



Monday, April 27 – Sunday, May 3

MONDAY, APRIL 27

PRAY:

Ask God to speak to you through the Bible reading today.

READ:

Luke 8:1–21 (NLT) [1] Soon afterward Jesus began a tour of the nearby towns and villages, preaching and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom of God. He took his twelve disciples with him, [2] along with some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases. Among them were Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons; [3] Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's business manager; Susanna; and many others who were contributing from their own resources to support Jesus and his disciples. [4] One day Jesus told a story in the form of a parable to a large crowd that had gathered from many towns to hear him: [5] "A farmer went out to plant his seed. As he scattered it across his field, some seed fell on a footpath, where it was stepped on, and the birds ate it. [6] Other seed fell among rocks. It began to grow, but the plant soon wilted and died for lack of moisture. [7] Other seed fell among thorns that grew up with it and choked out the tender plants. [8] Still other seed fell on fertile soil. This seed grew and produced a crop that was a hundred times as much as had been planted!" When he had said this, he called out, "Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand." [9] His disciples asked him what this parable meant. [10] He replied, "You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of God. But I use parables to teach the others so that the Scriptures might be fulfilled: 'When they look, they won't really see. When they hear, they won't understand.'" [11] "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is God's word. [12] The seeds that fell on the footpath represent those who hear the message, only to have the devil come and take it away from their hearts and prevent them from believing and being saved. [13] The seeds on the rocky soil represent those who hear the message and receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they believe for a while, then they fall away when they face temptation. [14] The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity. [15] And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God's word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest. [16] "No one lights a lamp and then covers it with a bowl or hides it under a bed. A lamp is placed on a stand, where its light can be seen by all who enter the house. [17] For all that is secret will eventually be brought into the open, and everything that is concealed will be brought to light and made known to all. [18] "So pay attention to how you hear. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what they think they understand will be taken away from them."

REFLECT:

1. What are the truths and/or principles that stood out to you from what you just read?
2. What did you learn about Jesus from this Scripture?
3. Is there any sin you need to confess to God and/or to others that God revealed to you through what you just read?
4. Is there anything you believe God would want you to do in response to today's scripture reading?
5. How do these verses offer hope to you in this uncertain time?
6. Is there someone you can bless, serve, and encourage today?

PRAY:

- Tell God at least one thing you love and appreciate about who He is
- Thank God for something that happened in your life yesterday
- Pray for at least one other person
- Pray for yourself - Ask God to help you "live as Jesus lived."

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

PRAY:

Ask God to speak to you through the Bible reading today.

READ:

Luke 8:19–56 (NLT) [19] Then Jesus' mother and brothers came to see him, but they couldn't get to him because of the crowd. [20] Someone told Jesus, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, and they want to see you." [21] Jesus replied, "My mother and my brothers are all those who hear God's word and obey it." [22] One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's cross to the other side of the lake." So they got into a boat and started out. [23] As they sailed across, Jesus settled down for a nap. But soon a fierce storm came down on the lake. The boat was filling with water, and they were in real danger. [24] The disciples went and woke him up, shouting, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and the raging waves. Suddenly the storm stopped and all was calm. [25] Then he asked them, "Where is your faith?" The disciples were terrified and amazed. "Who is this man?" they asked each other. "When he gives a command, even the wind and waves obey him!" [26] So they arrived in the region of the Gerasenes, across the lake from Galilee. [27] As Jesus was climbing out of the boat, a man who was possessed by demons came out to meet him. For a long time he had been homeless and naked, living in the tombs outside the town. [28] As soon as he saw Jesus, he shrieked and fell down in front of him. Then he screamed, "Why are you interfering with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Please, I beg you, don't torture me!" [29] For Jesus had already commanded the evil spirit to come out of him. This spirit had often taken control of the man. Even when he was placed under guard and put in chains and shackles, he simply broke them and rushed out into the wilderness, completely under the demon's power. [30] Jesus demanded, "What is your name?" "Legion," he replied, for he was filled with many demons. [31] The demons kept begging Jesus not to send them into the bottomless pit. [32] There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding on the hillside nearby, and the demons begged him to let them enter into the pigs. So Jesus gave them permission. [33] Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the entire herd plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned. [34] When the herdsmen saw it, they fled to the nearby town and the surrounding countryside, spreading the news as they ran. [35] People rushed out to see what had happened. A crowd soon gathered around Jesus, and they saw the man who had been freed from the demons. He was sitting at Jesus' feet, fully clothed and perfectly sane, and they were all afraid. [36] Then those who had seen what happened told the others how the demon-possessed man had been healed. [37] And all the people in the region of the Gerasenes begged Jesus to go away and leave them alone, for a great wave of fear swept over them. So Jesus returned to the boat and left, crossing back to the other side of the lake. [38] The man who had been freed from the demons begged to go with him. But Jesus sent him home, saying, [39] "No, go back to your family, and tell them everything God has done for you." So he went all through the town proclaiming the great things Jesus had done for him.

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4. Is there anything you believe God would want you to do in response to today's scripture reading?
5. How do these verses offer hope to you in this uncertain time?
6. Is there someone you can bless, serve, and encourage today?

PRAY:

- Tell God at least one thing you love and appreciate about who He is
- Thank God for something that happened in your life yesterday
- Pray for at least one other person
- Pray for yourself - Ask God to help you "live as Jesus lived."

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

PRAY:

Ask God to speak to you through the Bible reading today.

READ:

Luke 8:40–56 (NLT) [40] On the other side of the lake the crowds welcomed Jesus, because they had been waiting for him. [41] Then a man named Jairus, a leader of the local synagogue, came and fell at Jesus' feet, pleading with him to come home with him. [42] His only daughter, who was about twelve years old, was dying. As Jesus went with him, he was surrounded by the crowds. [43] A woman in the crowd had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding, and she could find no cure. [44] Coming up behind Jesus, she touched the fringe of his robe. Immediately, the bleeding stopped. [45] "Who touched me?" Jesus asked. Everyone denied it, and Peter said, "Master, this whole crowd is pressing up against you." [46] But Jesus said, "Someone deliberately touched me, for I felt healing power go out from me." [47] When the woman realized that she could not stay hidden, she began to tremble and fell to her knees in front of him. The whole crowd heard her explain why she had touched him and that she had been immediately healed. [48] "Daughter," he said to her, "your faith has made you well. Go in peace." [49] While he was still speaking to her, a messenger arrived from the home of Jairus, the leader of the synagogue. He told him, "Your daughter is dead. There's no use troubling the Teacher now." [50] But when Jesus heard what had happened, he said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid. Just have faith, and she will be healed." [51] When they arrived at the house, Jesus wouldn't let anyone go in with him except Peter, John, James, and the little girl's father and mother. [52] The house was filled with people weeping and wailing, but he said, "Stop the weeping! She isn't dead; she's only asleep." [53] But the crowd laughed at him because they all knew she had died. [54] Then Jesus took her by the hand and said in a loud voice, "My child, get up!" [55] And at that moment her life returned, and she immediately stood up! Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat. [56] Her parents were overwhelmed, but Jesus insisted that they not tell anyone what had happened.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 30

PRAY:

Ask God to speak to you through the Bible reading today.

READ:

Matthew 8:14–34 (NLT) [14] When Jesus arrived at Peter's house, Peter's mother-in-law was sick in bed with a high fever. [15] But when Jesus touched her hand, the fever left her. Then she got up and prepared a meal for him. [16] That evening many demon-possessed people were brought to Jesus. He cast out the evil spirits with a simple command, and he healed all the sick. [17] This fulfilled the word of the Lord through the prophet Isaiah, who said, "He took our sicknesses and removed our diseases." [18] When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he instructed his disciples to cross to the other side of the lake. [19] Then one of the teachers of religious law said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." [20] But Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head." [21] Another of his disciples said, "Lord, first let me return home and bury my father." [22] But Jesus told him, "Follow me now. Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead." [23] Then Jesus got into the boat and started across the lake with his disciples. [24] Suddenly, a fierce storm struck the lake, with waves breaking into the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. [25] The disciples went and woke him up, shouting, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" [26] Jesus responded, "Why are you afraid? You have so little faith!" Then he got up and rebuked the wind and waves, and suddenly there was a great calm. [27] The disciples were amazed. "Who is this man?" they asked. "Even the winds and waves obey him!" [28] When Jesus arrived on the other side of the lake, in the region of the Gadarenes, two men who were possessed by demons met him. They came out of the tombs and were so violent that no one could go through that area. [29] They began screaming at him, "Why are you interfering with us, Son of God? Have you come here to torture us before God's appointed time?" [30] There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding in the distance. [31] So the demons begged, "If you cast us out, send us into that herd of pigs." [32] "All right, go!" Jesus commanded them. So the demons came out of the men and entered the pigs, and the whole herd plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned in the water. [33] The herdsmen fled to the nearby town, telling everyone what happened to the demon-possessed men. [34] Then the entire town came out to meet Jesus, but they begged him to go away and leave them alone.

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FRIDAY, MAY 1

PRAY:

Ask God to speak to you through the Bible reading today.

READ:

Matthew 9:1–17 (NLT) [1] Jesus climbed into a boat and went back across the lake to his own town. [2] Some people brought to him a paralyzed man on a mat. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, “Be encouraged, my child! Your sins are forgiven.” [3] But some of the teachers of religious law said to themselves, “That’s blasphemy! Does he think he’s God?” [4] Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he asked them, “Why do you have such evil thoughts in your hearts? [5] Is it easier to say ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or ‘Stand up and walk’? [6] So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins.” Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, “Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!” [7] And the man jumped up and went home! [8] Fear swept through the crowd as they saw this happen. And they praised God for giving humans such authority. [9] As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector’s booth. “Follow me and be my disciple,” Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him. [10] Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. [11] But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with such scum?” [12] When Jesus heard this, he said, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do.” [13] Then he added, “Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: ‘I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.’ For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.” [14] One day the disciples of John the Baptist came to Jesus and asked him, “Why don’t your disciples fast like we do and the Pharisees do?” [15] Jesus replied, “Do wedding guests mourn while celebrating with the groom? Of course not. But someday the groom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast. [16] “Besides, who would patch old clothing with new cloth? For the new patch would shrink and rip away from the old cloth, leaving an even bigger tear than before. [17] “And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the old skins would burst from the pressure, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. New wine is stored in new wineskins so that both are preserved.”

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SATURDAY, MAY 2

PRAY:

Ask God to speak to you through the Bible reading today.

READ:

Matthew 9:18–38 (NLT) [18] As Jesus was saying this, the leader of a synagogue came and knelt before him. “My daughter has just died,” he said, “but you can bring her back to life again if you just come and lay your hand on her.” [19] So Jesus and his disciples got up and went with him. [20] Just then a woman who had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding came up behind him. She touched the fringe of his robe, [21] for she thought, “If I can just touch his robe, I will be healed.” [22] Jesus turned around, and when he saw her he said, “Daughter, be encouraged! Your faith has made you well.” And the woman was healed at that moment. [23] When Jesus arrived at the official’s home, he saw the noisy crowd and heard the funeral music. [24] “Get out!” he told them. “The girl isn’t dead; she’s only asleep.” But the crowd laughed at him. [25] After the crowd was put outside, however, Jesus went in and took the girl by the hand, and she stood up! [26] The report of this miracle swept through the entire countryside. [27] After Jesus left the girl’s home, two blind men followed along behind him, shouting, “Son of David, have mercy on us!” [28] They went right into the house where he was staying, and Jesus asked them, “Do you believe I can make you see?” “Yes, Lord,” they told him, “we do.” [29] Then he touched their eyes and said, “Because of your faith, it will happen.” [30] Then their eyes were opened, and they could see! Jesus sternly warned them, “Don’t tell anyone about this.” [31] But instead, they went out and spread his fame all over the region. [32] When they left, a demon-possessed man who couldn’t speak was brought to Jesus. [33] So Jesus cast out the demon, and then the man began to speak. The crowds were amazed. “Nothing like this has ever happened in Israel!” they exclaimed. [34] But the Pharisees said, “He can cast out demons because he is empowered by the prince of demons.” [35] Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. [36] When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. [37] He said to his disciples, “The harvest is great, but the workers are few. [38] So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.”

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SUNDAY, MAY 3

PRAY:

Ask God to speak to you through the Bible reading today.

READ:

Matthew 10:1–15 (NLT) [1] Jesus called his twelve disciples together and gave them authority to cast out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and illness. [2] Here are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (also called Peter), then Andrew (Peter's brother), James (son of Zebedee), John (James's brother), [3] Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew (the tax collector), James (son of Alphaeus), Thaddaeus, [4] Simon (the zealot), Judas Iscariot (who later betrayed him). [5] Jesus sent out the twelve apostles with these instructions: "Don't go to the Gentiles or the Samaritans, [6] but only to the people of Israel—God's lost sheep. [7] Go and announce to them that the Kingdom of Heaven is near. [8] Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received! [9] "Don't take any money in your money belts—no gold, silver, or even copper coins. [10] Don't carry a traveler's bag with a change of clothes and sandals or even a walking stick. Don't hesitate to accept hospitality, because those who work deserve to be fed. [11] "Whenever you enter a city or village, search for a worthy person and stay in his home until you leave town. [12] When you enter the home, give it your blessing. [13] If it turns out to be a worthy home, let your blessing stand; if it is not, take back the blessing. [14] If any household or town refuses to welcome you or listen to your message, shake its dust from your feet as you leave. [15] I tell you the truth, the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah will be better off than such a town on the judgment day.

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