

## **BIBLE READING DAY 16, MONDAY: MARCH 14**

### **Jesus Heals a Man from his Demons**

Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26–39

*They arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is across the lake from Galilee. And as Jesus stepped ashore, a man from the town met him who was possessed by multiple demons. For a long time, he had not worn clothes nor lived in a house, but stayed out in the tombs of the mountains, crying and cutting himself with stones. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell before him, shouting, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me!”*

*Jesus was already commanding the evil spirits to come out of the man. Many times, they had overpowered him, and even though he was bound with chains and shackles and kept under guard, he snapped the bonds and fled out into the wilderness, driven by the demons.*

*“What is your name?” asked Jesus.*

*“Legion, for we are many!” he replied, for many demons had entered into him. And they begged Jesus not to command them to depart into the Abyss.*

*There was a large herd of pigs feeding on the hillside, and the demons begged Jesus to allow them to enter the pigs; and he gave them permission. Then the demons went out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.*

*When the surrounding herdsmen saw what had happened, they ran and told the news in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. And they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at Jesus’s feet, clothed, and in his right mind; and they were afraid.*

*Those who had seen it told them how the man had been healed. Then all the people of the country of the Gerasenes begged Jesus to depart from them, for they were filled with fear.*

*Jesus got into the boat and turned back. And the man from whom the demons had departed begged Jesus to let him go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, “Go back home and tell what great things God has done for you.”*

*He went his way, proclaiming throughout the whole town and in the Decapolis what great things Jesus had done for him. And all of the people were amazed.*

### **Jesus Brings Healing and Life, Mark 5:21–43**

*When Jesus had crossed again by boat to the other side, many people gathered about him on the shore. And there came one of the rulers of the synagogue, a man named Jairus; and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet and earnestly implored him, saying, “My little daughter is at the point of death. I beg of you, come and lay your hands on her, that she may be healed and live.”*

*Jesus went with him, and many people followed him, thronging about him. Now there was a woman who for twelve years had had a hemorrhage and had suffered much at the hands of many physicians, having spent everything she had, and continually growing worse instead of better. Having heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak. For she said to herself, “If only I can touch even his cloak, I shall be healed.”*

*At once the hemorrhage was stopped, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction. And Jesus, knowing in himself that power had gone forth from him, immediately turned around in the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?”*

*“You see the multitude crowding around you,” said his disciples, “and yet you ask, ‘Who touched me?’” Jesus looked around to see who had touched him. Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came with fear and trembling and fell before him and told him the whole story.*

*“Daughter,” said Jesus, “your faith has made you well. Go in peace and be healed of your affliction.”*

*While Jesus was still speaking, messengers came from the home of the ruler of the synagogue and said, “Your daughter is dead. Why bother the Master any longer?”*

*Jesus, disregarding their words, said to the ruler of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.”*

*Jesus allowed no one to accompany him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. And they came to the ruler’s house, where Jesus found a great commotion—people weeping and wailing loudly. Jesus entered and said to them, “Why are you weeping and carrying on this way? The child is not dead, but asleep.”*

*They began to laugh and jeer Jesus. But he ordered them all out; and taking the child’s father and mother and those who were with him, he went in where the child was. And he took her by the hand and said, “Little girl, I say to you, rise.”*

*Immediately the girl got up and began walking about (she was twelve years old), and they were astonished. Then Jesus charged them that no one should know what had occurred and told them to give her something to eat.*

### **Jesus Heals the Blind and Deaf, Matthew 9:27–34**

*As Jesus passed on his way from there, two blind men followed him, crying, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!”*

*When Jesus had entered the house, they came to him, and Jesus said, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?”*

*“Yes, Lord,” they answered.*

*Jesus touched their eyes, saying, “Let it be done for you according to your faith.”*

*Their eyes were opened. Then Jesus charged them, “See that you do not let anyone know of this.” But they went out and told the whole countryside about him.*

*As Jesus and his disciples were leaving, a man dumb and demon possessed was brought to him. And after the demon had been cast out, the man began to talk. And the people marveled, saying, “Never has anything like this been seen in Israel!”*

*The Pharisees said, “It is by the prince of the demons that he casts out demons.”*

### **Jesus Rejected Again in Nazareth, Mark 6:1–6a**

*Jesus went away from there and came to his own country, and his disciples followed him. And when the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue; and when they heard him, many were astonished and said, “Where does this fellow get all this? What about this wisdom that has been given to him, and the mighty works which are wrought by his hands? Isn’t this the carpenter—the son of Mary and the brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And don’t his sisters live here with us?”*

*They took offense at him. Then Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor, except in his own country, and among his kinsmen, and in his own house.”*

*He could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick and healed them. And he marveled at their unbelief.*

### **Approximate Timeline of Jesus’s Public Ministry**

EARLY LIFE	EARLY MINISTRY	1 <sup>st</sup> Feast of PASSOVER	SUMMER	1 <sup>st</sup> Feast of BOOTHS	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	2 <sup>nd</sup> Feast of PASSOVER	SUMMER	3 <sup>rd</sup> Feast of BOOTHS	WINTER	FINAL PASSOVER
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## **DEVOTIONAL DAY 16 (MONDAY MARCH 14)**

### What Profits a Man if He Loses His Soul?

*Based on Matthew 8:28-34, 9:27-34; Mark 5:1-6:6; Luke 8:26-39*

Except for the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (and of course His atonement and forgiveness of our sins), which would you say was the ***greatest thing*** about Jesus? Was it His teachings or His miracles?

Yesterday (and chronologically, it was the night before today's events) Jesus calmed a raging storm, after being so exhausted that they had to rouse Him from His sleep on the little boat with His twelve disciples. Then they arrived across the lake to heal a demon possessed man. The citizens sent Jesus and the disciples back across the lake, where He heals a woman who touches His garment, then raises a girl from the dead, and then two blind men follow Jesus around until He finally heals them. And before they left, He healed a mute man so that he could speak. Hopefully Jesus got a good night's sleep after all of this!

Jesus performed miracles to show His true nature as the Son of God. He displayed His love and justice through each sign and wonder. The miracles leading up to the death and resurrection of Jesus were significant in that we as Christians learn about the goodness of God in His actions and in God's power.

But also, everywhere Jesus went (well, almost everywhere), people became enthralled by Him and His teachings! Jesus's teachings were divine and people in His hometown of Nazareth were astonished by it! And not just there, but it was also recorded in Mark 1:22 (Day 8), Matthew 7:29 (Day 11) and we'll see it again and again in upcoming days. Jesus was the real deal!

Christ has authority from God since He Himself *is* God. Jesus *taught* the Word because He *is* the Word. He performed miracles, signs, and wonders, but the reason for His coming was not just to cast out demons and heal the multitudes. It was to show the world the nature of who God is. His authority over demons and diseases was absolute; His wisdom exceeded the religious leaders of the day and certainly beyond what this "hometown" Boy was thought to be.

Jesus wanted the people to take in all that He had done and all that He taught so that they would understand what He would do at the cross and the empty tomb. Everything Jesus did was perfectly planned.

Jesus did not permit the demons to speak, and He didn't want the healings to be made known. His plan for how He would reveal Himself to the world was much more greater and much more beautiful! Everything demonstrated the grace, love, and glory of His Heavenly Father. When He healed, He healed with compassion.

Jesus was indeed the best Teacher who ever existed. His miracles were actual teaching lessons, taking the daily hardships from each person who sought Him, bringing them to faith. When we believe in Christ, our lives change drastically. From being doomed to an eternal separation from God to being grafted into God's family as a child of God, we now are new creations! (See 2 Corinthians 5:17).

**Father in Heaven, You are holy and wonderful. Thank You for sending Your Son to bridge the gap that my sin creates. Jesus, thank You for Your teachings, healings, and ultimate sacrifice You made on my behalf. I pray that You would daily change my heart to desire Your ways so that I may daily become more like You. I want to know You more Lord. It's in Your holy and wonderful Name I pray, Amen.**

--By Zach Bramble

**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**

**A**

**C**

**T**

**S**