

MT 8, 11, 14-17, 11-14; MK 6-9; LK 9-12; JN 6-9

The gospels contain many accounts of miracles that Jesus performed. These miracles made it clear that Jesus was a messenger from God. Even more significantly, the healing miracles that Jesus performed had never been done before and the Old Testament identified them as miracles that would be done by the promised Messiah. The miracles of Jesus were evidence of his authority – as God’s spokesman, as Messiah and as God the Son! They showed his power over sickness, demons, and the forces of nature. These miracles aroused the opposition of the Pharisees, who accused Jesus of drawing on Satan’s power. As their opposition to Jesus hardened, the religious leaders challenged him and tried to undermine his appeal to the people.

In addition to miracles we see in these reading how Jesus instructed his disciples. Jesus taught his disciples what it would mean to follow him and spoke of his coming crucifixion. Jesus taught that God loves sinners and searches for them – in stark contrast to the Pharisees who self-righteously hated sinners. He taught compassion and mercy in his interactions with the faithful. We begin to see the call we, as disciples, have to serve others – just as Jesus served.

### Weekly Reading Plan (pp. 1151-1181)

Day 1: MT 14:13-21; MK 6:30-44; LK 9:10-17;  
JN 6:1-15; MT 14:22-33; MK 6:45-52;  
JN 6:16-21; MT 14:34-36; MK 6:53-56;  
JN 6:22-71

Day 2: MT 15:1-20; MK 7:1-23; MT 15:21-31;  
MK 7:24-37; MT 15:32-39; MK 8:1-10

Day 3: MT 16:1-12; MK 8:11-26; MT 16:13-28;  
MK 8:27-9:1; LK 9:18-27; MT 17:1-13;  
MK 9:2-13; LK 9:28-36

Day 4: MT 17:14-23; MK 9:14-32; LK 9:37-45;  
MT 17:24-18:9; MK 9:33-50;  
LK 9:46-50

Day 5: JN 7:1-8:59

Day 6: JN 9:1-10:21; MT 8:18-22; LK 9:51-62

Day 7: MT 11:20-30; LK 10:1-42; 11:37-12:12

### Outline

Feeding the 5,000 (Day 1)  
Walking on Water (Day 1)  
Popularity at Gennesaret and Capernaum (Day 1)  
Controversy over Traditions (Day 2)  
Ministry in Gentile Regions (Day 2)  
Feeding the 4,000 (Day 2)  
Teaching About the Pharisees (Day 3)  
The Christ and His Disciples (Day 3)  
The Transfiguration (Day 3)  
Faithless Generation (Day 4)  
Being Christ’s Disciple (Day 4)  
Attending the Festival of Tabernacles (Day 5)  
Forgiving an Adulteress (Day 5)  
Discussions with the Pharisees (Day 5)  
Healing the Man Born Blind (Day 6)  
Jesus, the Good Shepherd (Day 6)  
Through Samaria Toward Jerusalem (Day 6)  
Mission of the 72 Disciples (Day 7)  
Compassion and Mercy from a Samaritan (Day 7)  
Visiting in Bethany (Day 7)  
Hypocrisy of the Lawyers and Pharisees (Day 7)

# Miracles, Compassion, and Discipleship

AUG 13-19, 2024

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Key Characters		Key Locations		Key Terms	
Jesus	Apostles	Bethsaida	Sea of Galilee	Disciples	Miracle
Pharisees	Sadducees	Mountain	Gennesaret	Signs	Prophet
Crowds	Nicodemus	Capernaum	Tiberias	Faith	Healing
Disciples	Martha	Tyre	Sidon	Eternal life	Bread of life
Mary		Decapolis	Dalmanutha	Messiah	Prayer
		Cesarea	Galilee	Transfiguration	Son of Man
		Jerusalem	Judea	Kingdom of God	Demons
		Mt of Olives	Pool of Siloam	Light	Darkness
		Samaria	Chorazin	Parable	Hypocrisy
		Bethany			

## Key Verses

Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid (MK 6:50)

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day...No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. (JN 6:44-48)

"Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to it." (MK 8:12)

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. (MT 16:18-19)

Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." (MT 16:23)

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? (MK 8:35-36)

"This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" (MT 17:5)

Everything is possible for one who believes (MK 9:23)

"Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (MT 18:3)

"Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For it is the one who is the least among you all who is the greatest. (LK 9:48)

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. (JN 8:12)

## Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Mt14: Herod had John the Baptist killed. Jesus fed 5,000 men with five loaves and two fish. Jesus came to the disciples walking on the sea.

Mk6: He sent the twelve out to preach. Herod executed John the Baptist. Jesus fed 5,000 men. He came to the disciples walking on the sea.

Lk9: Jesus sent out the twelve. He fed 5,000 men. Peter said, "You are the Christ." Jesus said, "Take up your cross." He was transfigured.

Jn6: Jesus fed 5,000 men and walked across the sea. He said, "I am the bread of life. My flesh is true food." Many disciples turned back.

Mt15: Jesus challenged the Pharisees about tradition. He healed a Canaanite woman's daughter. He taught on the mountain and fed 4,000 men.

Mk7: The Pharisees questioned Jesus about tradition. He said, "Evil comes from within." He delivered a Gentile girl and healed a deaf man.

Mk8: Jesus fed 4,000 people and healed a blind man. Peter said, "You are the Christ." Jesus told them that he must be killed and rise again.

Mt16: Peter said, "You are the Christ." Jesus told them that he must be killed and be raised. He said, "Take up your cross and follow me."

Mt17: Jesus took Peter, James and John and was transfigured. A voice said, "This is my son." Jesus healed an epileptic. Peter paid the tax.

Mk9: Jesus took Peter, James and John and was transfigured. He healed an epileptic. The disciples argued about which of them was greatest.

Jn7: Jesus went to the feast. The people said, "Is this the Christ?" The chief priests tried to arrest him. He called out, "Come and drink."

Jn8: Jesus did not condemn a woman caught in adultery. The Pharisees questioned him. He said, "If God were your Father you would love me."

Jn9: Jesus healed a blind man on the Sabbath. The Pharisees called the man and threw him out. Jesus said, "I came that the blind may see."

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## Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Jn10: Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. I give my life for the sheep." They asked, "Are you the Christ?" He said, "My sheep follow me."

Mt8: Jesus cleansed a leper. He healed the servant of a centurion who had faith. He calmed a storm at sea and cast demons out of two men.

Mt11: John sent word from prison. Jesus said, "John the Baptist is Elijah." Jesus denounced the cities and said, "

Lk10: Jesus sent out the seventy-two. A lawyer asked, "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus said, "A man was robbed. He was helped by a Samaritan. "Come, my burden is light."

Lk11: Jesus said, "Pray, 'Father, your kingdom come.' Seek and you will find. Only the sign of Jonah will be given. Woe to you Pharisees!"

Lk12: Jesus said, "Even the hairs of your head are numbered. Sell your possessions. Be ready for the Son of Man. I came to bring division."

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## What did I learn about God?

- What insights about Jesus does the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand give you? How have you seen Jesus stretch your resources beyond what could be imagined?
- What helps stimulate your memory of God's mercy? How helpful is it for you to hear the stories of where God has worked in the lives of other Christians? Why?
- How does the way Jesus treats the woman caught in adultery (John 7:53-8:11) exemplify "grace and truth?" How does the way Jesus treated this woman help you face your sins? Jesus accepts you "as is." Does that free you to change or does it support your bad behavior? How so? What can you learn from Jesus about helping a friend who has fallen?
- How does it make you feel to think of God caring for you as the Good Shepherd?
- In Luke 10: 22, Jesus says: "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." What does this verse tell you about those who claim to know God without Christ?

## What did I learn about human nature?

- In the story of feeding the 5,000, how do you account for the differences in the way Jesus and the disciples view the crowd? What did the disciples fail to see in the feeding of the 5,000 that could have helped them when they saw Jesus walking on the water?
- In John 6:60-71, we are told that many of Jesus' disciples leave and no longer follow him. What teaching do the followers find unacceptable (John 6:54-56)? Why do you think Peter and the others decided to stay?
- Why did the religious leaders want to kill Jesus?
- When have you seen religious principles put ahead of love?
- What do you feel about the harvest where you live? Are people ripe for the Gospel? What would it take for you to be more involved in the harvest?

## What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Where might God be leading you to step out of your comfort zone and walk in faith with him? How are you stepping out of the boat and taking risks?
- How would you have reacted if you saw Jesus walking on the water?
- How does Jesus reveal himself to you today? Are you ever upset by what he says? Why? What words of Jesus do you find hard for you to accept?
- The three disciples who witnessed the transfiguration (Luke 9:28-36) told no one at the time what they had seen. When have you experienced God in an unusual way? What happened? Are you comfortable sharing your story?
- Have you ever been helped by a stranger? Who has been a Good Samaritan in your life? How can you be a Good Samaritan to someone in need? Why do you think Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan in response to the lawyer's question "who is my neighbor"?