

## 20:20 Vision Ministries -- Devotions by Roger Browning Week 21 (May 19-25, 2013)

Mark records many of Jesus' miracles in his gospel. We will continue studying more of these in this week's devotions.

### Sunday -- May 19 (Mark 6:45-52)

Jesus **makes** His disciples get into the boat and head out onto the lake even though He is well aware that a violent storm is on the horizon. He uses this time to pray to His Father (v. 45-46). With the wind against them, the men are struggling at the oars. Have you ever found yourself in a storm and wondered where Jesus was? He is **always** near because He loves you and understands that the wind is against true Christians on this earth (v. 47-48). Just as He does with the disciples, Jesus appears at the last possible second when we have exhausted our **physical strength**. Note that He is about to **pass by** them. Although He wants to help us in our storms, He waits for us to cry out to Him in prayer; then, He gives us **spiritual strength** (v. 49-50). His presence can calm any storm you are facing (v. 50-52). Invite Him to sail with you today.

### Monday -- May 20 (Mark 6:53-56)

Verse 52 ends with, "their hearts were hardened." Even though the disciples have been eyewitnesses to the miracles of Christ, they still can't understand the power He has over the forces of nature. The people, however, know about His **healings**; therefore, they come from all around to bring their **physical needs** to Him. How I wish that folks would be this excited about having their sins forgiven by the power displayed on the cross (v. 53-55). Nevertheless, Jesus allows the people to touch Him "and all who touched Him were healed" (v. 56). I pray that you will commit your lives to bringing people to Jesus. Many, if not most, of my readers have never brought **one person** to salvation by introducing them to the Lord. Pray for their physical needs, but focus on their **spiritual needs**. He is able to do far more than you can ask or think (Ephesians 3:20).

### Tuesday -- May 21 (Mark 7:24-30)

Jesus came into our world to offer salvation to the Jews who would, in turn, present the gospel to Gentiles. In today's text, He is seeking privacy so that He can teach His disciples (v. 24). Then and now, it is impossible to keep His presence a secret. A Greek woman in desperate need falls at His feet in worship. Her daughter is possessed by a demon, so she begs for Jesus to help her (v. 25-26). Our Lord reminds her that He is sent first to the Jews and is not yet ready to take their bread and give it to Gentiles (dogs). Undeterred, she responds that all she is seeking is the crumbs that fall from Jewish tables (v. 28). Jesus rewards her tremendous faith by healing her daughter. Do you have faith enough to persevere against insurmountable odds in your prayer life? Our Lord wants you to come boldly before His throne of grace to claim His promises (see Hebrews 4:16).

### Wednesday -- May 22 (Mark 7:31-37)

Jesus cannot go anywhere without meeting someone in need of His healing touch. In Decapolis, some people bring Him a deaf mute and beg the Lord to heal him (v. 31-32). Jesus takes the man **away from the crowd** because, unlike today's TV "faith healers," He does not need to make a public show of His miracles. He places His DNA on the man by touching his tongue with His own saliva (v. 33-34). The man's speech returns because his hearing is restored (v. 35). This is special to me because I experienced a similar miracle when I was 12 years old. God called me to preach and then healed my speech impediment so that I could accomplish His will. Jesus commands the people who witness this healing not to tell anyone, but the recipients of His miracles never obey His command to **keep quiet** about their physical healings (v. 36-37). Today, we have the opposite problem. Few of us obey His command to **tell the whole world** about His salvation (see Matthew 28:18-20).

### Thursday -- May 23 (Mark 8:1-13)

Jesus' disciples should know by now that He can multiply their inventory of bread and fish (see Mark 6:30-44). How many times in our own lives have we seen God's miraculous power, and yet, when faced with new trials, we still doubt His power (v. 1-4)? Once again, Jesus takes inventory before He performs His miracle (v. 5). He will not do for us what we have the resources to do for ourselves. He gives thanks for the seven loaves and few fish prior to producing an all-you-can-eat buffet for 4000 men plus their families (v. 6-9). The disciples gather up seven basketfuls of bread from the leftovers. How hard it is for people to open their hands to give Jesus what they already have! They are quick to ask for a miracle, but they are reluctant to answer the age-old question, "What is that in your hand" (Exodus 4:2)?

### Friday -- May 24 (Mark 8:22-26)

We have not yet found the favorite miracle of Jesus, but we have come to **my** personal favorite (other than His #1 of course). Mark emphasizes the faith of others who bring their friend to Jesus and plead for His healing touch (v. 22). Once again, Jesus removes Himself from the crowd. He places His spit (DNA) on the man's eyes before asking him a question, "Do you see anything" (v. 23)? The man's answer is honest: "**I see people**; they look like trees walking around" (v. 24). How many folks do you know who have asked Jesus for salvation, but still have their **eyes on people**? Our Lord wants to touch them again so that they can see **everything** clearly (v. 25). Biblically, this is known as **sanctification**, a miracle of God available to everyone who has been saved. Allow Him to open your eyes today as you experience His "second touch."

### Saturday -- May 25 (Mark 8:27-38)

This passage does not tell about a miracle, but I want you to read it in light of yesterday's devotions. I believe Jesus purposely **illustrates** the truth found in today's study when He uses **two touches** to heal the blind man (v. 22-26). Many folks correctly identify Him as the Christ, the Son of the Living God (v. 29), but fewer realize the necessity of the cross for salvation (v. 31-33). Like the blind man in yesterday's text, their eyes are on **people** rather than on the Lord. Therefore, they reject the message of a sacrificed life (v. 34-38) after asking Him to forgive their sins. May God help us to truly give the **control** of our lives to the Lord Jesus Christ. Please do not try to accept Him as **Savior** while denying Him as **Lord**!