

Teaching and Healing



Memory Verse—Psalm 103:1–3

“Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases.”

SUNDAY

Call by the Sea (Luke 5:1–11)

It was very early one morning by the beautiful Sea of Galilee. Jesus had gone there for some quiet time before the people would start coming to be healed and to hear His wonderful words of life.

Peter and Andrew, along with James and John, were rowing their boats back to shore after fishing all night. They hadn't caught anything, and Peter was discouraged. As he had checked their empty fishing nets that night, he had been thinking about John the Baptist being in prison, and about the priests hating Jesus. And not catching even one fish all night added to his gloom. The future didn't look bright.

After rowing their boats to shore, they cleaned their nets and spread them to dry. Soon people started coming to hear Jesus, and the lake shore became crowded. Then Jesus stepped into Peter's boat and asked him to push away from the shore so everyone could see and hear Him. Rich and poor, old and young, rabbis and ordinary people were all there; and Jesus taught them from Peter's boat.

When Jesus finished teaching, He turned to Peter and asked him to row back out on the lake to deeper water and let his nets down to catch fish. Peter was an experienced fisherman, and he thought it would be useless to try again. He even reminded Jesus they hadn't caught anything all night. But when he obeyed Jesus' words, what happened? **Luke 5:5–7.** □

When their boats were safely back to shore, Peter didn't even wait to help unload them. He fell at Jesus' feet, suddenly realizing a little of how holy Jesus was compared to how sinful he was. Then, when those four fishermen understood that

Jesus wanted them with Him full-time, what did they do? Read the story in **verses 8–11.** □

Apply it: Peter obeyed Jesus' word to go fishing again that day, even though he couldn't see any reason for it. In the same way, shouldn't we obey His word to us in the Bible? That's trusting in His word, and that's faith.

MONDAY

Demoniac in Church (Mark 1:21–28)

CAPERNAUM was an important, busy city on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee. Traffic went through there from many places in Palestine, as well as from other countries. Jesus liked to be there when He could, because He was able to meet many travelers passing through. They would carry the news about Him, the Messiah, to other places.

Capernaum was called “His own city” (Matthew 9:1). Its synagogue was always packed and overflowing on the Sabbaths He preached. The people eagerly listened to things they had never heard before. He spoke from the Scriptures earnestly and with authority—not like the rabbis, who would give one meaning, and then say it might have a different meaning. No wonder the people didn't know what to believe!

But one thing was sure. Satan was furious about what Jesus was doing. He was in that synagogue every Sabbath, trying to turn the attention of people away from Jesus. He wanted to plant doubts about Him in their minds.

As Jesus spoke, He always watched the faces and actions

2

of the people in the audience. He could tell when someone's conscience suddenly woke up, and whether or not that person was listening to the Holy Spirit. He saw when some lonely or sad person had been comforted by His words.

One Sabbath Jesus was explaining that He had come to free people who were controlled by Satan. Suddenly, a madman in the audience jumped up and rushed toward Jesus. What was he screaming? **Mark 1:24.** □

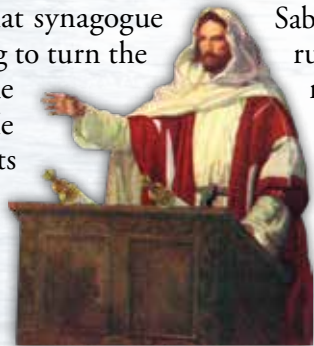
That poor man had believed Satan's lie that he could have more fun by not obeying God's laws. Now he was Satan's slave, and Satan had sent him to the synagogue that Sabbath to disturb the meeting. But Jesus' words about freeing Satan's captives went through the darkness in his mind, and he longed to be free.

But when he tried to respond to Jesus, Satan's words came from his mouth. Jesus knew exactly what was happening. Would He refuse to help the poor man since his own choices had let Satan control him? **Apply it:** Aren't you glad that Jesus is able to deliver us from the power of sin?

TUESDAY

Healing Their Diseases (Mark 1:25–38)

As Jesus was speaking to a crowd of people in the synagogue at Capernaum one Sabbath, a screaming madman rushed toward Him, interrupting the sermon. Of course, everyone was instantly alarmed, and they watched to see what would happen. Satan had already been conquered in the wilderness; and this time, he had to obey



Jesus again. Read **Mark 1:25, 26.** □

Satan had lost another battle, and the amazed people realized that Jesus truly had great power. Now more than ever, His fame spread far and wide. But more than His healing power, it was Jesus' sweet, sympathetic spirit that drew so many to listen to Him.

Jesus healed a sick woman that Sabbath, too. After leaving the synagogue, He and His disciples went to the home of Simon Peter, who lived in Capernaum. What did they find there, and what did Jesus immediately do? **Verses 29–31.** □

It's easy to imagine how happy that dear lady was to be healed and able to serve Jesus and the rest of the family. Many other people needed Jesus' help, too. But because they were afraid of the rabbis, they waited until after sunset to come to Him. Then they crowded into and around Peter's home.

Jesus stayed up that night, healing and helping people until the last person had been cared for. After being up late like that, some people like to sleep late the next morning. Is that what Jesus did? **Verse 35.** □

Back at Peter's home Sunday morning, people were knocking at his door, asking for Jesus. The disciples went and searched; and when they found Him, they told Him people were looking for Him.

Jesus loved those people, but His work was not to be limited to only a few places. So what did Jesus tell His disciples? **Verses 36–38.** □

3

Apply it: Spending time with His heavenly Father in prayer was more important and more refreshing to Jesus than extra sleep. That's something Satan doesn't want people to do. He knows that spending time with Jesus in prayer and Bible study every day will refresh and strengthen us to resist his temptations.

Do you spend time every day in personal, private Bible study and prayer? If not, why not start today?



WEDNESDAY

Healing a Leper (Mark 1:39–42)

JESUS was preaching “throughout all Galilee, and casting out demons.” That meant Satan was having one failure after another as Jesus commanded Satan's demons, or devils, to leave people. Those devils, or spirits, were Satan's evil angels. And when they were cast out, the Holy Spirit filled their places.

But of all the physical diseases, there was one that people thought was incurable and a curse from God. That was leprosy, and one who had it was called a leper.

We can't imagine how dreadful leprosy was. Lepers had to leave their homes and families. They were shut out of synagogues, and they had to stay away from everyone. When they happened to come



4

near people, they were required to cry out, "Unclean! Unclean!" Other lepers were their only companions. They were almost treated as if they were already dead.

There had been many lepers in Israel, but none of them had been cured since the time of Elisha when God cured Naaman, the heathen army officer. And that healing was only by faith in God's power to heal.

That kind of faith was growing in the mind of a leper in the time of Jesus. He had heard that Jesus healed every sick person who asked for His help. Would Jesus help him—a leper? The more he thought about it, the more certain he was that Jesus would heal him.

God guided this leper to where Jesus was teaching in the open air. Watching from a distance, he saw Him healing people. Forgetting the rules, he moved closer. When people noticed him, they backed away in alarm; but he kept coming. He only saw Jesus, his great hope. What did he say as he fell at Jesus' feet? **Mark 1:40.** ■

Then Jesus spoke only five words; but the same power that created the worlds was in those words, and it healed that leper. **Apply it:** That same power is still in God's Word, the Bible.

THURSDAY

After the Healing (Mark 1:43-45)

By just speaking, Jesus had healed the first leper to be cured since the time of

Elisha about 900 years before. No wonder the people who saw that miracle were amazed and excited!

But think of how excited that healed leper must have been. He was so happy to be cured of that



terrible disease, he wanted to tell everyone about it. That's why Jesus gave him strict instructions about what to do before telling anyone about it. What were those instructions? **Mark 1:44.** ■

It was important that this man show himself to the priests before they might hear of his healing in some other way. The priests knew that the Sanhedrin had condemned Jesus. And if they had already heard that He had healed this man, they might not admit that he was cured.

The same priests who had told him that he was a leper examined him this time. They said he was free of leprosy, and they recorded his cure. Now he could be with his family and worship again with others in the synagogue.

Jesus had told him not to tell others about his cure; but thinking that Jesus was just being humble, he went around telling everyone about it. He didn't know that would hurt Jesus' ministry.

But Jesus knew that if lepers flocked to Him for healing, He could be accused of breaking Moses' health laws and causing the lepers' contact with others who might catch the disease.

5

And such large crowds did come to Jesus that He had to stop teaching and healing for a short time.

Meanwhile, those priests who examined the cured leper were doing some serious thinking. Jesus had followed Moses' law in sending the leper to be examined by the priests. He was not a lawbreaker. Many of them were convinced that He was the Messiah. And after He returned to heaven, they were among those who stood boldly for Him (Acts 6:7).

Apply it: Sin is like leprosy. Jesus didn't always immediately cure other diseases, but He immediately cured leprosy. And when we repent and ask to be delivered from sin, He immediately forgives and cleanses us. Do you want to be delivered from sin?

FRIDAY

Through a Roof to Jesus (Mark 2:1-12)

JESUS had done many miracles in Peter's home after sunset on the Sabbath that He had healed the madman in the synagogue. And He did another miracle in Peter's home when He was in Capernaum at a later time.

A poor man living in that area was helpless with paralysis. He had no hope of ever being well again.

And like many others, his disease had been caused by his own wrong choices. Religious leaders had told him his suffering was punishment from God for his sins. No wonder he felt so hopeless!

Then his friends told him about Jesus,



and that He had even cured lepers. They urged him to believe that Jesus could help him, too. Of course, he longed to be cured; but he longed even more for assurance that his sins were forgiven.

He was helplessly paralyzed, but his friends said they would carry him to Jesus on his bed. And four of them did. But when they arrived at Peter's house, it was impossible to push through the crowd. Again and again they tried. Oh! Help was so close. How could he give up?

"Please, take me up to the roof," he suggested; and they did. Then, after removing roof tiles, they let the helpless man down into the house on his bed. People pushed back to make room; and finally, Jesus and the paralyzed man were looking at each other. What were Jesus' first words to him? **Mark 2:4, 5.** ■

Instantly, a great load of guilt was lifted from that man, and peace took its place. In that watching crowd were some scribes who in their thoughts accused Jesus of blasphemy, because only God can forgive sins. Jesus knew what they were thinking, and He said, "The Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins." **Verses 6-11.** ■

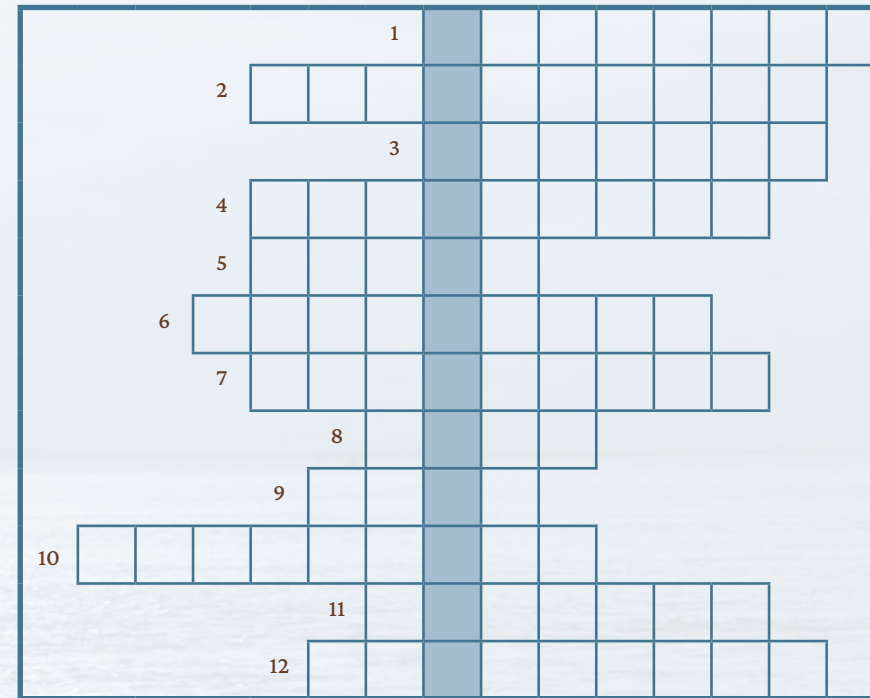
Then the crowd watched in amazement as the man stood up and walked out, carrying his bed.

Apply it: In other words, Jesus is God—God the Son. And He has power to forgive our sins, too, and to help us live clean, good lives that honor Him. The healed man and his happy family were so grateful, they were ready to die for Jesus. Are we?

6

Use these clues to solve the puzzle.

- Most of all, the paralyzed man wanted to know that his sins were ____.
- Jesus spoke from the ____ with authority.
- Jesus healed a madman on this day.
- The ruling Jewish council that condemned Jesus.
- His roof was taken off so a paralytic man could get to Jesus.
- What city is called Jesus' own city?
- Priests accused Jesus of ____ because He forgave sins.
- Jesus taught the people while He was sitting in Peter's ____.
- Jesus healed the mother of Peter's ____.
- Peter was a ____.
- People with this disease had to shout, "Unclean!"
- Jesus healed a demon-possessed man in the ____ at Capernaum.



- What did Jesus call Peter, Andrew, James, and John to be?
- Why do you think Jesus provided all those fish for His disciples?
 - To assure them that God would provide for all their needs while they were doing His work.
 - To encourage them to continue their occupation as fishermen.
 - To teach an important lesson—instead of being fishermen, they were called to be fishers of men, now.

Matthew 8:1-4, 14-17; 9:1-8; Mark 1:21-2:12; Luke 4:31-5:26
The Desire of Ages
pp. 244-271

References

I have looked up and read all the Bible texts in my lesson this week! (Every text you read should be checked.)

My Bible First © 2010 • 1-877-242-5317 • sales@mybiblefirst.org • www.mybiblefirst.org • Unless otherwise noted all Bible quotations are from the NKJV.

