

*As Jesus taught in parables, He gave timeless pictures of the Kingdom.*

more shall be given you besides. For whoever has, to him shall more be given; and whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him.”

And He was saying, “The kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the soil; and goes to bed at night and gets up by day, and the seed sprouts up and grows - how, he himself does not know. The soil produces crops by itself; first the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head. But when the crop is ready, he immediately brings in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

And He said, “How shall we picture the kingdom of God, or by what parable shall we present it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the soil, though it is smaller than all the seeds which are planted, yet when it is sown, grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and forms large branches; so that the birds of the air can nest under its shade.”

And with many such parables He was speaking the word to them as they were able to hear it; and He did not speak to them without a parable; but He was explaining everything privately to His own followers.

## DAY SEVENTEEN



*Walking on the water sealed it for the followers of Christ. He was able to do everything in the face of anything.*



### **CHAINS IN LIFE & DEATH**

Mark 4:35-5:43

And on that day, when evening had come, He said to them, “Let us go over to the other side.” And leaving the multitude, His followers took Him along with them, just as He was, in the boat; and other boats were with Him. And there arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up. And He Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they awoke Him and said to Him, “Teacher, do You not care that we are about to lose our lives?” And being awakened, He rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Hush, be still.” And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm. And He said to them, “Why are you so timid? How is it that you have no faith?” And they became very afraid and said to one another, “Who is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?”

And they came to the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gerasenes. And when He had come out of the boat, immediately a man from the tombs with an unclean spirit met Him, and he made his home among the tombs. And no one was able to bind him anymore, even with a chain; because he had

*Demons are very real, and they are the servants of Satan, who is the immortal enemy of Jesus Christ. These fallen angels act both individually and together, and sometimes are banded together to torment people or cities.*

*“Legion” probably stood for one hundred or “many.”*

*God works through physicians to heal. But there is also a supernatural component to healing. Both should be considered when we are sick.*

*Jesus was probably wearing the coat of a teacher or “rabbi.” This garment had design aspects that made it unique, probably including fringed edges.*

often been bound with shackles and chains, and had torn them apart and broke the shackles in pieces, and no one was strong enough to subdue him. And constantly night and day, among the tombs and in the mountains, he was crying out and gashing himself with stones.

And seeing Jesus from a distance, he ran up and bowed down before Him; and crying out with a loud voice, he said, “What do I have to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God, do not torment me!” For He had been saying to him, “Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!” And He was asking him, “What is your name?” And he said to Him, “My name is Legion; for we are many.” And he began to earnestly ask Him not to send them out of the country.

Now there were about two thousand swine close by feeding on the mountain. And the demons begged Him, saying, “Send us into the swine so that we may enter them. And He gave them permission. And coming out, the unclean spirits entered the swine; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and they were drowned in the sea. Their herdsmen ran away and reported it in the city and out in the country. And the people came to see what had happened. And they came to Jesus and observed the man who had been demon-possessed sitting down, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had the “legion”; and they became frightened. And those who had seen it described to them how it had happened to the demon-possessed man, and they told them all about the swine. And they began to beg Him to leave their region.

And as He was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed was pressing Him that he might accompany Him. And He did not let him, but He said to him, “Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you.” And he went away and began to proclaim in Decapolis what great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed.

And when Jesus had crossed over again in the boat to the other side, a great multitude gathered about Him; and He stayed by the seashore. And one of the synagogue officials named Jairus came up, and when he saw Him, fell at His feet, and prevailed upon Him, saying, “My little daughter is at the point of death; please come and lay Your hands on her, that she may get well and live.” And He went off with him; and a huge crowd was following Him and pressing in on Him.

In the multitude was a woman who had been bleeding for twelve years, and had endured much at the hands of many physicians, and had spent all that she had and was not helped at all, but rather had grown worse. After hearing about Jesus she came up in the crowd behind Him, and touched His cloak. For she thought, “If I just touch His garments, I will get well.”

And immediately the flow of her blood was dried up; and

*This is a remarkable occurrence! To have the authority to reverse physical death on numerous occasions made it quite clear that Jesus wielded an incredible power. Not since the dawn of time had any man displayed such power!*

she felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction. And Jesus immediately perceived that the power proceeding from Him had gone out. He turned around to the crowd and said, "Who touched My garments?" And His disciples said to Him, "You see all the people pressing in on You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'" And He looked around to see the woman who had done this.

But the woman fearing and trembling, aware of what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him, and told Him the whole truth. And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, healed of your affliction."

While He was still speaking, they came from the house of the synagogue official, saying, "Your daughter has died; why trouble the Teacher anymore?" But Jesus, overhearing what was being spoken, said to the synagogue official, "Do not be afraid any longer, just believe." And He allowed no one to follow Him, except Peter and James and John the brother of James. And they came to the house of the synagogue official; and He saw a commotion, and people loudly weeping and wailing. Entering He said to them, "Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child has not died, but is asleep."

And they began laughing at Him. But putting them all out of the room, He took along the child's father and mother and His own companions, and entered the room where the child was. And taking the child by the hand, He said to her, "Little girl, I say to you, arise!" Immediately the girl rose and began to walk; for she was twelve years old. And they were completely astounded. He gave them strict orders that no one should know about this; and said that she should be given something to eat.

## DAY EIGHTEEN 18

### **DEBT & DEBTORS**

Luke 7:36-50

*It is interesting that Jesus made a direct correlation between forgiveness and gratefulness. It is almost as if being forgiven is a prerequisite to being grateful, and that being grateful has a lot to do with how we treat our fellow man.*

One of the Pharisees was asking Him to dinner. And He entered the Pharisee's house, and sat at the table. And behold, there was a woman in the city who was a sinner; and when she learned that He was having dinner in the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster vial of expensive perfume, and standing behind Him at His feet, weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears, and kept wiping them with her hair, and kissing His feet, and anointing them with the perfume.

Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet He would know who and what sort of person this woman is who is touching Him, that she is a sinner." And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something

*The religious leaders had developed quite a complex system of observances which they placed on the same level as the Word of God (and sometimes above it). This resulted in serving God with their lips, but their hearts were carried away by their traditions.*

to say to you.” And he replied, “Say it, Teacher.”

“A certain moneylender had two debtors: one owed five hundred days’ wages, and the other fifty. When they were unable to repay, he graciously forgave them both. Which of them will love him more?” Simon answered and said, “I suppose the one whom he forgave more.” And He said to him, “You have weighed and discerned correctly.”

And turning toward the woman, He said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has wet My feet with her tears, and wiped them with her hair. You gave Me no kiss; but she, since the time I came in, has not ceased to kiss My feet. You did not anoint My head with oil, but she anointed My feet with perfume. For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little.” And He said to her, “Your sins have been forgiven.”

And those who were sitting at the table with Him began to say to themselves, “Who is this man who even forgives sins?” And He said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

## DAY NINETEEN 19

### **WATER WALK**

Matthew 14:22-15:21

And immediately He made the disciples get into the boat, and go ahead of Him to the other side, while He sent the crowds away. He then went up to the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone. But the boat was already many hundreds of yards away from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were frightened, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out because of their fear.

But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.” And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” And He said, “Come!” And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But seeing the wind, he became afraid, and beginning to sink, he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!”

And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” And when they got into the boat, the wind stopped. And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, “You are certainly God’s Son!”

And when they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret. And when the men of that area recognized Him,