

BIBLE READING DAY 14, SATURDAY: MARCH 12

Jesus in Galilee

Luke 8:1–3

Jesus went about through the towns and villages, preaching the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, as were certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary Magdalene, out of whom had been cast seven demons; and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward; and Susanna, and many others, who provided for their needs out of their personal means.

A man who was possessed of a demon, and unable to see or speak, was brought to Jesus; and he healed him, so that he could speak and see. And all the people were amazed, and said, "Is not this the Son of David?"

When the Pharisees heard them, they said, "It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow casts out demons."

Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to ruin, and no city or house divided against itself will continue to stand. And if Satan is casting out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? And if I am casting out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Let them therefore be your judges! But if it is by the Spirit of God that I am casting out demons, then the kingdom of God has appeared among you. How can a person enter a strong man's house and steal his goods unless he first binds the strong man? Only then may he rob his house.

"He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters abroad. Therefore, I say to you, every sin and blasphemy may be forgiven men, but blasphemy against the Spirit cannot be forgiven. And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man may be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

"Let the tree be good and its fruit good, or let it be bad and its fruit bad, but the tree will be known by its fruit. You brood of vipers! —how can you speak good things when you yourselves are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man brings forth good things out of his storehouse of good, and an evil man brings forth evil things out of his storehouse of evil. But I tell you, men shall give account in the day of judgment for every harmful word they speak; your words will either justify you or condemn you."

Some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Jesus, "Master, we should like to see some sort of sign from you."

"An evil and adulterous generation seeks a sign!" replied Jesus. "But no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and nights in the belly of the fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh will stand up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, one greater than Jonah is here. The Queen of the South will stand up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from a faraway part of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, one greater than Solomon is here."

"When an evil spirit has gone out of a man, it wanders about in the desert places seeking rest, but finds none. Then it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when it comes, it finds it unoccupied, swept, and newly decorated. Then it goes and gathers together seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they all move in and make their home there. Then the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it be with this evil generation."

The True Family of Christ, Matthew 12:46–50; Luke 11:27–28

While Jesus was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers were standing at the edge of the crowd, desiring to speak to him. And someone said to him, “Your mother and brothers are standing over yonder, asking to speak to you.”

“Who is my mother,” said Jesus, “and who are my brothers?”

And extending his hand toward his disciples, he said, “Behold, here are my mother and brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

As he said these things, that a woman in the crowd exclaimed to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts you sucked!”

“Yes,” replied Jesus, “but more blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”

Parable of the Sower, Matthew 13:1–18, 36; Luke 8:11–15

The same day, Jesus went out and sat down by the sea. But such great crowds gathered about him that he got into a boat and sat down; and the throng of people stood on the shore. And he told them many things in parables, saying, “Behold, a sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the road, and the birds came and ate them up. And some fell on rocky ground where they had little soil. And because they had no deep soil, they quickly sprouted; but when the sun was high, they were scorched, and because they had no root, they withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. But some fell on good ground and yielded fruit—some a hundred-fold, some sixty, and some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear.”

Jesus left the crowds and went to the house, and his disciples came to him and said, “Why do you speak to them in parables?”

“To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven,” replied Jesus, “but to them it has not. For to him who holds it fast, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not hold it fast, from him will be taken away even what he has. Therefore, I speak to them in parables because, when they see, they do not really see, and when they hear, they do not really hear, nor do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah,

‘Hearing, you shall hear, but not understand; seeing, you shall see, but not perceive. For this people’s heart has become calloused, and their ears are hard of hearing, and they have closed their eyes, lest they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and return and I should heal them.’

“But blessed are your eyes, for they see; and your ears, for they hear. For I tell you truly, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you are seeing but did not live to see it; and to hear what you are hearing but did not hear it.

“Hear, then, the parable of the sower. This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. Those along the road are those who hear, but then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. Those on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy, but they have no root. For a while, they believe; but when a time of testing comes along, they fall away. And that which fell among the thorns are those who hear, but as they go along, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and they bring no fruit to maturity. But that on the good ground are those who, having heard the word, hold it fast in a good and honest heart and bring forth fruit with patience.”

Approximate Timeline of Jesus’s Public Ministry

EARLY LIFE	EARLY MINISTRY	1 st Feast of PASSOVER	SUMMER	1 st Feast of BOOTHS	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	2 nd Feast of PASSOVER	SUMMER	3 rd Feast of BOOTHS	WINTER	FINAL PASSOVER
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DEVOTIONAL DAY 14 (SATURDAY MARCH 12)

A Timely Word: Make Time for the Word!

Based on selected passages from Matthew 12-13; Mark 3; Luke 8 & 11

Is there a present you remember REALLY wanting when you were young? I wanted a Ken doll. When Christmas came, we begged to open one present early. I'd picked out the box I just knew was Ken. It wasn't. It was days of the week underwear. I'm sure my mom had a good laugh. On Christmas day, however, Ken was there.

God IS the giver of every good gift. He knows our needs and *will meet them all according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus* (Philippians 4:19). Jesus proved this time and again during His time on earth.

For Mary Magdalene He set her free from evil spirit and healed her infirmities. For the demon possessed man, he was healed. Finally, He taught us about sowing seeds. His word needs to be planted on fertile soil to grow correctly.

For all of these He wants us to be aware of our need for continual communion with Him. Cleaning house is probably one of my least favorite things to do. You dust, turn around twice, and it needs to be dusted again. With all the stories in today's Bible reading, Jesus cautioned that we must fill any space emptied in our heart and lives with more of Him. If we don't, evil things will move in.

Spend your time being filled with *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control* (Galatians 5:22-23) We will be blessed by spending our time praising Him.

"Preach the Gospel at all times.
Use words if necessary."

Source Unknown

Jesus also encouraged us to "*hear the word of God and keep it*". We can easily do this by staying connected with our church family. Plug into a life group. Another way to hear the Holy Spirit speaking to you is to read and know the word. Hide it in your heart. It will come alive when you need help, encouragement, and wisdom. No one can steal the word of God planted in your heart and mind.

Finally, pray. Prayer is our one-on-one way to communicate with the father. Jesus would take time away from the busyness of life and talk to the Father. We need to follow His example.

God desires to be present in your life every minute of every day. Make Him a priority.

Father, thank You for Your word filled with wisdom and support for everyday life. Help us to make time for You, Your word, and Your church family. Open our hearts to be fertile soil. Use us Lord to reach others for You. In Jesus name, Amen.

--By Derenda Dickey

WRITE DOWN YOUR THOUGHTS IN RESPONSE TO WHAT YOU HAVE READ:

WHAT DID GOD SAY TO ME?

PRAYER: WHAT DID I SAY TO GOD?

ACTS OF PRAYER: ADORATION, CONFESSION, THANKSGIVING, SUPPLICATION (How God Can Supply Needs)

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