

20:20 Vision Ministries -- Devotions by Roger Browning Week 20 (May 12-18, 2013)

We will continue in search of Jesus' favorite miracle. Some wonderful prospects will show up in this week's study.

Sunday -- May 12 (Mark 5:21-29)

Jesus starts out toward the house of Jairus to minister to a very sick little girl, age 12. The large crowd includes a woman who has suffered from a bleeding disorder for 12 years (v. 24-25). Think of the difference in the lives of Jairus and this unnamed woman for the past 12 years. One has experienced the joy of family life with his wife and daughter while the other has been an outcast in society due to her physical condition. A bleeding woman is not allowed to touch a man without making him ceremonially unclean. She is also destitute because of medical expenses (v. 26). In an act of bold faith, she violates the Jewish law by touching His cloak (v. 27-28) and is immediately healed of her suffering (v. 29). Jairus is forced to wait for Jesus to help someone else.

Monday -- May 13 (Mark 5:30-34)

I believe that, while on earth, Jesus was **energized** by preaching and teaching while being **drained** by the constant demands for physical miracles. Notice that power went out from Him to heal the bleeding woman (v. 30). His question is still relevant today. Even in very large crowds, He knows when someone **really** touches Him. The disciples still do not understand His power, so they marvel at the fact that Jesus can distinguish between the crowd pushing against Him and one woman who really touches Him (v. 31). The woman sees that this miracle cannot remain secret, so she confesses at His feet (v. 32-33). He not only sets her free from her bleeding, but also from the guilt of breaking a Jewish law (v. 34). What a wonderful Savior!

Tuesday -- May 14 (Mark 5:35-36)

Can you imagine what Jairus is feeling during this delay? The love of his life is near death, and a woman who does not have a life-threatening illness slows down their journey. At that very moment, men arrive with terrible news. It's too late! Jesus can't help you now (v. 35). Maybe you have been told the same words. Our Lord ignores their negative report and says, "Don't be afraid; just believe" (v. 36). Are there more beautiful words for you to hear today? Whatever you are going through, His message remains the same. You can trust His promises and yield your problem to Him. Many of you are reporting great results from "Praying God's Promises." I hope that you will use the examples in print or on the website under that heading to learn to trust Him more. It will enhance your prayer life.

Wednesday -- May 15 (Mark 5:37-43)

Only those who are closest to Jesus will see some of His miracles (v. 37). The professional mourners will always be present when a death occurs, but the broken-hearted parents need someone who is there because his/her heart is moved by their loss. They certainly do not need people to laugh at the thought of Jesus raising the dead (v. 38-40). Our Lord puts them outside and enters the child's room. Taking her by the hand, He tenderly commands her to "get up" (v. 41). The child gets up and walks around. Jesus gives two strict orders: 1) Don't tell anyone (good luck on that one!); and 2) "Give her something to eat." A spiritual appetite should accompany each new life in Christ. The parents and the church are responsible for feeding our young (and old) converts. How is your church doing?

Thursday -- May 16 (Mark 6:6-13)

Jesus expands His miracle ministry by giving the 12 disciples authority to preach and heal (v. 6-7). He promises them (and us) that He will supply all their needs through the people He is sending them to serve (v. 8-10). It will not go well for anyone who refuses to welcome the disciples or listen to their message of salvation (v. 11). Their preaching (v. 12) is consistent with that of John the Baptist (see Matthew 3:2) and of Jesus (see Matthew 4:17). Sadly, many of today's ministers have left out the **message of repentance**. Even more refuse to anoint sick worshippers with oil (v. 13) according to James 5:14-16. They wonder why they are not seeing miracles among the people they serve. May God help us to take His Word seriously and claim His wonderful Biblical promises.

Friday -- May 17 (Mark 6:30-34)

The excited disciples return from the mission journey (see yesterday's devotions) and report their successes to Jesus (v. 30). A huge crowd prevents them from sharing a meal together, so Jesus leads them to a quiet place so that they can rest (v. 31). Unfortunately, the crowd beats them to the solitary place before they reach it by boat (v. 32-33). I probably would have sighed and complained about the lack of privacy, but Jesus has compassion on them, seeing them as "sheep without a shepherd" (v. 34). There are many churches without pastors today and there are many more without Bible-preaching pastors. They also are like "sheep without a shepherd." As Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field" (Matthew 9:37).

Saturday -- May 18 (Mark 6:35-44)

The disciples want the crowd to go away so that they can eat and rest (v. 35). Jesus, however, has other plans, so He directs His men to feed them (v. 37). They figure that it will take eight months' wages to feed that hungry bunch of people. Jesus asks, "How many loaves do you have" (v. 38)? He often takes inventory to see if we are willing to place what we have before Him. The answer to that question is insignificant because "Little is much when God is in it." He takes the loaves and the fish and looks up to heaven and gives thanks. The crowd of 5000 men plus their wives and children has a feast and leaves 12 basketfuls of broken pieces for another meal. This same God can take the little that you have and supply all your needs (see Philippians 4:19).