Life of Jesus May 4

Walking on Water

The five thousand were fed; Jesus sent the disciples across the lake while he sent the crowd away and went by himself to pray.

By the time Jesus was ready to join the disciples the boat was long way away from the shore, so Jesus went, walking to the disciples on the water.

Dawn was approaching when Jesus came near the boat; at first the disciples thought Jesus was a ghost! – Jesus spoke to them at once. “Courage!” he said. “It is I. Don’t be afraid!”

Then Peter spoke up. “Lord, if it is really you, order me to come on the water to you.”

“Come!” answered Jesus. Matthew 14:27-29a. Peter got out of the boat and started toward Jesus, but the strength of the wind made him afraid and he started to sink – “Save me, Lord!” he cried.

At once Jesus reached out and grabbed hold of him and said, “How little faith you have! Why did you doubt?” Matthew 14:30b, 31.

We are often like Peter, we walk with Jesus but when temptation assails our faith begins to waver and we sink in sin! We need to keep growing in faith and walk with Jesus in love and hope.

VERSE FOR TODAY: And so I walk in the presence of the Lord in the world of the living. Psalm 116:9.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to walk in the light of your Word and always know you are there to walk and talk with.

Life of Jesus May 5

The Calmed Sea

At another time the crowd was pressing in on Jesus, so he got into a boat with the disciples to teach. They decided to cross the lake to the other side, on the way over Jesus fell asleep in the back of the boat.

As they were sailing, a storm came up suddenly, the disciples became frightened they woke Jesus up saying, - “Teacher, don’t you care that we are about to die?”

Jesus stood up and commanded the wind, “Be quiet!” and he said to the waves, “Be still!” The wind died down and there was a great calm. Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Why are you frightened? Have you still no faith?” Mark 4:38b-40.

The disciples although still frightened were surprised at what Jesus had done – and said to one another “Who is this man? Even the wind and the waves obey Him!” Mark 4:41.

We are often like the disciples, we don’t trust in Jesus to help us through the storms in our lives. Big or small, Jesus is always there to us through our storms!

VERSE FOR TODAY: You calm the roar of the seas and the noise of the waves; you calm the uproar of the peoples. Psalm 65:7.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, not to call on you only in the storms but also in the happy times of life. Always being thankful for the many blessings you have given me.

Life of Jesus May 6

Pigs and Demons

When Jesus and the disciples landed, after the storm, in the territory of Gerasa, they were met by a man possessed with many demons. These demons had driven the man out of his mind.

-When he saw Jesus, he gave aloud cry, threw himself down at his feet and shouted, “Jesus, Son of the Most High God! What do you want with me? I beg you, don’t punish me!” Luke 8:28. The demons were afraid of being sent to the depths of the earth, so they begged Jesus not to send them there but to allow them to go into the herd of pigs nearby. So Jesus did! The demons went into the pigs; they stampeded off a cliff into the lake and were drowned.

The herdsmen saw what happened and ran off to tell the startling facts to everyone; the town came out and asked Jesus to leave because they were afraid. These towns’ people were afraid of change, afraid of the unknown, many people are like that today, they would follow Jesus but are afraid what the change in their life would do.

The freed man wanted to go with Jesus but Jesus sent him away to tell others about what happened to him. If we give ourselves over to God’s Will, we often don’t get to do what we want to do because God has different plans for us.

VERSE FOR TODAY: “Go back home and tell what God has done for you.” The man went through the town, telling what Jesus had done for him. Luke 8:39.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Let me always follow your will, O Lord, because you know what is best for me.

Life of Jesus May 7

Jairus’ Daughter

After the “pigs incident” Jesus returned to the other side of the lake, where people were waiting for him. Jairus, a synagogue official, came running up to Jesus, throwing himself at the feet of Jesus, begging Jesus to go to his home and heal his dying twelve year old daughter.

As Jesus passed through the crowd on his way to Jairus’ house, a woman with a twelve year bleeding problem touched the cloak of Jesus and was healed. Jesus felt the power go out of him and questioned the crowd as to who touched him – The woman saw that she was found out, so she came trembling and threw herself at Jesus’ feet. There in front of everybody, she told him why she had touched him and how she had been healed at once. Jesus said to her, “My daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace.” Luke 8:47, 48.

Just then a messenger came to Jairus and said not to bother because the girl was dead. – But Jesus heard it said to Jairus, “Don’t be afraid; only believe, and she will be well.” Luke 8:50.

Jesus went to the girl’s room with Peter, James, John and her parents. The family was mourning, Jesus said the girl was only sleeping, - they all laughed at him, because they knew she was dead. But Jesus took her by the hand and called out, “Get up, my child!” Luke 8:53, 54. And she did! All who saw were amazed.

We must never doubt what Jesus can do for us if we only believe.

VERSE FOR TODAY: “…If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask in prayer…” Matthew 21:22.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me not to doubt but only believe.

Life of Jesus May 8

Peter’s Confession

Jesus asked the disciples an interesting question – “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

“Some say John the Baptist,” they answered. “Others say Elijah, while others say Jeremiah or some other prophet” Matthew 16:13b-14. Jesus was not their idea of what the Messiah would be like, so many did not believe and accept Him as their Savior he was like a prophet to them. They expected an earthly king and kingdom, not a spiritual one.

“What about you?” He asked them. “Who do you say I am?”

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.” Matthew 16:15-16.

Jesus praised Peter for his answer which was a divine inspiration from the Heavenly Father. Jesus foretells here of establishing of the church, on the rock of Peter’s faith as its foundation and this church would last forever – “…And so I tell you Peter: you are a rock, and on this rock foundation I will build my church, and not even death will ever be able to overcome it…” Matthew 16:18.

Our confession of faith is our belief that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the Living God and on this belief we have the foundation for our lives.

VERSE FOR TODAY: And he said to them all, “If anyone wants to come with me, he must forget self, take up their cross every day, and follow me.” Luke 9:23.

PRAYER THOUGHT: May I always be true to my confession of faith and establish a firm foundation for that faith.

Life of Jesus May 9

The Transfiguration

Imagine if you can being on a mountain top with Jesus, when suddenly Jesus becomes dazzling white and is joined by Moses and Elijah! We would become frightened and be like the disciples, not knowing what to say or do.

Then the top that a cloud covers you and a voice says, -“This is my own dear Son- listen to him!” Mark 9:7b.

This was truly a “mountain top” experience for the disciples. On the way down the mountain – Jesus ordered them, “Don’t tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has risen from death.” Mark 9:9. The disciples did not understand all that Jesus commanded but they kept the command.

This transfiguration or change is a change from within, a change of heart. The Glory of God comes from within, a change of heart. The glory of God comes from within a person.

Moses represented the law, Elijah the prophesy that came together in the Lord Jesus!

They came down the mountain to the group of disciples at work teaching and healing. We too have mountain top experiences in the Lord but we have more of the valleys, the everyday work of the Lord.

VERSE FOR TODAY: So we are even more confident of the message proclaimed by the prophets. You will do well to pay attention to it, because it is a lamp shining in a dark place until the Day dawns and the light of the morning star shines in your hearts. 2 Peter 1:19.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank-you Lord for inspiration for the valleys of life.

Life of Jesus May 10

Back to Work

Upon joining the rest of the disciples and the crowd closing in around them, and there was an argument in progress about the inability of the disciples to heal a young boy possessed with a spirit. A man came out of the crowd and told Jesus about his son, possessed with an evil spirit that left him deaf and dumb – “I asked your disciples to drive the spirit out, but they could not.”

Jesus said to them, “How unbelieving you people are! Bring the boy to me!” Mark 9:18b, 19a&c.

The boy was brought to Jesus and when the spirit saw Jesus it threw the boy into a fit. Jesus asked how long the boy had been like this, his father said since he was young – “Have pity on us and help us if you possibly can!”

“Yes,” said Jesus, “If you yourself can! Everything is possible for the person who has faith.” Mark 9:22b, 23.

Jesus ordered the spirit to come out of the boy, and it did, after throwing the boy into a big fit and left him almost like dead – But Jesus took the boy by the hand and helped him rise, and he stood up. Mark 9:27.

Later the disciples asked Jesus – “Why couldn’t we drive the spirit out?”

“Only prayer can drive this kind out,” answered Jesus, “nothing else can.” Mark 9:28b, 29.

Through faith and prayer anything is possible to us too.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Jesus said to her,

"Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believe?" John 11:40.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to believe in what I ask for in your Name.

Life of Jesus May 11

Fig- tree Parable

Jesus told this parable about a fig-tree:

There was a man with a vineyard, inside the vineyard there was a beautiful fig-tree. For three years the tree was fruitless, so the owner told the gardener to cut down the tree and burn it. The gardener asked for one more season, then if the tree did not bear fruit with extra care he would give it, then he would cut the tree down and cast it into the fire. From Luke 13:6-9.

We are so fortunate to have Jesus to say to the Father give them more time. Jesus knows what our lives can be like, because he was human too. Jesus will give us extra care and hopefully we’ll bear fruit for him. Jesus does not want anyone condemned to eternal darkness.

We have only so many seasons, determined by God, so we cannot afford to waste time in doing what God has for us to do. We do not know when Jesus will come again; we also don’t know how long we have in this life! Think about bearing fruit for your Master!

VERSE FOR TODAY: “…The one who reaps the harvest is being paid and gathers the crops for eternal life; so another who sows and the one who reaps will be glad together.…” John 4:36.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank-you for being with me and helping me bear fruit in your Name. Help me to know how I can continue to bear fruit for you during my seasons.