

March 4 - 10 -- Matthew 8-9; Mark 2-5

Thy Faith Hath Made Thee Whole

Christ performs miracles

Try to have your family or the group you meet with imagine the situation of the people Christ taught. They came from far and wide to seek Him, hoping to be healed. The Bible says "multitudes" sought Him. While He ministered in Galilee, people flocked from what is now Southern Lebanon, Syria, Northwestern Jordan, all around Galilee, the Jerusalem area, and the Judean Wilderness, many of them making the pilgrimage on foot, sometimes over 100 miles.

You could call these people a "mixed multitude." When Jesus performed His miracles in Galilee He had already been down to Jerusalem for the Passover, where Galileans saw miracles during their own pilgrimage there. Thus, some Galileans had begun to believe when at first they rejected Him. His fame spread in Galilee as Jews returned from the Passover. It spread through Samaria because of Jesus' conversion of the Samaritans in Sychar, where the "woman at the well" bore testimony of Him.

Remember that nearly all the Jews viewed both Jesus and John the Baptist as Scribes. Scribes wrote and translated documents and were well-versed in local law and the Law of Moses. Because they were fluent in Hebrew, the language of the scriptures, and the local languages of Aramaic and Greek, they could translate the scriptures and teach the people. Because there had been no prophet in Judea or Israel since Malachi, around 400 B.C., people relied more and more on the high priests and these wise sages. Scribes could be of any persuasion in Judaism — so a scribe could be either a Pharisee or a Sadducee. So people would have to listen carefully to discern a scribe's point of view.

Both Christ and John the Baptist were curiosities. John was a Levite who didn't engage in temple service. The Jews knew all about the [mikveh](#), the ritual bath used for purification, and John did immerse people in "living water" by immersing people in a tributary of the Jordan River. That all looked somewhat "kosher." But John preached of a Messiah, which Messiah had already arrived, that "baptism" was in preparation for receiving the Holy Ghost.

Jesus was not the Messiah the Jews expected. Jews saw no need for a mediator between themselves and God. The Messiah they sought was not the Son of God, but a new Davidic king who would triumph over their enemies. They did have a view of a millennium of peace under a magnificent king, but not under a divine king.

Jews have honored some prophets over others. Certainly, Elijah and Moses are high among them. But the most compelling character in Jewish history (even today) is King David. Today at the Western Wall of Herod's temple mount, bar mitzvah's are performed. Celebrants [traditionally chant](#), "David, King of Israel, lives, lives, and endures."

Jesus, a descendant of David, was born and raised in humble circumstances, had no military inclinations, spent His time teaching and healing, visiting with "publicans and sinners," and even healing a Roman Centurion's servant. He angered many, confused many, and caused some to begin to feel towards the Spirit. These gained a spiritual witness that Messiah had come in this odd way, this odd form. They followed their hearts along what would become a dangerous path in mortality, but that could lead to eternal life.

The Jews had stories of miracles in their scriptures. But the stories of healings, or of raising someone from the dead, were very old and very few. In fact, there are only 12 healing miracles recorded in the Old Testament, aside from those during the Exodus. Christ mentioned the healing of Naaman the leper (by Elisha) and the son of the widow of Serepta (by Elijah). He insulted His neighbors in Nazareth with these stories from the time of Elijah and Elisha, because both these people were Gentiles. [There had been no healings](#) since the Babylonian captivity in Judea or Israel that were recorded in the scriptures.

But hope for healing drove the multitudes to find Jesus. Jesus began slowly and impressed upon those He healed that their faith had made them whole, but soon He was healing many among the multitudes, and we don't have a record of His counsel to them.

Jesus wasn't the only charismatic person to claim messiah-ship. He was one of many. But the combination of His unusual teachings (in some ways counter to the Law of Moses), and the way He set multitudes of people on the move over great distances to find Him, caught the attention of everyone in the Holy Land. It's hard to believe there was anyone who didn't eventually hear about Him. When this happens, each person forms an opinion and sets himself up for judgment by God. Eventually, all of us will have an opinion on Christ. It's as if [He asks us all](#), "Whom do **ye** say that I am."



Christ called 12 apostles, all of whom were Jews. [/caption]

Show thyself to the priest (Matthew 8:4):

In Leviticus a lengthy piece of instruction is given to priests for identifying symptoms of leprosy and then figuring out if it is indeed cured. The person suffering from this affliction would have to show himself to the priest, who would decide if he was unclean or ready to be accepted back into the congregation.

The country of the Gergesenes (Matthew 8:28):

This was probably [Hippos](#) on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Part of Decapolis, most of the people were Gentiles, many of them Greek, and they just wanted Jesus to leave. That He was casting out devils and attracting a multitude scared them.

Christ slept through the storm (Mark 4:38):

While water poured into their boats and the apostles feared for their lives, Christ was sound asleep on a pillow. Those without fear can relate, but there are not many of us. Compare the story of Jonah, [Jonah 1:5](#).

Jesus raised the daughter of Jairus from the dead (Mark 5:41):

"And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, *Talitha cumi*; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise."

"Cumi" in Hebrew is the word used to command a female to arise. But "talitha" is the feminine form of "wooly." We can probably visualize the daughter of Jairus (a leader of a synagogue) to have very curly, wool-like hair.

Come Follow Me

NEW TESTAMENT 2019

MIRACLES OF JESUS MATCHING GAME

Matthew 8-9; Mark 2-5

In this week's chapters, we see many accounts of Jesus healing those around him. According to their faith, he heals them and forgives them of their sins. Here is a fun game that involves reading and becoming familiar with the accounts of Jesus healing various people:

Materials: printed set of matching cards, scissors, scriptures

1. Print a set of matching cards (found below) and cut them out.
2. Place all of the matching cards face down and scramble them. Then line them up in four rows with four cards in each row.
3. Take turns overturning one card and then another to see if they are a match. A match is a story being paired with the correct scripture.
4. If it is a match, the person gets to keep the two cards. If it's not a match, they have to turn both of the cards back over in their spots.
5. Continue taking turns until all of the matches are made. Whoever has the most matches wins the game.
6. After the game, you can discuss the questions found in *Come, Follow Me—For Individuals and Families*:
 - a. What do these accounts teach about faith?
 - b. What do these accounts teach about the Savior?
 - c. What does God want us to learn from these miracles?

*This game works best for older kids with longer attention spans who can look up and read scriptures.

A LEPER	MATTHEW 8:1-4	A CENTURION'S SERVANT	MATTHEW 8:5-13
PETER'S MOTHER-IN- LAW	MATTHEW 8:14-15	TWO BLIND MEN	MATTHEW 9:27-31
A MAN WHO WAS PARALYZED	MARK 2:1-12	A MAN POSSESSED BY EVIL SPIRITS	MARK 5:1-20
JAIRUS'S DAUGHTER	MARK 5:22-23, 35-43	A WOMAN WITH AN ISSUE OF BLOOD	MARK 5:24-34

Come Follow Me

NEW TESTAMENT 2019

PEACE OF THE SAVIOR CRAFT

Matthew 8-9; Mark 2-5

In Mark 4:35-41 (and Matthew 8:23-27), Jesus' disciples became scared when a storm rocked their boat at sea. They went to wake Jesus and said, "Master, carest thou not that we perish?" Christ then commands the sea to be still and asks his disciples why they feared. We all experience "storms" in our lives that challenge our faith. But we need to remember that the Savior has the power to calm such storms. Here are some instructions on how to make a "storm bottle" with your kids that demonstrates this idea:

Credit for this idea goes to Kaylee at the Raising Little Disciples blog.

Materials: clean and empty two-liter bottle, water, vegetable oil, glitter, blue food coloring, funnel, toothpicks, hot glue

1. Create a "boat" or "raft" by hot glueing six toothpicks together.
2. Put one teaspoon of glitter inside the bottle (it can be any color, but blue looks best).
3. Fill up half of the bottle with water.
4. Add 3-4 drops of blue food coloring to the water and mix it well.
5. Using the funnel, fill up most of the rest of the bottle with vegetable oil (leave some room at the top for the toothpick raft and air).
6. Once the toothpick raft is dry, place it inside the bottle.
7. Glue on the lid of the bottle to prevent leaking.
8. Read the story of Jesus calming the sea in Mark 4:35-41 or Matthew 8:23-27. Use the storm bottle as you read the story. When you read about the storm, shake the bottle. When Jesus calms the storm, leave the bottle alone for a few minutes so the water and oil separate and become still again. Talk about how Jesus can calm the storms in our own lives.

Come Follow Me

NEW TESTAMENT 2019

PUTTING CHRIST FIRST OBJECT LESSON

Matthew 8-9; Mark 2-5

There are many times in the New Testament in which Jesus invited others to follow him and leave behind what they were doing before. In Mark 3:31-35, Christ taught that whoever does the will of God is considered his “brother, sister, and mother.” We must strive to do the will of God and follow Christ, which means putting him first in our lives. Here is a fun object lesson for kids of all ages to demonstrate the importance of putting the Savior first:

Credit for this idea goes to the Living Out Scripture blog.

Materials: ¾ cup of rice, clear jar, 7-10 larger objects (bouncy balls, rocks, shells, etc.), spoon, paper, pen

1. Read Mark 3:31-35 as a family. What is the will of God? What does it mean to follow Christ?
2. Come up with 7-10 things that we can do to put Christ first in our lives (prayer, service, scriptures, etc) and record them on the piece of paper. Then come up with 7-10 things you enjoy spending your time doing (video games, toys, reading, etc) and record these on the piece of paper as well.
3. Start scooping rice into the jar. With each scoop, name something from the list of things you enjoy spending your time on. Continue until all of the rice is in the jar.
4. Now add the larger objects into the jar. With each object, name something from the list of ways we put Christ first in our lives. Not all of the larger objects should fit into the jar.
5. Pour everything out of the jar and separate them.
6. This time, place the larger objects into the jar first. Again, with each object, name one thing we do to put Christ first.
7. Then start scooping the rice into the jar once all of the larger objects are inside. Again, with each scoop, name one thing you enjoy spending your time doing. Continue until all of the rice is in the jar. Point out that everything fit this time.
8. Talk about how this relates to putting Christ first. What happens when we make him a priority? What happens when we don't?

*You may need to experiment beforehand to see exactly what proportions of rice and objects you need to make it work.