

**CALVARY BIBLE-
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
(PANDAN)**

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DHW Bible Class

LESSON 14

THE LIFE OF CHRIST

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INTRODUCTION

Jesus was a master teacher for He used many parables which were drawn from life and which people were familiar and could understand easily to teach precious truths. Coupled with this method of teaching, Jesus also performed miracles. His miracles were not done in order to astound the people, less still to satisfy the curiosity of the multitudes. Jesus performed miracles to show them that He was indeed the Messiah and because the people came to Him for help and He had

compassion on them. Jesus performed many miracles and if every one of them were to be recorded, it would run into many volumes (cf. Jn. 21:25)! But the Holy Spirit had inspired the writers to select and record those that are in the Bible. Every miracle teaches vital truths about the Lord Jesus Christ, and also some valuable spiritual and practical lessons for us. The miracles which we are studying in this lesson meet these aims.

UNDERSTANDING

The Calming of the Storm

*Mark 4:35, Matthew 8:18, 23-27,
Luke 8:22-25.*

After a very busy day of preaching and teaching, Jesus at evening, and seeing that a great many people were coming to Him, called His disciples to set sail to the other side, probably the north eastern part of the lake near Bethsaida. The fact that they took Jesus "even as he was" showed that the decision to leave was sudden and in a hurry. There was no time to make any preparation. Other smaller boats also followed their boat. As they sailed not long later, Jesus fell asleep. He fell asleep at the stern of the ship which was near the steering where there was a bench. He laid down there with His head on a pillow. This indicates that Jesus was very tired. No sooner had the boat set sail from Capernaum, He fell asleep. This also indicates that Jesus was truly human.

Then suddenly a great storm of wind arose and the sea was raging; its waves pounding their boat so much so that it was in danger of capsizing. One could imagine their

frantic efforts to row and bail the water out of the boat, but it was to no avail. It looks like they did not want to wake Jesus up at first. What was more astonishing was that with the waves pounding the boat and the water splashing in, how could Jesus still sleep? It demonstrates to us that Jesus was extremely tired! When they realized that their frantic attempts to keep the boat afloat were futile, they awoke Jesus. They shook him and said, "Master, we perish; carest thou not that we perish?"

Jesus first addressed His disciples telling them not to fear, and rebuking them for their lack of faith. Then Jesus commanded the sea just as He would a human, "Peace, be still." And the wind suddenly stopped and there was a great calm and silence! Jesus turned to His disciples again and asked them why they were so fearful and added that how could they have so little faith. [NOTE: Jesus did not say that they have NO faith!] The disciples had seen His great and mighty power in healing the sick and raising the dead. But they had much more to learn about their Lord Jesus Christ. And indeed learn they did. They were astonished and became exceedingly afraid of what they had just witnessed. If they were fearful of the stormy wind and the raging sea, they should be even more fearful of what they had just witnessed—Jesus, their Master who had power and authority over the forces of nature! They began to learn the meaning of the title the "Lord" Jesus Christ.

That this was a miracle is without question. The account clearly records that it was a miracle. The stormy wind suddenly

stopped and the raging sea immediately became calm. In natural circumstances, the winds would gradually subside, and so would the turbulent sea. But that was not the case. With the Lord Jesus Christ, who is God, nothing is impossible with Him. What appears to man as stupendous and miraculous because we are so limited and puny, it is common place with God who is infinitely powerful.

Like the disciples, we Christians also learn this great and wonderful truth of the power and authority of Jesus Christ our LORD. In life, it is inevitable that we will experience the "stormy winds and raging seas" of life that would try to sink us. But the same words of our Lord Jesus Christ speak to us, "Where is your faith? Why are you so fearful?" Christians should not be afraid. The old adage: "There is nothing to fear but fear itself." Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones remarked: "When a man is defeated by life it is always due, ultimately, to the fact that he is suffering from a spirit of fear. The spirit of fear is the real, the ultimate cause of all failure in life, and of all unhappiness." However, there is one fear that does not cripple but liberates, it is the fear of God. Ps. 111:10, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever."

Deliverance of the Gadarene Demoniacs

Mark 5:1-21, Matthew 8:28-34, 9:1, Luke 8:26-40.

When Jesus and His disciples reached the other side, it was already late in the evening. They were making their way to the city.

There were two men who were possessed with demons. These demon-possessed men lived in the cemetery. The demons had controlled them for a long time. They were naked. They were separated from their families and home. They were uncontrollable. They were very strong and each time when they were chained, they would break the chains; such was their strength. They terrorized the neighbouring people with their daily screams and cries. Moreover, they cut their own bodies with stones. This reminds us of what Jesus declares that the “thief comes not but for to steal, to kill, and to destroy” (John 10:10a). There is no question that Jesus is referring to the “devil” as the thief. This is a visible illustration of what the devil is doing spiritually to all who reject the Lord Jesus Christ. [NOTE: Two men were possessed by demons but apparently only one of them approached the LORD as mark and Luke record only one of them. What happened to the other?]

The strong and fierce demon-possessed men who saw Jesus ran to Him and fell down on his knees and worshipped Him. He began to cry out in a loud voice, “What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? Art thou come hither to torment us before the time? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not.” The man did not know the true identity of Jesus, but the devil and his cohorts knew who Jesus truly was. They also know that their final abode would be in the lake of fire. The demons in the demon-possessed man pleaded with Jesus not to torment him. When asked what his name was,

he replied “Legion.” A Roman military legion numbered six thousand. It does not mean that there were that number of demons in the person, but at least there were many. These demons pleaded with Jesus to permit them to dwell in the herd of swine which was nearby. Jesus permitted this. We learn the power of Jesus over the devil and the demons. They were subject to the authority of Jesus. So immediately, they left the man and went into the herd of swine. The pigs numbered about two thousand, and when the demons entered into them, they rushed down the cliff into the sea, and all were drowned. The swineherds saw what happened and fled into the city and related what happened to the people. How Jesus considered the value of two men more than the 2 thousands of pigs! There is no easy answer as to why Jesus permitted the demons to enter into the herd of pigs which plunged to their deaths, resulting in a great loss to the pigs’ owners. We may consider that Jesus is God the Creator of everything and all things belong to Him, including every man, woman, child and their possessions. Man who rejects God will reject this truth. God being the Creator and sovereign, He can do as He pleases. But another reason is that Jesus had just demonstrated what He could do and bring great deliverance and blessings to the people, blessings which were far better than the pigs. But alas the people preferred their “pigs” to what Jesus could do for them. They requested Jesus to leave their city immediately. WHY? What a sad picture. Could these be Gentiles or Israelites?

This was in contrast to the man who had just been delivered from demons. He wanted to be near Jesus and to follow Him. But Jesus had a great and better work for him. He had been separated from his family and friends. Jesus told him to return to his family and home, and to tell them what “the Lord hath done” for him, and had compassion on him. He obeyed. He did what Jesus told him to do. He was a walking and living witness to the people who marvelled at his testimony. We note that Jesus called Himself “Lord” [Mk. 5:19] which could mean “deity”. Jesus then left the place. Jesus boarded the boat and returned to Capernaum. He had a totally different reception. The people received Him gladly. In fact they were waiting for Him.

The Raising of Jairus Daughter
Mark 5:22-43, Matthew 9:18-26,
Luke 8:41-56.

No sooner had Jesus returned to Capernaum, a ruler of the synagogue by the name of Jairus (the name means “one whom Jehovah enlightens”) came to Him, fell at His feet, and implored that He come to his house to heal his twelve year old daughter who was dying. Jairus must have seen Jesus heal many sick people, and he believed in his heart that Jesus could heal his dying daughter. Jesus straight away went with him to his house together with His disciples.

On the way, there was a woman who had an incurable disease. She had suffered it for twelve years. She had exhausted all her financial resources, and all the doctors could not heal her. Instead her condition became worse. She

heard about Jesus, and believed in her heart that if she could only touch the corner of Jesus’ garment, she would be healed. Some may describe her faith as superstitious. This was definitely not the case. Her faith was not only genuine but very strong. It came from the heart. She pushed through the thronging people who were pressing against Jesus, and managed to touch the clothes of Jesus. Her faith paid off. She was immediately healed. The issue of blood from her body immediately stopped. Jesus then made a strange remark. He asked, “Who touched my clothes?” Jesus further mentioned that He knew power was released from Him. Jesus mentioned that He knew fully in Himself that power went out of Him. While the disciples expressed surprise at Jesus’ remarks because many people were pressing against Jesus and were touching Him, yet this woman’s touch was a deliberate and determined touch of faith. Jesus turned round to see the woman who had touched Him. The woman realized that she had been discovered. She came to Jesus with fear and trembling, and fell down before Him, and confessed before all the people that she was the one who touched Him and that she was healed of her affliction immediately. Jesus tenderly addressed her, “Daughter, be of good comfort, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.” Jesus reassured her that she was completely healed of the plague and it would never recur. [NOTE: The power of Jesus was within His sovereign control. Did Jesus know what this woman tried to do before she did it and while she was doing it?]

Meanwhile, Jairus' servants came to inform him that his daughter had passed away, and that he should not bother Jesus. Jesus overheard the conversation and told Jairus to stop fearing, only keep believing, and she would be made whole. On reaching Jairus' home, Jesus permitted only Peter, James, John and the parents of the girl to enter the house. WHY? When He saw the mourners weeping and making a lot of noise, Jesus told them to stop and said that the girl was not dead but asleep. These professional mourners changed their tune and laughed at Jesus because they knew that she was already dead. Jesus used the word "asleep" to describe the girl's condition because He was going to resurrect her from the dead. After he had put all the mourners out, leaving the parents of the girl, Jesus commanded the girl to arise, and "her spirit came again" and the girl arose and walked straight away! And Jesus instructed that she be given something to eat. WHY? We have a lesson on the nature of death. Death takes place when the spirit of a person leaves his body. The body then becomes lifeless and the spirit of the person departs to be present with the Lord if he or she is a Christian, and if not the person departs to Hades to be kept until the Judgement of the Great White Throne (Revelation 20:11-13).

Healing of the Blind Man
Matthew 9:27-31.

When Jesus left Jairus' house, two blind men followed Him. As they followed Him, they kept on crying out intensely and urgently, "Thou Son of David, have mercy on

us." Jesus did not respond to their call immediately as He often did to others. The reason was the blind men addressed Him as the "Son of David." The title carried a highly nationalistic overtone. The Jews believed that the Messiah (the Christ) would come from the line of David, and would be a political and a military Messiah. Jesus avoided this title, not because He was not the Son of David, indeed, He was, but because it was not the time yet. That could be the reason why Jesus did not address the two blind men until He came into the privacy of a house.

Jesus asked the two blind men, "Believe ye, that I am able to do this?" The two blind men without hesitation replied, "Yea, Lord." Then Jesus touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it unto you." The blind men were healed of their blindness. They could see. This was another stupendous miracle of Jesus. [NOTE: A blind man can see and these who have eyes cannot see!]

***Deliverance of the Dumb
Demonic***

Matthew 9:32-34.

As Jesus went about, the people brought to Him a dumb man who was possessed with a devil. Jesus cast out the devil and the man was healed and began to speak. The multitudes marvelled at the miracle which Jesus performed. But the Pharisees were sceptical.

SUMMARY

In all these miracles, there is a common spiritual thrust which the author of Holy Scripture intended for the readers to learn. That thrust or theme is "faith." Jesus rebuked

His disciples for their lack of faith. In the case of the demoniac of Gadarene, his faith was manifested after his deliverance. The severity of the possession demonstrated the awesome power of Jesus Christ and thus boosted the truthfulness of His claim as the Messiah. The demoniac obeyed Jesus and went to the cities and the region of Decapolis to tell the great things Jesus had done. But the people did not, despite the great miracle.

In the healing of the woman with an issue of blood for twelve years, it was the lesson of faith too. She tried all the medical means available to her that she could afford but no help came. She got worse. But in the Lord Jesus Christ she saw in Him One who could heal her. In the law she was considered unclean. This permanent issue of blood would make her permanent unclean. Her life must have been like that of an outcast as she would be ostracised by all. For her, as an unclean woman, to touch someone would also make that person she touches unclean. Yet in the case of the Lord Jesus Christ, the reverse was true. She became cleansed! What a miracle for the disciples to take note of!

In the case of Jairus when he was told that his daughter had died and that it was useless to trouble Jesus, he was told by Jesus not to fear but to keep on believing that his daughter would be made whole. Faith must be persistently held onto. Never let go nor allow the words of man and circumstances to shake your faith. God's Word is always to be trusted and believed above the words of man. Let God

be true and every man a liar (cf. Rom. 3:4).

Then as for the two blind men, Jesus asked them plainly whether they believed that He could heal them. They said, "Yes." Similarly the men who brought a dumb man who was possessed with devil to Jesus to be healed by him, believed that Jesus could heal him. The blind could not see the miracles of Christ but they "saw" more than the disciples who were not physically blind. In the case of the dumb, it shows how Jesus was able to read minds and hearts of man. He demonstrated both His power of omnipotence and omniscience.

The precious lesson we must learn is FAITH. Faith must be defined according to the Bible. Heb 11:1, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." It must be faith that is genuine like that of the woman who suffered her affliction for twelve years. Many people "touched" Jesus, but it was the woman's touch that power was released from Jesus. As Christians, we must live by faith. Many Christians are professing faith in Jesus Christ, but there is little change in their sin-filled life. There is no change and healing of the sin disease that plague their lives. The reason is because they have not touched Jesus with the touch of faith that is deliberate and determined, purposeful and genuine. Such exercise of faith will receive the power that Jesus so compassionately and willingly give to the praise and glory of His Name.

In her book *It's My Turn* Ruth Bell Graham tells a story about her growing up days in Tsingkiang,

China, where her father was a missionary physician. The business manager at the local hospital told about a jolly gentleman named Mr Kao Er. One day as he attended prayer meeting, bandits broke into his house and kidnapped his two children, an eight-year-old son and a baby daughter. As word spread, the local Christians and missionaries gathered in earnest prayer. Never one to miss an opportunity to witness, Mr Kao Er had a large sign painted and posted in front of the hospital gate. It said, in effect: *The bandits have kidnapped our children and have demanded a thousand yuan ransom. I am not a wealthy man. I cannot pay a thousand yuan. I cannot pay five hundred yuan. I cannot even pay fifty yuan. But I believe God. If it is His will, He is able to bring my children back without any ransom.* Passers-by were amazed by his message, and it was widely expected that the children would be quickly killed. Weeks passed, and in the course of time a troop of soldiers broke in upon the gang of bandits. As they pursued them, they heard a sound from the ditch beside the road. One soldier stopped to look, and there he found a skeleton-like child lying in the ditch where the bandits had hastily thrown the child. It was Mr Kao Er's son. He had been imprisoned under a large overturned vessel, and was on the brink of starvation. But he was alive, and he recovered.

But what about the baby girl? Later there was another battle between the bandits and the soldiers. This time, the wife of the bandit chief was captured, and she was found nursing two babies—not twins—both of them too near in

age to be her own. The daughter, too, was returned to her parents. Ruth recalls, "Sitting one Sunday in the little gray-brick Chinese church, I watched as Mr Kao Er, carrying his still-too-weak-to-walk son, and his wife, carrying the now healthy, chubby baby girl, walked forward to publicly give thanks to God and to dedicate both children to Him (*It's My Turn*, [Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming H. Revell Co., 1982], 30-32). AMEN

DHW Bible Class

LESSON 12

THE LIFE OF CHRIST

**DAILY READING & DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS**

Daily Readings

MONDAY: Mark 4:35, Matthew 8:18, 23-27, Luke 8:22-25.

TUESDAY: Mark 5:1-21, Matthew 8:28-34, 9:1, Luke 8:26-40.

WEDNESDAY: Mark 5:22-43, Matthew 9:18-26, Luke 8:41-56.

THURSDAY: Matthew 9:27-31.

FRIDAY: Matthew 9:32-34.

Discussion Questions

1. What did the disciples learn about Jesus in this incident?

2. Why were the disciples of Jesus very frightened by Jesus' control of the storm and the raging sea?

3. What indications are there to show that Jesus was fully man?

4. How did the disciples show a lack of faith?

5. How would you describe the pathetic condition of the demon-possessed man?

6. What more truths about Jesus do we learn from the healing of the demoniac?

7. How should we respond when Jesus exhibits His power in our lives?

8. What kinds of illnesses did Jesus cure this time?

9. What obstacles to his faith in Jesus did Jairus have to overcome?

10. What obstacles did the woman who suffered from a bleeding disease have to overcome to be healed by Jesus?

11. What is the common factor of the people who came to Jesus for healing? How has this truth help you in your relationship with God?

12. Why do you think the Pharisees charged that Jesus' spiritual power is of satanic origin?
