

## 20:20 Vision Ministries -- Devotions by Roger Browning Week 22 (May 26-June 1, 2013)

We have been studying the miracles of Jesus as recorded in Mark's gospel. This week, we will include some passages from Luke to show you our Lord's favorite miracle.

### Sunday -- May 26 (Mark 9:14-22)

Jesus returns with Peter, James and John from the Mount of Transfiguration (see v. 2-13) and finds His disciples arguing with the teachers of the law (v. 14). The people are thrilled to see the Lord (v. 15). Jesus learns from an anxious parent that the nine disciples are unable to heal his **demon-possessed son** who cannot speak and who suffers from seizures (v. 17-18). Our Lord rebukes His men for not having enough faith to heal the lad and asks for the boy to be brought to Him (v. 19). Knowing his time of controlling the youngster is about to end, the demon makes one more attempt to destroy him (v. 20). This demon has tried many times to kill him by throwing him into the water or the fire (v. 21-22). We will follow this beautiful story in tomorrow's devotions.

### Monday -- May 27 (Mark 9:22-27)

The child's father makes a desperate request for help from Jesus by saying, "**But if you can do anything** (emphasis mine), take pity on us and help us" (v. 22). Don't be too hard on the dad for his weak faith. He has been dealing with this problem for such a long time that he is afraid to get his hopes up too high. Jesus encourages the man by stating one of the Bible's great promises: "Everything is possible for him who believes" (v. 23). I love the honesty of the father who says, "I do believe; **help me overcome my unbelief**" (v. 24, emphasis mine). This poor fellow is afraid that he doesn't have enough faith to bring about his son's healing. Our Lord rebukes the evil spirit and commands him to **come out and stay out** (v. 25)! The demon causes one final seizure that makes the lad look lifeless, but Jesus takes the boy's hand and lifts him to his feet (v. 26-27). Can you imagine the father's excitement as he shares the miracle with the boy's mother?

### Tuesday -- May 28 (Mark 9:28-29)

Today's text teaches about the miracle of effective praying. The Lord's disciples are embarrassed that they were not able to heal the boy (v. 28). Jesus uses this as a teaching moment by stating, "This kind can come out only by prayer and fasting" (v. 29 with NIV footnote). In today's fast-paced society, the discipline of fasting has become almost obsolete. A whole chapter is devoted to this subject in Isaiah 58. The idea is not just to give up eating; it is to spend extra time in prayer. Fasting will not help unless you use the extra time to talk and listen to God. Tough days are ahead for Bible-believing Christians. Let's pledge to do whatever it takes to be prepared for the persecutions that are promised to "everyone who wants to live a Godly life in Christ Jesus" (see 2 Timothy 3:12).

### **Wednesday -- May 29 (Mark 10:46-52)**

Jesus is leaving the beautiful city of Jericho when Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, calls out to Him for mercy (v. 46-47). The disciples, who earlier had no time for children (see Mark 10:13-16), have no time to deal with this needy blind man either (v. 48). His plea, however, causes our Lord to stop in His tracks and to say, "Call him." Bartimaeus is informed of the Lord's attention, so he throws his cloak aside and jumps to his feet (49-50). Jesus asks, "What do you want me to do for you?" The man replies, "Rabbi, I want to see" (v. 51). His sight is restored and he follows Jesus down the road (v. 52). Are you aware that Jesus is calling to you and asking you to articulate your needs in prayer? Have you received your spiritual sight? Are you following the Lord down the road of life?

### **Thursday -- May 30 (Luke 7:1-10)**

I want to emphasize a couple of miracles found in Luke that Mark does not record. Today's text tells of a Roman centurion who has a good reputation for helping the Jews in the building of a synagogue. The man's valuable servant is very sick and is nearing death, but the centurion does not consider himself worthy of approaching Jesus, so he sends some Jewish elders to make the request for healing (v. 1-5). The Lord goes with them, but the humble Roman leader sends some friends to stop Him before He gets to his house (v. 6). The centurion does not feel worthy to have Jesus enter his home, but he understands the authority of the Word of God living in our Lord (v. 7-8). Jesus marvels at the man's faith and heals the servant as requested just by speaking the healing into existence (v. 9-10). This same Lord wants you to have enough faith to claim His many promises found in His infallible Word and to recognize the **authority** of His Word.

### **Friday -- May 31 (Luke 7:11-17)**

This text tells of one of the three people whom Jesus brought back from the dead. With a large crowd following Him, He enters a town called Nain (v. 11). He meets a funeral procession carrying the only son of a widow lady (v. 12). Can you imagine the anguish of this poor woman who is burying her treasured son after burying her husband? Jesus tenderly says, "Don't cry" and goes up and touches the coffin. Those who are carrying the deceased stand still and hear the Lord say, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" The dead man sits up in his coffin and **begins to talk** (v. 13-15). All of us who have received **new life in Christ** should be anxious to tell others as well. Why is it so hard for **us** to talk about our salvation? Shouldn't it be natural to share the good news with our friends? There is a great celebration among the onlookers who realize that Jesus is God and "has come to help His people" (v. 16-17). Just as these people spread the good news, we too should be spreading the truth about who Jesus is.

### **Saturday -- June 1 (Luke 10:17-20)**

We finally arrive at the text that teaches Jesus' favorite miracle. He had just sent out 72 workers ahead of His personal visits to neighboring towns (see Luke 10:1). These men return and report the amazing results of their ministry (v. 17). Jesus sees a preview of Revelation 12:7-12 when Satan and his demons are expelled from Heaven permanently (v. 18-19). Then He commands them not to rejoice about the authority He has given to them. Instead, He commands His workers to rejoice that their **names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life in Heaven!** There you have God's greatest miracle! Salvation through faith in Jesus Christ stands alone as the winner of this award!