

Send questions to: pastornick@htchurch.com

On YouTube: @htchurch

Save the date for our next Saturday Seminar on the morning of April 25.

We'll have breakfast at 9 am, then our seminar from 9:30 until about noon!

Recap

- Jesus has been doing things that were at odds with people’s understanding of the Sabbath and other laws. He said, “Blessed is He who is not offended because of Me.” And yet, chapters 7–8 were a time of great popularity for Jesus.
- In chapters 8–10, Jesus will continue to show His power over demonic spirits, death, and nature. Soon He will head in the direction of Jerusalem.

Jesus commands the winds and water (8:22-25)

22 Now it happened, on a certain day, that He got into a boat with His disciples. And He said to them, “Let us cross over to the other side of the lake.” And they launched out. 23 But as they sailed He fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water, and were in jeopardy. 24 And they came to Him and awoke Him, saying, “Master, Master, we are perishing!” Then He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm. 25 But He said to them, “Where is your faith?” And they were afraid, and marveled, saying to one another, “Who can this be? For He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!”

- Luke again highlights Jesus' mastery of nature.
- The Sea of Galilee is very low (nearly 700 feet below sea level). There are high hills on the east side, and smaller hills on the west, which makes it a kind of a bowl. Cold winds from the north can cause big storms to pop up quickly.
- We see the disciples' lack of confidence in Jesus' word of command to cross the lake. The Lord commends the faith of a number of people in Luke, but the disciples seem to struggle at times.
- In the Old Testament, it's only God who can silence the storms and the seas!
- The question "Who can this be?" is left unresolved at the end of the story.

Jesus casts out a legion of demons (8:26-39)

26 Then they sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. 27 And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs. 28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!" 29 For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness.

30 Jesus asked him, saying, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him. 31 And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.

32 Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them. 33 Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned.

34 When those who fed them saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. 35 Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. 36 They also who had seen it told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was healed. 37 Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. And He got into the boat and returned.

38 Now the man from whom the demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, 39 "Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you." And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.

- They have now traveled to a mostly non-Jewish area.
- We see the Lord's mastery over everything that could oppose God.
- Observe the sad condition to which the demons had reduced this man. A Roman legion was between 5-6,000 troops. Why choose this name?
- Notice also the demons' fear of Jesus, and their full knowledge of who He was.
- The abyss was the place of the dead, or imprisoned evil spirits.

- The restored man is seated before Jesus like a disciple.
- Those who are truly delivered by Jesus are indeed His greatest evangelists!

Twin healings (8:40-56)

40 So it was, when Jesus returned, that the multitude welcomed Him, for they were all waiting for Him. 41 And behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue. And he fell down at Jesus' feet and begged Him to come to his house, 42 for he had an only daughter about twelve years of age, and she was dying. But as He went, the multitudes thronged Him.

43 Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any, 44 came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped. 45 And Jesus said, "Who touched Me?" When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, "Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'"

46 But Jesus said, "Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me." 47 Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately.

- Here are two people whose conditions compel them to find Jesus.
- Jairus's desperation drives him to Jesus despite his status.

- Being ritually unclean, the woman should not have even been associating with people. If she is not healed by touching Jesus, then she has made Him unclean!
- The hem or border of the garment is the fringe or tassels on the outer robe. These reminded the Jew of his connection to the Law.
- Jesus senses the power of God (*dunamis*) flowing out of His body into her.

48 And He said to her, "Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace." 49 While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher."

50 But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well." 51 When He came into the house, He permitted no one to go in except Peter, James, and John, and the father and mother of the girl. 52 Now all wept and mourned for her; but He said, "Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping." 53 And they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead.

54 But He put them all outside, took her by the hand and called, saying, "Little girl, arise." 55 Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that she be given something to eat. 56 And her parents were astonished, but He charged them to tell no one what had happened.

- Jesus was tender to the woman, calling her "daughter."

- The healing probably helped Jairus' faith. See how Jesus is quick to encourage!
- On some occasions, probably when greater faith was required, Jesus would bring an inner circle of Peter, James, and John. That inner circle of three seems to have continued on, and appears years later in Galatians.
- When faith is called for, avoid people who will bring us down and attack our belief. Even Jesus' ministry could be hindered by people's unbelief.
- Again, Jesus is stronger than death and impurity.

The Twelve are sent out (9:1-6)

1 Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. 2 He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. 3 And He said to them, "Take nothing for the journey, neither staffs nor bag nor bread nor money; and do not have two tunics apiece. 4 Whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. 5 And whoever will not receive you, when you go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet as a testimony against them." 6 So they departed and went through the towns, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.

- Jesus sends them with the same mission that He had! The Kingdom of God must be demonstrated and not just talked about.
- It was important for them (and for us!) to "travel light."
- The shaking of the dust means a rejection of them as if they were Gentiles.

- We will now see Jesus revealing more about Himself to His disciples.

Herod desires to see Jesus (9:7-9)

7 Now Herod the tetrarch heard of all that was done by Him; and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had risen from the dead, 8 and by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the old prophets had risen again. 9 Herod said, “John I have beheaded, but who is this of whom I hear such things?” So he sought to see Him.

- God said in Malachi that He would send Elijah before the great and terrible Day of the Lord. Jews therefore expected the coming of Elijah before Messiah came.
- Notice that Herod wanted to see Jesus, not hear Him.

Jesus feeds the five thousand (9:10-17)

10 And the apostles, when they had returned, told Him all that they had done. Then He took them and went aside privately into a deserted place belonging to the city called Bethsaida. 11 But when the multitudes knew it, they followed Him; and He received them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who had need of healing.

12 When the day began to wear away, the twelve came and said to Him, “Send the multitude away, that they may go into the surrounding towns and country, and lodge and get provisions; for we are in a deserted place here.”

13 But He said to them, "You give them something to eat." And they said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless we go and buy food for all these people." 14 For there were about five thousand men. Then He said to His disciples, "Make them sit down in groups of fifty." 15 And they did so, and made them all sit down.

16 Then He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the multitude. 17 So they all ate and were filled, and twelve baskets of the leftover fragments were taken up by them.

- Jesus values our need for rest and refreshing.
- His constant theme was the Kingdom of God. Jesus' message was that people must repent and believe the Good News (Mark 1:15).
- Jesus does things decently and in order – having them sit down in groups.
- This story is important – it's the only miracle told in all four Gospels.

A confession and a warning (9:18-22)

18 And it happened, as He was alone praying, that His disciples joined Him, and He asked them, saying, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" 19 So they answered and said, "John the Baptist, but some say Elijah; and others say that one of the old prophets has risen again."

20 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered and said, “The Christ of God.” 21 And He strictly warned and commanded them to tell this to no one, 22 saying, “The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.”

- Jesus was asking what the common people thought about Him.
- Peter identifies Jesus as the Messiah – an insight which we know from Matthew’s Gospel was given to him from the Father, supernaturally.
 - Christ (*christos* in the Greek) is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word *moshiach*, which means “anointed one.” The word *moshiach* is the word from which we get our English word *messiah*.
 - To be anointed meant you were chosen and empowered by God.
- The ultimate anointed one, though, would be the Messiah. “The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me...” (see Luke 4).
- Jesus wants this revelation kept within the circle of disciples for now.
- Now He tells them plainly about His suffering and death.
