

DAY TEN IO

Demons are servants of Satan and of evil. They existed in Christ's time and they exist now, though sophisticated disguises often veil their presence.

The "Sabbath" was Saturday, the Jewish day of rest. It was also a day of reflection on the Law of God in relationship to how people were living their lives.

Christ's recorded miracles together account for about a month of His four year public ministry. There were thousands of encounters that were never recorded!

Jesus would often withdraw to a quiet and lonely place to pray and spend time alone with His Father.

MIRACLES

Luke 4:31-44

And He came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And He was teaching them on the Sabbath; and they were amazed at His teaching, for His message was filled with authority. And there was a man in the synagogue possessed by the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, "Ha! What do we have to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are...the Holy One of God!" And Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown the man down in their midst, he came out of him without doing him any harm.

And amazement came upon them all, and they began discussing with one another saying, "What is this message? For He commands the unclean spirits with authority and power, and they come out." And the report about Him was circulating into every locality in the surrounding district. And He arose and left the synagogue, and entered Simon's home.

Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever; and they made request of Him on her behalf. And standing over her, He rebuked the fever, and it left her; and she immediately arose and waited on them.

And while the sun was setting, all those who had any sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and laying His hands on every one of them, He was healing them. And demons also were coming out of many, crying out and saying, "You are the Son of God!" And rebuking them, He would not allow them to speak, because they knew He was the Messiah.

And when day came, He departed and went to a lonely place; and the crowds were searching for Him, and came to Him, and tried to keep Him from going away from them. But He said to them, "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose." And He kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

FAITH ENCOUNTER

Matthew 8:1-13

Jesus came to the Jews first, and then the Word would go to the Gentiles. This man was to obey the law and present himself before the priest. Jesus is demonstrating that He fulfilled the law through everything He did and said.

A centurion was a powerful Roman soldier who commanded one hundred men. They were the policemen of the Roman provinces, and Roman citizens as well.

His great faith was his recognition of God's authority which had been entrusted to, and delegated through Jesus. This Roman Centurion had come to believe in Christ's power by equating His authority with what he saw in his own life.

And when He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him. And behold, a leper came to Him, and bowed down to Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, you can make me clean." And He stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." And immediately his leprosy was healed. And Jesus said to him, "See that you tell no one; but go, show yourself to the priest, and present the offering that Moses commanded, for a testimony to them."

And when He had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, prevailing upon Him, and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering and in great pain." And He said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I, too, am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it."

Now when Jesus heard this, He was amazed, and said to those who were following, "Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel. And I say to you, that many shall come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven; but the sons of the kingdom shall be cast out into the outer darkness; where there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

And Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; let it be done to you as you have believed." And the servant was healed that very hour.

DAY ELEVEN II

38 LONG YEARS

John 5:1-17

The Jews celebrated feasts throughout the year that drew their hearts to worship Him year round.

There were twelve gates into the city of Jerusalem used for different purposes, and one was called the Sheep Gate.

This man had probably been afflicted much or all of his life. He was hoping in superstition and/or tradition to save him from his plight.

The Sabbath was a holy day to the Jews, and the Law commanded that the Jews would do no work on Saturdays (the Sabbath). This became a way for the Jewish leaders to discredit Jesus, because by healing, He was working on the Sabbath.

Somewhat in religious human nature we focus on gnats (little things) and swallow camels (big things). God wants us to focus on the things that are truly important.

Jesus did not merely claim to come from God, but to BE God. The Jews viewed this as blasphemy.

After these things there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew - Bethesda, having five columns. Among them lay a multitude of people who were sick, blind, lame, and withered, waiting for the moving of the waters; for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and stirred up the water; and whoever stepped in first after the stirring up of the water, was made well from whatever disease that was afflicting him.

And a certain man was there who had been sick thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he had already been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you wish to get well?" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I am coming, another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Arise, take up your pallet, and walk." And immediately the man became well, and took up his pallet and began to walk.

Now it was the Sabbath on that day. Therefore the Jews were saying to the man who was cured, "It is the Sabbath, and it is not permissible for you to carry your pallet." But he answered them, "He who made me well was the one who said to me, 'Take up your pallet and walk.'" They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your pallet, and walk?'" But he who was healed did not know who it was; for Jesus had slipped away while there was a crowd in that place. Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "Behold, you have become well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse may befall you." The man went away, and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

For this reason the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath. But He answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working."

JESUS WHO?

John 5:18-47

For this reason the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.

Jesus therefore answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing by Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in the same way. For the Father

*Jesus offers everlasting life,
and claims that His voice will call
the living and the dead to eternal
life or eternal death.*

loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and greater works than these He will show Him, that you may be amazed. For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, in order that all may honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”

“Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear shall live. For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man. Do not be amazed at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, and will come out of their graves; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment. I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”

“If I alone give witness of Myself, My testimony is not true. There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the testimony which He bears of Me is true. You have inquired with John (the Baptist) and he has given witness to the truth. But the witness which I receive is not from man, but I say these things that you may be saved. John the Baptist was the lamp that was burning and was shining and you were willing to rejoice for awhile in his light. But the witness which I have is greater than that of John; for the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish, the very works that I do, testify of Me, that the Father has sent Me.”

“And the Father who sent Me has given witness of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. And you do not have His word abiding in you, for you do not believe Him whom He sent. You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and they testify of Me. But you are unwilling to come to Me that you may have life.”

“I do not receive glory from men; but I know you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves. I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another shall come in his own name, you will receive him. How can you believe when you receive glory from one another, and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only God? Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have set your hope. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote of Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”

*Christ and His claims must
be considered and either accepted
or rejected. Neutrality appears
not to be a valid choice.*

DAY TWELVE 12

WORKS OF THE WORD

Mark 1:29-2:12

Demons live and move and exist among us now as they did during Jesus' public ministry.

Demons are one-third of the angels who fell when they followed Lucifer in rebellion against the Living God.

Lepers were outcasts, and this man believes that Jesus has the authority to cleanse him and restore his broken relationships. Jesus did just that!



Jesus was more than a healer of physical maladies. He came to deliver men, heart and soul. His miracles were a means to a much more important goal.

Early in the morning, while it was still dark, He arose and went out and departed to a lonely place, and was praying there. And Simon and his companions hunted for Him; and they found Him, and said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You." And He said to them, "Let us go somewhere else to the towns nearby, in order that I may preach there also; for that is what I came out for."

And He went into their synagogues throughout all Galilee, preaching and casting out demons. And a leper came to Him, beseeching Him and falling on his knees before Him, and saying to Him, "If You are willing, you can make me clean." And moved with compassion, He stretched out His hand, and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed." And immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed. And He sternly warned him and immediately sent him away, and He said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a testimony to them." But he went out and began to proclaim it freely and to spread the news to such an extent that Jesus could no longer publicly enter a city, but stayed out in unpopulated areas; and they were coming to Him from everywhere.

And when He had come back to Capernaum several days afterward, people heard that He was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room, even near the door; and He was speaking the word to them. And they came, bringing to Him a paralytic, carried by four men. And being unable to get to Him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and when they had dug an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic was lying. And Jesus seeing their faith said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven." But there were some of the scribes sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak this way? He is blaspheming; who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Jesus, aware in His spirit that they were reasoning this way within themselves, said to them, "Why are you reasoning about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven'; or to say, 'Arise, take up your pallet and walk'? But in order that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" - He said to the paralytic - "I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home." And he rose and immediately took up his cot and went out in the sight of all; so that they were all amazed and were glorifying God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"