother-in-law helped make sure Jesus and the others were fed and taken care of, so they could then go and help even more people.

We're not saying those other people *wouldn't* get helped if Jesus and the others weren't fed and taken care of. But can you see how useful it is to help Jesus? There are people out there that need help, and when we do what we can at the church, we're acting just like her – we're serving Jesus.

One of the disciples in the scripture above went on to write a book of the Bible, the one we call James. And in that book, he writes these words: "Faith without works is dead." That means this: if you're really grateful for what Jesus has done in your life, you should *do* something about it. In this case, Simon's mother-in-law got busy serving Jesus and others. It's how she expressed her gratitude, and it's how she helped Jesus reach others.

In your life, you have many things you can do for the church. Just be sure to get up out of bed, and just like her, begin serving Jesus.



DAY TWENTY TWO

MIRACLES

"After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John the brother of James with him. He led them up a high mountain. They were all alone. There in front of them his appearance was changed. His face shone like the sun. His clothes became as white as the light." Matthew 17:1-2 NIRV

Jesus took three of the apostles up a high mountain, all of them climbing to a place where they could be alone for a while. It was there that something amazing happened: His appearance was changed dramatically, his face shining, and his clothing becoming white and angelic.

Perhaps they were seeing Jesus as he truly is. You see, each of us have an appearance on the outside, something a little familiar and even more common. But God looks at the inside, at the heart, and that's where we truly should shine. On the Mount of Transfiguration, that's what happened with Jesus.

Peter, James and John had an opportunity to shine as well. They may have looked like ordinary men, but they became some of the brightest stars in the Bible.

Don't let anyone judge you based on your outward appearance. Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 4:12 (NIV), "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."

Often, we may try to appear to be something more special on the outside. But God said in 1 Samuel 16:7 (NIRV), "The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outside of a person. But the Lord looks at what is in the heart."

Of the twelve apostles, only three made that effort to climb to a higher place with Jesus. Make a decision today to go climbing. Make a decision to change yourself on the inside, to become a light shining bright for our Heavenly Father. Matthew 5:16 (KJV) tells us, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Others may see one thing, but God sees how you really are. When you seek Him with all your heart, you'll be shining bright.



DAY TWENTY THREE

MIRACLES

"With the crowd dispersed, he climbed the mountain so he could be by himself and pray. He stayed there alone, late into the night." Matthew 14:23 (MSG)

Do you want to know one of the secrets behind a miracle? Right there in the Bible, you can find it. It's right there after his miracle where far more than 5,000 people were fed with just two fish and five loaves of bread. And it's right before the miracle where his disciples saw him walking towards them on top of the water. What is it that you can find between these two miracles? The Bible tells us what Jesus did: *"With the crowd dispersed, he climbed the mountain so he could be by himself and pray. He stayed there alone, late into the night."*

The Bible says he went to pray. In fact, many times it says that Jesus went up the mountainside to pray. After a long day spent ministering to the needs of all the people, Jesus left tired. But a hard day drove Jesus to prayer, not from prayer.

Our daily choices shape our habits, and our habits shape our character. Our character in turn guides the decisions we make when we're tempted or when we face something hard in life. Character is what makes us successful in life. You can't have character without knowing God through prayer.

It's important to practice prayer in our lives until it becomes a habit. Prayer makes us less selfish in our relationships with others. It brings this natural world and the spiritual world together, making them a whole. Prayer helps us to know Jesus and who He is for ourselves.

Prayer is talking to God- we can talk to Him anytime, anywhere. He is always listening, always wanting and waiting for us to talk to Him. We can tell Him everything and ask Him anything. God wants to give us good things, but most of all, He wants to be known. Why? Because He wants to share Himself with us because He loves us.

Find a quiet place to talk to God on a daily basis. Talk to Him often throughout the day. There are no shortcuts up the mountainside to prayer, but knowing God through prayer will make you a real mountain climber!



DAY TWENTY FOUR

MIRACLES

"What I'm about to tell you is true. Anything you did for one of the least important of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40 NIRV

What is perspective? Perspective is our view of things, and if there is one person who knows the most about this, it would be Jesus. He came to be with us and live like each of us – and ultimately, he died for each of us. He knows what it's like to be human. He's been there, done that. What makes him an even greater hero is this: Jesus talked the talk, but he also walked the walk.

As we try to be more like Jesus, we need to start seeing things as He does. This means we all must sometimes change our view of things, and people too. Read the Bible: Jesus did not come with pride and arrogance. He walked in love, and in faith.

Remember the story of Bartimaeus? The man was blind and calling out for help. While others wanted him to shut his mouth, Jesus saw things in a different way. He walked up to Bartimaeus, and gave him sight immediately. Boom! Right away, Bartimaeus followed Jesus along the road.

You know that Bartimaeus spent the rest of his days following Jesus. He changed his perspective big time. He was seeing the world in a new way, all thanks to Jesus. And because he saw things as Jesus did, he started showing compassion towards those around him as well. We just have to have that same perspective too.

We must be blind to color, blind to disability, and blind to prejudice of any sort. God loves each of us the same. So try seeing things from God's perspective. Look for the people out there hurting or crying out for help, and see what you can do about it.

Try to see the world as God does. Learn to look around you, using the perspective of Jesus.



DAY TWENTY FIVE

MIRACLES

"Go into all the world. Preach the good news to everyone." Mark 16:15 NIRV

GO. It's a word Jesus used frequently, a word filled with promise. With just one simple word, he told us what we needed to do: GO.

One of the first times we heard him say it was to a blind man. "Go," said Jesus. "Your faith has healed you. " Like that man Jesus was speaking to, we all were once blind, stumbling around in darkness. But with His light of the world, now we can see clearly! We didn't do anything to deserve salvation and hope, but God gave it to each of us anyway. So go: our faith in Him has saved us, and given us help, healing and hope.

But Jesus wasn't done telling us to go. Early in his ministry, Jesus stopped the Pharisees from throwing stones at a woman – their aim was to punish her for sinning. But he stopped them short when he asked, "Has any one of you *not* sinned? Then you be the first to throw a stone at her."

Stones were dropped left and right. Jesus knew it very well: nobody is without sin. And yet his next command for us was a simple one: "Go, and sin no more." He'll forgive us when we ask, but we simply must turn away from doing those things that God isn't pleased with.

How fitting that he ended his ministry with one final "Go." Once the people there were healed and turned from their sins, there was one final mission from Jesus: "Go into all the world. Preach the good news to everyone."

This is our mission too: Go into all the world! You've been given a gift, one that God wants shared with the world. It is our Great Commission, and God's great hope that all the world can have everlasting life!

So get ready for action, and get ready to go: Go, because your faith has healed you. Go, and sin no more. And go into all the world and preach the good news to everyone. All systems go!



DAY TWENTY SIX

MIRACLES

"But just say the word, and my servant will be healed." Luke 7:7 NIRV

Roman centurions have a bad reputation when it comes to Christians in the Bible. While that might be somewhat deserved, there were a few that stood out for having good character. In fact, there was one that our Bibles tell us Jesus was amazed by. Read that again! How many people in the Bible amazed Jesus? Not many. Jesus went a step further, and told the crowd there: "I tell you, even in Israel I have not found anyone whose faith is so strong."

So what was it with this man that so impressed Jesus? The answer comes with a story, found in Luke, chapter seven. A little background: this Roman Centurion was a man who the Bible says loved Israel. His love was such that he helped build a church there. Yet despite all this, his servant at home had a terminal sickness. That's why when he heard Jesus was nearby, the Roman Commander just had to go see him.

Jesus was going to the man's home, but the Roman stopped him. "Lord, don't trouble yourself," he said. "I am not good enough to have you come into my house. That is why I did not even think I was fit to come to you. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed."

The man knew that all it took was a word from Jesus, and his servant would be healed. It didn't take someone putting his or her hands on the sick servant. It didn't take a special prayer, or an offering, or a physical act of faith. All it took was a word from Jesus, and the deal was done: the servant was healed.

That's all it takes for you too. Sometimes we feel tempted to try different "formulas" to get an answered prayer. But miracles do not come from a church service or a person of faith, do they?

They come from Jesus. You may be like that servant, alone and sick in bed. Nobody of faith was remotely close to him. And yet resting there all by himself, he was miraculously healed. Don't worry if you can't get the stars to align, or have a certain someone come pray for you. None of that may be necessary. All it takes is faith, and a word from Jesus.



DAY TWENTY SEVEN

MIRACLES

"Jesus saw their faith. So he said to the man, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'"

Mark 2:5 NIRV

One of the more dramatic miracles of Jesus occurred one day in a very crowded house. So many people gathered in this place to see Jesus that there was no room left. There was not even room outside the door! As Jesus preached the word to them, four of those who came were carrying a man who could not walk. The problem was they could not get him close to Jesus because of the crowd. So, amazingly, they made a hole by digging through the roof above Jesus, and lowered the man through it on a mat!

The Bible tells us that Jesus saw their faith. It was the faith of the friends that got his attention. And yes, the man was forgiven and healed: he got up and took his mat, walking away while everyone watched.

There are plenty of examples in the Bible where God sees the faith of others who ask healing for friends and relatives. The faith of the Roman Centurion comes to mind, as does the faith of the woman from Canaan, who wanted Jesus to heal her daughter. The point is, you should never walk through any of your troubles alone. That is the time to let others step up for you, and help carry you with their faith.

It says this in James 5:16: "Pray for one another so that you might be healed. The prayer of a godly person is powerful. Things happen because of it."

The prayers of a godly person are powerful, so why not ask one to pray for you today? Don't carry a burden by yourself. Allow others into your life, and let them carry you to Jesus in prayer, just as those four men did. It was their faith that helped the man see his healing, and in a similar way, it could be the faith of others that leads you down the path to your own answered prayer.



DAY TWENTY EIGHT

MIRACLES

"They saw him walking on the lake and were terrified. 'It's a ghost!' they said. And they cried out in fear." Matthew 14:26 NIRV

It was a dark and stormy night; the rain fell down in torrents. The wind blew huge waves across the lake, battering the side of the boat that the apostles were floating on. They were too far out to sea, and they were absolutely filled with fear.

That's when they saw someone actually walking across the water towards them. It was four o'clock in the morning, and they were scared out of their wits!

"A ghost!" they said, crying out in terror.

But what they saw wasn't a ghost – it was Jesus! He was quick to comfort them by saying, "Courage, it's me. Don't be afraid!"

How incredible to have Jesus come to them when all around was dark and scary. The apostles were filled with fear. When they saw Jesus, they were seeing something unusual. Fear can come from the unknown. When we are in any new situation, sometimes we can get a little afraid. Sometimes we let fear control us.

But we have to remember that God is with us always, and that faith is the thing that should lead us on. Peter had just enough faith to realize this, and perhaps that is why he volunteered to hop out of the boat. He discovered firsthand that where fear ends, faith begins as he walked across the waves towards Jesus.

Unfortunately for him, Peter's eyes started to look away from Jesus and back at the thing that caused him fear in the first place. When that happened, he started sinking under. Jesus rescued Peter just as he was starting to go under the waves, and told him, "Your faith is so small!"

If only Peter had kept his eyes on Jesus, he would have walked across the top of the water with him. But he had yet to learn that when faith and fear meet head on, faith can always win.

Fear can come from the unknown, and can control us if we're not careful. You can imagine that Peter learned a lot that dark and stormy night. And you just know that for the rest of his life, Peter probably laughed about that night to the others and said, "I ain't afraid of no ghost!"



DAY TWENTY NINE

MIRACLES

"She thought, 'I just need to touch his clothes. Then I will be healed.' "

Mark 5:28 NIRV

A woman was suffering with sickness for twelve long years. Consider that a moment: twelve long years! The gospel of Mark tell us, "She had suffered a great deal, even though she had gone to many doctors. She had spent all the money she had. But she was getting worse, not better."

When she knew Jesus was nearby, she knew she had to see him. And yet there were huge crowds of people all around. No matter! She thought to herself, "I just need to touch his clothes. Then I will be healed."

In those days, in her condition, she wouldn't have been allowed to even get close to him. She was considered unclean. But she was also desperate, and she knew of his power. That must be why she didn't think she needed him laying hands on her for a healing. She didn't even think she needed his spoken word. All she thought she needed was to touch the hem of his garment, and she would be healed. And you know something? She was absolutely right.

You may consider yourself unclean, or unworthy. But Jesus doesn't mind - he won't turn you away if you come to him. All you have to do is get close to Him.

Jesus wanted to see who had touched him. Then the woman came and fell at his feet. She knew what had happened to her. She was shaking with fear. But she told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Dear woman, your faith has healed you. Go in peace. You are free from your suffering."

It was certainly the power of Jesus that healed her. But as he himself explained, it was her faith that brought it about.

As you read this, you may find yourself unworthy to be in his presence. But God thinks you are. No one is really worthy, but that's why Jesus died: to make us worthy. So keep taking those steps of faith towards Jesus. All he wants is for you to draw near to him, where there is forgiveness, hope, and healing.



DAY THIRTY

MIRACLES

"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9 NIV

The greatest miracle Jesus performed was that of salvation, a miracle that only Jesus could provide. Through his death, burial and resurrection from the grave he paid the price for your sin and mine.

You see, before Jesus' ultimate sacrifice, God required animal sacrifices to provide a temporary covering of sins, and it foreshadowed the perfect and complete sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Without the shedding of blood there could be no forgiveness.

You may be asking yourself, why animals? What did they do wrong? Exactly! That is the point—since the animals did no wrong, they died in place of the one performing the sacrifice. Likewise, Jesus Christ, who did no wrong, gave Himself willingly to die for the sins of mankind.

He took our sin upon Himself and died in our place. In 2 Corinthians 5:21 it tells us that "God made him [Jesus] who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

See, through faith in what Jesus Christ accomplished on the cross, we can receive forgiveness and salvation.

We no longer must sacrifice animals. We have the greatest miracle *ever*, Jesus Christ. He loved you so much that he went through all the pain and all the punishments so we could have life and spend eternity with him in heaven forever. Have you accepted him?



DAY THIRTY-ONE

MIRACLES

"Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea... Peter answered Him and said, 'Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water. So, He said, 'Come.' And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.'" Matthew 14:25-29 NKJ

Faith is complete trust or confidence in someone. We see faith exercised all through the miracles of Jesus. Many saw him for what he was and their faith in him showed that. This can be seen when the woman with an issue of blood in the crowd touched Jesus' robe and was immediately healed. Faith in action is seen when the Roman centurion said, *"But just say the word, and my servant will be healed,"* and he was healed.

I love the time when a paralyzed man was healed because his friends had so much faith that they took action and dug through the roof and lowered him so Jesus could heal him... He did! That was truly faith in action.

Or how about the time the nobleman wanted Jesus to come heal his son? Jesus said, "Go your way; your son lives." And the nobleman left in faith believing it would happen...it did!

I could go on and on. In fact, John wrote in John 21:25, "There are many more things that Jesus did. If all of them were written down, I suppose that not even the world itself would have space for the books that would be written." Wow! That's a lot!

As we look at the scripture above where Peter walks on water, we see an amazing miracle and faith in action. It was a miracle to see Jesus strolling across the water, but can you imagine how much faith Peter had to have when he took that first step out of the boat and onto the water? The second and third steps were easy because of that first one, but how do you step out of a boat onto the water and expect *not to sink*?

You do it by faith! The Bible says, "Faith without action is dead," and Peter put his faith into action with that first step. Could you take that step of faith?

When you step out with faith in Jesus you will never sink. He will always be there for you. No matter where you are, you can never go wrong with faith in Jesus...put that faith into action today!