

JESUS PERFORMS MIRACLES AND GIVES ASSIGNMENTS

Matthew 10; 14; Luke 9

STRUCTURE

Key-person: Jesus

Key-location: Capernaum

Key-repetitions:

- Persecution: Jesus spoke about different kinds of persecutions that the disciples would face (Mt 10:16-31), John the Baptist was murdered (Mt 14:5-7).
- Fear: The disciples were afraid in the storm (Mt 8:25), they were afraid because the wind and waves obeyed Jesus (Mk 4:40-41), the demoniac madman feared that Jesus would torture him (Mk 5:7), evil spirits feared torment (Mk 5:12), the people feared when they saw the former demoniac in his right mind (Mk 5: 15), the woman who had been healed from bleeding was afraid when Jesus asked, "Who touched my clothes?" (Mk 5:33); Herod was afraid of John the Baptist (Mk 6:20).
- Jesus manifested his power over: nature (Mk 5:35-41), evil spirits (Mk 5:1-20), physical sickness (Mk 5:25-34), and death (Mk 5:35-43).

Key-attitudes:

- The authority of Jesus.
- The disciples' fear of the storm. The admiration they felt after Jesus calmed the storm.
- The fear the evil spirits had of being tormented by Jesus.

- The people at Gerasa were afraid of Jesus when they saw the former demon-possessed man in his right mind.
- The desperation of Jairus and the bleeding woman, when they sought help from Jesus.
- The mockery of the people at Jairus' house toward Jesus.
- The compassion of Jesus for the people.
- Jesus' seriousness when teaching the disciples before sending them out.

Initial-situation:

During the second year of Jesus' ministry, his popularity with the people grew; however, religious leaders began criticizing him. He selected twelve disciples and taught them during the Sermon on the Mount. They left the mountainside and went to the city of Capernaum where Jesus continued his ministry.

Initial-problem:

The crowd that gathered to hear Jesus was so large that he entered a boat to speak while all the people stood on the shore.

Final-situation:

Jesus instructed his twelve disciples and sent them out on a mission. Then he went on to teach and preach in the towns and villages of Galilee.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus Calmed the Storm Mt: 8:18, 23-27; Mk 4:35-41; Lk 8:22-25

On the day when Jesus had been sitting in the boat telling parables, he said to his disciples, "Let us go across to the other side." The disciples got into the boat where Jesus was already sitting and launched out from shore. A furious squall blew up, and the waves spilled into the boat, threatening to sink it. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

Jesus got up and commanded the wind, "Be quiet!" and he commanded the waves, "Be still!" The wind died down, and it was completely calm.

He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this man? Even the wind and the waves obey him!" (Mk 4:35-41).

Jesus Healed the Gerasene Demoniac Mk 5:1-20; Mt 8:28-34; Lk 8:26-39

They crossed Lake Galilee and arrived on the other side of the lake, in the territory of Gerasa.

As Jesus got out of the boat, a madman with an evil spirit came from the cemetery to meet him. This man lived in the tombs. No one could restrain him, not even with chains. Many times he had been restrained with chains, but he broke the chains apart and smashed the irons on his feet. He was so strong, no one could control him. Night and day he wandered through the tombs and through the hills, screaming out and cutting himself with stones (Mk 5:1-5).

He was a distance away when he saw Jesus. He ran and fell on his knees in front of him. Jesus commanded the tormenting evil spirit, "Come out of this man, you evil spirit!"

The madman shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me!"

Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

He replied, "My name is Mob, there are so many of us!" He begged Jesus again and again not to send the evil spirits out of that region.

A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. The demons begged Jesus, "Send us to the pigs; allow us to go into them." Jesus gave them permission, and the evil spirits came out of the man and entered the pigs. The whole herd, about two thousand in number, stampeded over a cliff into the lake and drowned (Mk 5:6-13).

Those tending the pigs ran off and reported to the town and nearby farms what happened to the madman and the pigs. The people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the mob of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. Then the people begged Jesus to leave their region.

As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. Jesus would not let him, but ordered, "Go home to your family and tell them what the Lord did for you, and how kind he was to you." So the man went away and began to tell in the Ten Towns what Jesus had done for him. All who heard him were amazed (Mk 5:14-20).

Jairus' Daughter, and the Bleeding Woman Mk 5:21-43; Mt 9:18-26; Lk 8:40-56

Jesus crossed to the other side of the lake by boat. A large crowd gathered around him at the lakeside. Jairus, one of the synagogue leaders, came to Jesus, fell at his feet and begged, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and lay your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." So Jesus went with him (Mk 5:21-24).

A large crowd followed pushing and jostling each other. A woman was there who had suffered from severe bleeding for twelve years. Many doctors had treated her; she spent all her money on doctors, but instead of getting better, she constantly grew worse. She heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak. She thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." Immediately the bleeding stopped; she knew she was healed from her suffering.

At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around to the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

His disciples answered, "You see the people crowding against you, why do you ask, 'Who touched me?'"

But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. The woman knew what had happened to her. She came and knelt at his feet; trembling with fear she told him the whole story. Jesus told her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be healed from your suffering" (Mk 5:25-34).

While Jesus was still speaking, men came from Jairus' house with the news, "Your daughter is dead. Why bother the teacher any more?"

Jesus ignored their remarks and told the synagogue leader, "Don't be afraid; just believe."

He only permitted Peter, and the brothers James and John to go with him. At Jairus' house, Jesus saw confusion and heard all the loud crying and wailing. Jesus told them, "Why all this confusion and wailing? The child is not dead, she is asleep." But they laughed at him.

Jesus sent them all out. Then he took the child's father and mother and his three disciples and entered the room where the child was lying. He took her by the hand and told her, "Little girl, get up!" Immediately the girl stood up and walked around. She was 12 years old. They were completely astonished. Jesus gave strict orders not to tell anyone what had happened, and he told them to give her something to eat (Mk 5:35-43).

The Twelve, Instructed and Sent Out Mt 9:35 - 11:1; Mk 6:6-13; Lk 9:1-6

Jesus journeyed through all the towns and villages. He taught in their synagogues, preached the good news of the kingdom and healed people with every kind of disease and sickness. He saw the crowds and had compassion on them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. He told his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out harvest workers into his harvest field" (Mt 9:35-38).

He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness (Mt 10:1).

Jesus sent the twelve out with the following instructions, "Do not go to any Gentile territory or any Samaritan towns. Go rather to the lost sheep of the people of Israel. As you go, preach this message, 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. You received without paying, so give without charging. Do not take with you any money, take no bag for the journey, take no extra clothing. A worker should be given the things he needs (Mt 10:5-15).

"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Watch out, men will hand you over to the local councils and whip you in their synagogues. For my sake you will be brought before governors and kings to tell the good news to them and to the Gentiles. But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say. At that time, you will be given the words to speak. It will not be you speaking; it will be the Spirit of your Father speaking through you (Mt 10:16-23).

"A student is not greater than his teacher. It is enough for the student to be like his teacher. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebub, the members of his family will be called worse names!

"So do not be afraid of people. Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

"Whoever acknowledges publicly that he belongs to me, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me publicly, I will disown him before my Father in heaven (Mt 10:24-33).

"I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. I have come to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. Family members can be your worst enemies. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever tries to gain his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it (Mt 10:34-39).

"If anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers because he is

my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly receive his reward" (Mt 10:40-42).

After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns and villages of Galilee (Mt 11:1).

GENERIC DIALOGUE QUESTIONS

1. What catches your attention in the story?
2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand?
3. Who are the main characters in the story?
4. What problems did the characters face?
5. How did the characters face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?

SPECIFIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What kinds of persecutions did Jesus warn his disciples that they could face?
2. How did Jesus manifest his power over:
 - Nature?
 - Evil spirits?
 - Physical sickness?
 - Death?
3. What did Jesus say to the disciples about their fear of the storm?
4. What instructions did Jesus give the disciples before sending them out on assignment?
5. What are some of the costs of following Jesus?

LIFE-LESSONS

1. Jesus' followers can face storms. Christ was present in the boat with the disciples when they faced a storm (Mk 4:35-37).
2. Jesus has power over evil spirits who use human bodies to distort and destroy people's relationship with God. Jesus freed a demon-possessed man and sent the demons into a herd of pigs (Mk 5:1-13).
3. Jesus has the right to determine who leaves home and who stays at home. He commanded the four fishermen to leave their home and occupation to follow him (Mt 4:18-22); however, he commanded the former demon-possessed man to go home to his family (Mk 5:18-20).
4. People who are being trained for spiritual leadership should begin with the easiest task and stay with people they know. Later, they should take on difficult tasks. The apostles were Jewish. Jesus sent them first to the Jews (Mt 10:5-6). Later, when they had experience, he sent them to people from other cultures (Mt 28:19).
5. It can cost to serve Jesus. People should be willing to serve Jesus, no matter the cost. Jesus highlighted, in Matthew chapter 10, four kinds of persecutions that his followers may face:
 - 1) Religious persecution (Mt 10:17): they would be beaten at the house of prayer;
 - 2) Political persecution (Mt 10:17-18): they could be arrested and judged;
 - 3) Family persecution (Mt 10:21): people would turn over family members to die;
 - 4) Social persecution (Mt 10:22): they would be hated because of Jesus.
6. The choice to either confess Jesus or deny him has eternal results (Mt 10:32). The person who confesses before other people that he belongs to Jesus will experience Jesus confessing that he is a follower of his before the Father. The one who denies he belongs to Jesus will have Jesus denying that he belongs to him.