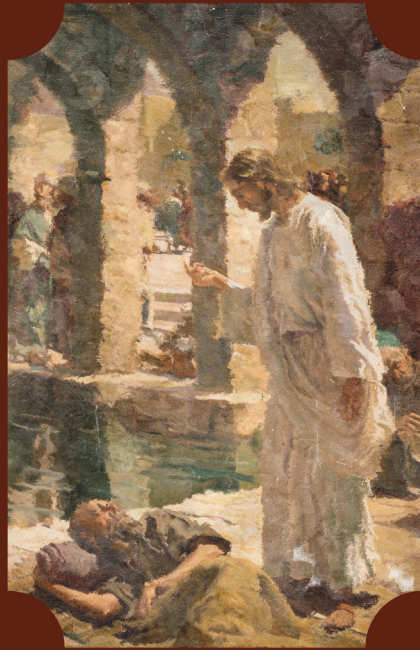


Series Guide



I BELIEVE IN MIRACLES

INTRODUCTION

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus performed miracles that revealed the power and heart of God. But these moments were more than displays of power; they were invitations to faith. In this four-week series, we'll look closely at several miracles of Jesus and discover the principles they reveal about trusting God, speaking in faith, and reaching for Him when we need a miracle in our own lives.

Week 1

WATER INTO WINE



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Monday

ANYTHING BUT NORMAL

Key Scripture

John 2:1–2 NASB

Devotional

This story is not just about a wedding running out of wine. It's about what happens when what you have is no longer enough for where you are. Some moments don't look like turning points when you're in them. They can look like just another day, another event, another responsibility to manage. The wedding at Cana seems just like another event. It begins as a celebration just like most weddings where people gather because they are invited. But this wasn't just any celebration. To give context, Jewish weddings were deeply intentional, unfolding in three meaningful phases that carried both cultural and spiritual weight.

First, there was **Shiddukhin** (pronounced Shi-doo-KHIN, or Shi-doo-kheen) which means engagement. This is where families came into agreement and a price was paid. The fee is traditionally split equally between the two sides. Payment is typically made upon the successful engagement or wedding. This was more than a promise. It was a declaration that the relationship had value and intentionality.

Then came **Kiddushin** (pronounced kà-doo-SHEEN or kid-oosh-een) which means consecration. This is a formal covenant where the couple was legally bound to one another, even though they had not yet begun living together. This was a season of commitment and preparation, where the groom would go away to prepare a place for his bride.

Finally, there was the **Chuppah** (pronounced KHOOP-uh or khoo-PAH), which means wedding ceremony and celebration, the moment of union. The groom would return, receive his bride, and bring her into a joyful celebration that could last for days. This feast represented fullness, joy, and shared life together.

Okay, let's just pause for a moment because this is different in our American culture. Just seeing the word *consecration* connected to the wedding process carries spiritual weight. There's some depth here... Selah.

Everything about this moment in Cana represented completeness. Everything was supposed to be enough. But beneath the surface, something is about to go wrong. This is where the story meets you. You may ask how? Because life has a way of presenting moments that look "put together" on the outside, but are one unexpected problem away from exposure. A relationship, a responsibility, a calling, a season. You thought you had enough until suddenly, you didn't.

I can remember when my wife and I were excited about inviting people to our wedding. What began as excitement, joy, and buttery conversations ended with the question, "What are we going to do?" Things went south—or you could say downward—the moment we realized we didn't have enough. This question caused us to immediately look at what we could do. We didn't invite God, His wisdom or ask for His understanding. To be continued...I promise I will end our week together by telling you what happened.

The wedding at Cana had structure. It had planning, it had expectations, but none of those things could prevent the moment of lack. You can have the right structure, the right intentions, even the right environment and still face a moment where what you have isn't enough. The question is not if you will face that moment.

The real questions are:

- What will you do when you get there?
- Will you strive harder to cover it up?
- Will you ignore it and hope it fixes itself?
- Will you invite God into your situation?

Over the next few days, we're going on a journey to look at the wedding of Cana verse by verse:

- Recognizing the need
- Bringing it to Jesus
- Obeying His instruction
- Trusting the process
- Witnessing a miracle

My prayer is that this story shows you how to respond when you're faced with lack, pressure, and the impossible. Not by striving harder, but by shifting where you look and **WHO** you trust. And by the end of this journey, you won't just see water turned into wine. You will understand how to trust God with the areas of your life that feel just as impossible.

Reflection

Where in your life have you been managing pressure and what is it costing you to keep pretending you have enough?

Prayer

Lord, I admit that there are areas in my life where I try to appear strong, even when I feel empty. Help me to stop hiding and start inviting You into those places. Teach me that my limitations are not something to fear, but an opportunity for You to move. I place every area of lack into Your hands, believing that You are more than enough, in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Dive Deeper

1. Expose the Area - *2 Corinthians 12:9*
What is one area of your life where you're maintaining an appearance of strength, but internally you know you're lacking?
2. Invite God In - *1 Peter 5:7*
Take intentional time today to bring that specific area before God in prayer without filtering how it looks.

Tuesday

RECOGNIZING THE NEED

Key Scripture

John 2:3 NASB

Devotional

Yesterday, we learned about the three phases of a Jewish wedding that gives spiritual insight, not just wedding context.

- Shiddukhin (*engagement*) reminds us that God is intentional. He desires relationship and placed value on us by giving His only Son, Jesus because He so loves the world.
- Kiddushin (*consecration*) reveals that commitment often happens before manifestation. There are seasons where God is working, even when you do not yet see the full picture.
- Chuppah (*celebration*) shows that what God completes is meant to be full, joyful, and abundant, never running out because He is more than enough.

Also, we learned that Jesus was invited. That detail is easy to overlook, but it is foundational. His presence did not remove the problem, but it positioned the people for a miracle. This means faith does not start when things go wrong. Faith starts with the awareness that you need God in every moment, not just emergency moments.

In today's devotion from John 2:3, they are in the celebration phase of the wedding where everything should be flowing, joyful, and complete. But then something happens, lack shows up. Many people assume that with God being present, everything should automatically go right. Cana shows us something different that we need to ponder.

You can have the right environment, the right people, and even the presence of Jesus and still experience a moment of lack.

To fully understand the weight of this moment, you have to step into the cultural reality of a Jewish wedding. This wasn't just a celebration, it was a matter of honor, reputation, and communal responsibility. The wedding feast, especially during the Chuppah (celebration phase), could last several days. The host family was responsible for providing everything needed for their guests. Running out of wine was not a small inconvenience. This was a public failure, a disgrace that could follow the family for years. It communicated a lack of preparation, a lack of provision, and even a lack of honor. So when the wine began to run out, this was not just about refreshment. This was about covering shame before it was exposed.

Women, in this cultural context, did not typically step into problem-solving roles in a public way. Yet Mary moves with quiet authority, not drawing attention to the issue publicly, but taking it directly to Jesus. Why? She did not need a miracle explained. She had already lived through several miracles from her pregnancy, to protecting Him from being killed as a baby, and to needing a place for Him to be born. She understood who was in the room.

Do you understand **WHO** is in the room with you right now?

The same Jesus who was present at the wedding is present in your life. At times, this is where I get stuck. If you are honest with yourself, is this where you get stuck too? We do not struggle with lack as much as we struggle with acknowledging that Jesus has the answer for us. Let's read that slowly...

We do not struggle with lack as much as we struggle with acknowledging that Jesus has the answer for us.

Many people delay their miracle because they are unwilling to be honest about what's missing. Do not wait for things to fall apart before turning to God. Maybe you're thinking, *things have already fallen apart—it's already chaotic*.

No matter what season you're in, you still have the opportunity to recognize the need. Remember the thief on the cross (Luke 23:42–43)? He recognized his need for Jesus. He wasn't ashamed, even with people listening to the conversation.

Have you begun to recognize the need for Jesus in your life? If not, let's take a moment...

- Recognize you need Jesus to help you with your thinking.
- Recognize you need Jesus to help you with your decisions.
- Recognize you need Jesus to help you with the areas you try to hide.

Recognizing the need is not the finish line, it's the starting point. Because the moment you stop hiding the need is the moment you position yourself for the God of possibility to step in.

Reflection

What area of your life have you normalized functioning without God, even though you know you need Him there?

Prayer

Lord, thank You for being present in my life, even before I recognized my need for You. Help me not to isolate anymore. I desire to grow in this area of my life. You are my answer and You're already in the room. Help me to renew my mind that You are present, in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Diving Deeper Two-Step Challenge

1. Acknowledge Without Excuse - *Psalms 139:23-24*
Identify one area where you've been avoiding full dependence on God. Whether in your thinking, decisions, or hidden struggles.
2. Shift Your Posture - *Matthew 6:33*
What is one practical way you can invite Jesus into that area daily this week instead of waiting until things get worse?

Wednesday

BRINGING IT TO JESUS

Key Scripture

John 2:4

Devotional

In this passage, Mary has done what many struggle to do and for some of us, we move slowly to do it because self (flesh), gets in the way. She acknowledged the problem and brought it to Him: "They have no wine." But now, Jesus' response introduces a deeper layer of faith. "Woman, what have I to do with thee? My hour has not yet come."

Notice Mary's heart posture after Jesus' response, she doesn't say, "Who do you think you are talking to me like that? I brought you into this world and I will take you out!" She doesn't withdraw or take the problem back into her own hands. Instead, she turns to the servants and says: "Whatever He says to you, do it."

At first glance, this response can feel distant, even harsh. But upon looking closer, you'll see something powerful happening beneath the surface. Jesus is not rejecting His mother or being disrespectful. He is revealing His alignment with God's purpose for His life. He is making it clear that while He hears her request, He is fully submitted to the timing and will of His Father. His mission is not driven by human urgency, but by divine purpose. The term "woman" was not disrespectful. It was the same language Jesus would use on the cross, showing that even in this moment, He was thinking beyond the immediate need and aligning with the greater mission.

What makes this moment so powerful is that Jesus does not deny the need, but He reveals the tension between awareness and timing. Many of us believe that once we bring something to Jesus, the answer should be immediate. But faith is not proven in how fast God moves, it is revealed in how we respond when He doesn't move according to our expectations. This is where faith either deepens or begins to drift. Mary understood something that many of us are still learning, that bringing it to Jesus is not the finish line of faith. Because once it leaves your hands and enters His, you no longer control the process, the timing, or the outcome.

To be continued...Remember on Day 1, I told you I would share the rest of our story.

My wife and I recognized the need and talked through it, quickly realizing we had to bring it to Jesus. Just like Mary said, "They have no wine," we had our own version of that moment. Ours just sounded like, "We don't have what we need to make this happen."

We had already started planning our wedding day, setting the time, the location, and everything in between. But we learned something real quick, just because you can plan something doesn't mean you have what you need to pull it off. Planning is easy because it doesn't cost anything at the moment, it's just conversation. But eventually, the moment comes when planning turns into paying the cost. Oh, when that moment came, we felt it. Just like the wedding in Cana, the celebration was already in motion but the resources were running low.

For us money was going out, but nothing was coming in like we expected. We had to prepare for an apartment deposit, rent a moving truck, and coordinate help just to make the move happen as I was moving my wife from another state. When we stepped back and looked at everything we lacked, it was hard to even call this a celebration. We were heading toward a day filled with stress, disappointment, and unmet expectations.

So I started adjusting the plan. I told her, "We're going to have to scale this back." One by one, I started checking things off our wedding list just to make our wedding day work. This is what happens when you focus on what you see instead of who you brought it to. And right in the middle of that moment, my wife's voice broke through, "This will be a day of celebration." Her voice reminded me not to focus on what we didn't have, but on WHO we had. I started to drift into logic and limitation, but she pulled me back and reminded me, "We said we were going to bring this to Jesus." In other words, we weren't going to take back what we had already placed in His hands just like Mary didn't. She didn't go back and start managing the problem, she trusted Jesus with it.

It didn't all happen at once, and it didn't happen overnight. There was a process between the request and the miracle. We found scriptures that gave us confidence to grow in faith and ask. Every morning we thanked God not for what we saw, but for what He said in His Word. Then, little by little, things started happening. Three different people at three different times, reached out to my wife, sharing how God told them to assist us with our wedding. The very things we thought we had to give up were being paid for. My God!!! It didn't look like it was going to come together in time but God did it. What a day of celebration!!

Mary's request was sincere but even sincere desires must still submit to God's timing. Because bringing something to Jesus does not mean He will respond the way you expect or when you expect. And if your faith is only strong when God moves quickly, your faith is not rooted in trust. It's rooted in outcomes. Faith is not just bringing your need to Jesus, it's trusting His response, even when it stretches you. This is not to deny you but to develop you.

Mary brought the right need, to the right person but still had to trust the right timing.

Reflection

Have you truly surrendered your situation to Jesus or are you still trying to control how and when He responds?

Prayer

Lord, I am wanting to continue to grow in trusting that You hear me and care about every detail of my life. When Your response doesn't match my expectations, help me not to pull back. Help me to tune out the voices of past experiences that didn't work because I didn't bring my needs to You. I am making the decision to choose You and not take my needs to other people first, in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Diving Deeper Two-Step Challenge

1. Release Control - *Proverbs 3:5-6*
What expectation have you placed on how or when God should respond that you need to surrender?
2. Faith in God - *Romans 10:17*
Read and meditate on it this week as a way to grow your faith.

Thursday

OBEYING HIS INSTRUCTION

Key Scripture

John 2:5 NASB

Devotional

Up to this point, the need has been identified, there is no wine! Mary has already brought the situation to Jesus. Mary doesn't wait for an explanation. She doesn't ask Jesus for a strategy. She doesn't try to manage the outcome. Instead, she turns to the servants and simply says, "Whatever He says to you, do it."

That statement carries weight. In a culture where servants were trained to follow precise instruction, especially in a moment where honor was on the line. Mary places them under Jesus' authority before He even speaks. She has total confidence in His character.

She teaches us something most people miss. It's one thing to bring your need to Jesus, but it's another thing to release control after you bring it. If we're honest, many of us pray but still try to control, ask but still try to manage and believe but only within our understanding.

Mary shows a different posture. Bring it to Jesus, trust His timing, and submit to His process. Because what feels like delay is often divine alignment.

In 2024, my wife and I were looking for six crape myrtle trees to plant in our yard. I enjoy some good looking trees that accent the landscape. We had the money, but we felt led to give it to a local ministry in the community. While the leading was there, so was this question, "God, what about what we desire? Does it matter to You?" I know it matters to Him. I'm just glad I can express what I am feeling to God and not hide it. We had a plan but God's plan is always better. We had wine, (money) but now the jars were empty, lol. I can laugh now but it was different in the moment.

We obeyed and gave as God told us to without complaining, or doubting, but with faith. Well, months passed and every time we pulled into the driveway, the absence of trees reminded us of an unmet desire. We made the decision early on that we would not question God and we would not rush Him. We would trust His instruction.

Almost a year later, a neighbor pulled up on his motorcycle. What I thought would be a normal conversation turned into a moment orchestrated by God. Our neighbor started talking nonstop about trees, soil, planting and how to take care of them. All of this came from the trees he and his wife recently planted. It seemed like he was talking for an hour about their trees. I was just hoping his phone would ring or that my wife would walk outside. He kept going on and on and on. Then suddenly the conversation shifted. He mentioned that if we ever wanted trees, we could use his discount, he would pick them up, and even plant them for us. Not only that, he pointed to the very place where he thought the crape myrtles could go.

At that moment, it became clear that God was expressing His desire to see crape myrtles too. Money came in for the trees at the right time to plant it. Our neighbor had a conversation with me in the fall and we planted the trees a little after spring. The provision is another testimony that I will have to share in another devotion. To be continued...

Mary didn't interfere, suggest, or control. She trusted Jesus enough to let Him lead. Faith is not just believing

Jesus can do it, it's trusting Him enough to do it His way. What makes Mary's response even more powerful is that she had no evidence at that moment that a miracle was about to happen. Jesus hadn't performed a miracle but she still spoke with certainty. Why?

Her confidence wasn't rooted in outcomes, it was rooted in relationship.

And this is where many people struggle in their faith. They want to obey after confirmation, not before. They want clarity before commitment. But God often speaks in a way that requires trust first, then reveals understanding later.

Delayed understanding is not denial, it's an invitation to deeper trust.

When you wait for everything to make sense, you position yourself as the authority. When you obey without full understanding, you acknowledge that God's wisdom is higher than yours. That's where transformation begins, not in explanation, but in surrender.

Reflection

Where in your life has God already spoken and you're hesitating because you don't fully understand?

Prayer

Lord, help me to trust You beyond my understanding. Teach me to obey without hesitation and release control completely. Give me confidence in Your voice and peace in Your timing. I choose to follow Your instructions, even when I don't see the full picture, in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Diving Deeper Two-Step Challenge

1. Identify the Instruction - *John 2:5*
What is one clear thing God has already told you through His Word or Spirit that you've delayed acting on?
2. Act without Delay - *James 1:22*
Take one immediate step of obedience today without overthinking, adjusting, or waiting.

Friday TRUSTING THE PROCESS

Key Scripture

John 2:6-8 NASB

Devotional

Yesterday, you were challenged to obey His instruction. Today, the question becomes what happens after you obey and nothing changes. Because this is where most people quit.

Jesus gives an instruction that doesn't match the need. "Fill the jars with water." Not just any jars but six stone jars used for ceremonial washing. Ordinary vessels with no connection to the outcome that's needed. Can you

imagine what the servants were thinking as they began to fill the jars with water, bucket after bucket? Not a water hose but buckets. They did this, step after step with no other explanation, no visible progress and no confirmation that they were doing the right thing other than obeying. Scripture gives the tone that they didn't drag their feet, they didn't complain, they did as they were instructed. They filled the jars to the brim. Faith doesn't wait for outcomes, it responds to the Word.

There's a phrase that became popular in sports culture: "Trust the Process." The Philadelphia 76ers held onto that during one of the hardest rebuilding seasons in their history. For years, it didn't look like anything was working. They were losing games, their top players were injured, and the results didn't match the vision. But internally, they were building something that just hadn't been revealed yet.

And that's how faith works. There will be seasons where your life doesn't reflect what God promised. Where it feels like more is going wrong than right. Where you're showing up, obeying, trusting and still not seeing the outcome. But just like that process, what looks unproductive on the outside can be preparation on the inside.

The danger is not in the process, it's quitting during the process. If you walk away too early, you'll misinterpret what God was doing. You'll call it failure, when it was actually formation. You'll call it delay, when it was actually development.

Empty vessels were filled through obedience and positioned for transformation. The miracle wasn't in the water or the effort. It was in Jesus' authority, activated through obedience. You see, obedience starts the process but trust sustains it. There is something about repetition in obedience. Let's look at the servants again. Every step the servants took to fill those jars required effort without evidence. In that repetition, something deeper was happening, not just in the jars, but in them. God was building consistency, discipline, and trust that didn't depend on results. Many people want a moment but God is after maturity. Maturity is not formed in the miracle, it's formed in the process leading up to it.

If the servants had stopped halfway, the miracle would have been incomplete on their end. Not because Jesus lacked power, but because they didn't fully participate. Partial obedience limits your experience of a miracle, not God's ability. Faithfulness in the unseen is what qualifies you to handle what becomes visible.

The process will often feel beneath you before it reveals what's been building within you. But if you stay committed, what feels insignificant will become the very thing God uses to display His miraculous power.

Reflection

Are you fully committed to what God told you or are you quietly pulling back because you don't see results yet?

Prayer

Lord, when I don't see movement, remind me that You are still working. Help me to obey fully and not partially. Help me to trust You without doubt interrupting what You've started. Teach me to remain faithful in the unseen, in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Diving Deeper Two-Step Challenge

1. Examine your Effort - *Galatians 6:9*
Where are you obeying partially instead of fully "to the brim"?
2. Eliminate the Exit Plan - *Hebrews 10:23*
What doubt, backup plan, or fear are you holding onto that's keeping you from trusting God completely?

Saturday

WITNESSING A MIRACLE

Key Scripture

John 2:9–11 NASB

Devotional

The master of the banquet tasted the water turned into wine, but he didn't know where it came from. The miracle was experienced but not fully understood by everyone in the room. God can do something significant in your life and the people around you may enjoy the outcome without ever knowing the process it took to get there.

What's powerful about this moment is that not everyone recognized what had just happened but the servants knew. The ones who filled the jars. The ones who carried the water. The ones who obeyed when it didn't make sense. They had a front-row seat to the miracle because they were a part of the process. This is what makes witnessing different from just observing. You see what God did and you remember how He did it. You remember the instructions, the obedience, the waiting, and then the moment everything shifted.

For those of you that have experienced a miracle(s), this is why your testimony matters. There are people who will see the "wine" in your life. *The results, the blessings, the breakthroughs but they won't know the "water" you started with.* Let this sit for a moment,

...they won't know the "water" you started with. To meditate some more, they won't know the empty "vessel" you started with.

They won't see the prayers, the stretching, the moments you had to trust God when nothing made sense. When you share what God has done, you're not just telling a story. You're giving someone else a reason to believe that what God did for you, He can do for them.

As we come to the end of this week's devotion, don't rush past what God has been building in you this week. Take time to reflect on where you started and how your perspective has shifted. The same situations may still be in front of you but now you're not approaching them the same way. We don't just celebrate the miracle, we understand the path that led to it. What started as a simple need turned into a deeper invitation to grow in faith. From recognizing the need, to bringing it to Jesus, to obeying His instruction, to trusting His process and witnessing the miracle, every step mattered.

Because faith isn't just for one moment. It's a lifestyle that grows stronger every time you choose to trust Him according to His word. As new challenges come and they will. Remember this step by step, verse by verse reading journey. God is still able to turn the impossible into possible in your life.

Reflection

What has God revealed to you in this journey and what step of obedience are you now responsible for?

Prayer

God, thank You for revealing Yourself as a miracle worker. Thank You for teaching me to trust, obey, and

endure. Help me not to stop here but to live a life that consistently responds to Your voice. I desire to continue to grow in my faith and deepen my surrender. I trust that what I place in your hands will always be made better, in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Diving Deeper Two-Step Challenge

1. Recognize What God Has Done - *Psalms 77:11-12*
What is one area in your life where you can clearly see that God has come through for you?
2. Respond with Bold Faith - *Revelation 12:11*
In having a testimony, who is one person you can share it with this week to encourage their faith in what God can do?

Sunday SERMON NOTES

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal red ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.

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Week 2

FIG TREE



Monday	A Different Kind of Faith	15
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Monday

A DIFFERENT KIND OF FAITH

Key Scripture

Mark 11:22–24 (NASB)

Devotional

Why are we beginning toward the end of the chapter? At first glance, it may seem like an odd place to start. But when you step back and take in the full scope of Mark 11, you begin to see that everything in this chapter is quietly building toward this moment. The triumphal entry, the cleansing of the temple, the cursing of the fig tree—each event is funneling toward one simple yet profound statement from Jesus: “Have faith in God.”

On the surface, those words feel familiar—almost too familiar. They can sound like a simple encouragement, something we’ve heard countless times. But if you slow down and look closer, you realize there’s much more happening beneath the surface.

In the original language, the phrasing carries the idea of ongoing, continuous action. It’s not just a one-time decision or a moment of belief. It’s literally, “keep having faith of God”—a faith that is continually shaped, formed, and sustained by Him. This isn’t static faith; it’s alive, active, and dependent.

And that changes everything.

Because now, faith is no longer about trying harder to believe or working yourself into confidence. It’s not about striving to muster up enough certainty to speak to a mountain and hope it moves. Instead, it shifts the focus entirely to the source of your faith. It’s not about how strong your faith feels—it’s about where your faith is coming from.

Before Jesus ever talks about speaking to mountains or seeing the impossible take place, He anchors everything here. Not in effort. Not in emotion. Not in performance. But in source.

So the question naturally becomes: how does faith get shaped like that? How does it become the kind of faith that reflects God Himself?

It’s not formed through pressure. It’s not sustained by hype. And it’s not produced by repetition alone.

It is formed through relationship.

When you look at the life of Jesus throughout this chapter—and really throughout the Gospels—you see a consistent pattern. There are moments where He steps away, where He spends time with the Father, where He is being filled, aligned, and grounded. Then, from that place, He steps into situations with clarity, authority, and confidence. His outward authority was always the overflow of inward alignment.

It didn’t start with speaking. It didn’t start with action. It started with a life that was continually being shaped by time with God.

And that’s the invitation for us.

Before anything changes around you—before circumstances shift, before prayers are answered, before mountains move—God desires to shape something within you. He is more concerned with the formation of your faith than the immediate outcome of your situation. Because a faith that is formed by Him will naturally produce fruit that reflects Him.

This kind of faith doesn't come from striving—it comes from staying. Staying connected. Staying close. Staying in relationship with the One who forms it.

Reflection

Where is your faith currently being shaped—from outside influences or pressure, or from time with God?

Prayer

Father, I want faith that pleases You. Give me eyes that see You in Your Word and ears that hear what You are saying to me by Your Holy Spirit within me. Shape my faith so that my life produces the fruit You desire—fruit that impacts those around me for Your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Diving Deeper

- Romans 4 — Abraham's life of faith was built over time by walking with God.
- Key passages where God formed Abraham's faith: Genesis 12:1–7; 13:14–17; 15:1–21; 17:1–27; 18:1–33; 22:1–18.

Tuesday GOD IN YOUR DAILY RHYTHM

Key Scripture

Mark 11

Devotional

It's easy to focus on the big, visible moments in this chapter—the triumphal entry, the cleansing of the temple, the miraculous signs. Those are the moments that naturally draw our attention. They feel significant, powerful, and worth remembering.

But if you slow down and look again, there's something much quieter happening beneath the surface—something simple that's easy to overlook if you're only looking for the dramatic. Jesus is repeating the same route every day.

Bethany → Jerusalem → Bethany.
Again. And again. And again.

Mark 11:19 says, *"When evening came, they would go out of the city."* That wasn't a one-time detail—it was a pattern. A rhythm. A daily movement that framed everything else that was happening. And it wasn't random. Jesus said He only did what He saw the Father doing. That means even this routine—this back-and-forth, this daily path—was directed by God. It wasn't just logistical; it was spiritual. It was intentional.

So the question becomes: where did that direction come from? It came from prayer.

From time with the Father. From a life that was continually aligned with Him. What may look like routine on the outside was actually the result of deep connection on the inside.

We often look for breakthroughs in big, dramatic moments. We tend to think that if God is going to move, it will be obvious, sudden, and unmistakable. But here, Jesus shows us something different—something more sustainable and, in many ways, more powerful.

The power of God shows up in a life of consistent obedience.

The repetition isn't meaningless—it's forming something. It's shaping your heart, aligning your thoughts, strengthening your trust, and building a foundation that can actually carry the weight of what God wants to do through you.

And notice the rhythm again.

Every night, after the crowds... after the teaching... after the miracles... after the attention—Jesus leaves it all behind and goes back to Bethany.

Back to humility. Back to quiet. Back to the Father.

He doesn't stay in the spotlight. He doesn't linger in the noise. He returns to the place where His relationship with the Father is strengthened and sustained.

That's not a small detail—that's the source of everything.

Because what happens publicly is always fueled by what is cultivated privately.

So don't overlook the simple pattern in your own life. Don't dismiss the daily rhythms that may feel ordinary or repetitive. Scripture reading. Prayer. Quiet moments of reflection. Ordering your thoughts around what God has been showing you.

Those moments may not feel dramatic—but they are deeply significant.

That's where transformation begins.

That's where alignment is formed.

That's where power is built.

Reflection

Are you faithful in the daily rhythm God has given you—Scripture reading, prayer, and ordering your thoughts around what He is showing you? Or are you only looking for big moments?

Prayer

Lord, I value the daily, quiet obedience in which You are shaping my life. Give me grace and wisdom to consistently look to You in my daily routine. Help me not overlook the simple rhythms where You are forming something deeper within me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Diving Deeper

Mark 4:26–29 — The simple, daily rhythm of the farmer ultimately results in a harvest.

Wednesday

WHAT PRAYER PRODUCES

Key Scripture

Mark 11:2–6

Devotional

At this moment, Jesus gives His disciples very specific instructions. He tells them to go into a village, and immediately they will find a colt tied there—one that has never been ridden. He tells them exactly what to do, what to say if questioned, and what will happen next.

Specific place.
Specific moment.
Specific instructions.

And when they go, everything unfolds exactly as He said it would.

It raises an important question: how did He know?

Jesus wasn't guessing. He wasn't making a calculated assumption or taking a risk based on probability. He had insight. He had clarity about something that had not yet happened in the natural—but was already known in the Spirit.

And that clarity came from His relationship with the Father.

This is what prayer produces.

Prayer doesn't just make you feel close to God—though it certainly does deepen that relationship. But it doesn't stop there. Prayer also gives you direction. It aligns your perspective with what God is already seeing, already doing, and already setting in motion.

When you begin to look at Mark 11 through that lens, a pattern starts to emerge in the life of Jesus.

He knows when to act.
He knows when to stay silent.
He knows when to speak.
He knows when to wait.

Nothing about His actions is rushed, reactive, or driven by pressure. Even in the temple, you see this clearly. On His first visit, He observes everything and says nothing. Then He leaves. On His second visit, He returns and overturns the tables.

That's not inconsistency—that's precision.

That's not impulse—that's obedience flowing from clarity.

And that kind of clarity doesn't come from external circumstances. It doesn't come from urgency, expectation, or the opinions of others. It comes from time with the Father. It comes from a life that is continually listening, continually aligned, and continually responsive to His voice.

If we're honest, this is often where we struggle.

We want results. We want progress. We want to move forward and see things happen. But many times, we try to skip the very place where true direction is formed. We move quickly, decide quickly, speak quickly—all without first seeking clarity from God.

But Jesus models a different way.

He shows us that prayer is not a delay—it is the source of direction. It is not a pause in productivity—it is what makes our actions purposeful. Prayer is where God reveals what He is already doing so that we can move in step with Him instead of striving ahead of Him.

When you begin to see prayer this way, it changes how you approach it. It's no longer just a spiritual discipline—it becomes your source of insight, your place of alignment, and your guide for every decision. Because God is not withholding direction from you. He is inviting you into it.

Reflection

Are you making decisions based on pressure, urgency, or expectation—or from clear direction you've received from God?

Prayer

Father, give me insight. Teach me to hear Your direction clearly and to walk in step with You, in agreement with You. Quiet the noise around me so I can recognize Your voice with confidence. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Diving Deeper

John 10:27 — Jesus said that you, His sheep, would hear His voice. You can stand on this promise: "From this moment forward, Father... I hear Your voice."

Thursday SPEAKING WHAT HE SAYS

Key Scripture

Mark 11:23

Devotional

At this moment, Jesus speaks to the fig tree. It's brief, direct, and seemingly simple—just a few words spoken into a situation that, at the time, showed no visible response.

And then... He walks away.

There's no dramatic pause. No emotional intensity. No repetition to reinforce what He just said. And most notably, there is no immediate, visible result. Nothing outward happens that would validate the moment in real time. That alone challenges how we often think about faith and authority.

Because naturally, we tend to associate power with passion, repetition, or intensity. We assume that if something is going to be effective, it has to feel powerful in the moment or look significant on the outside.

But Jesus models something entirely different.

The power wasn't in how He said it.
It was in where the words came from.

His words carried authority not because of delivery, but because of source. They were not formed out of emotion, pressure, or reaction. They were rooted in alignment with the Father. What He spoke outwardly was already established inwardly through relationship.

And later, when He turns to His disciples, He makes a remarkable statement—telling them that they, too, can speak to mountains and see them move.

But that kind of authority doesn't come from effort. It doesn't come from trying harder, saying the right phrases, or mimicking someone else's experience.

It comes from alignment.

When your faith is being shaped by God...
When your direction is being formed in prayer...
When your life is rooted in relationship with Him...

Then your words begin to carry His authority.

This is where the order matters.

Because if we're honest, we often reverse it. We try to speak before we've truly listened. We declare things out of urgency, frustration, or even comparison—sometimes echoing what we've heard others say, hoping for similar results.

And then, when nothing seems to happen, we grow discouraged or confused.
But Jesus shows us a different pattern.

He doesn't speak from impulse—He speaks from intimacy. He doesn't react—He responds. He doesn't strive for authority—He operates from it.

And that authority is the overflow of hearing the Father first. Hear first. Then speak.

That's when things begin to move—not because of the volume of your words, but because of the weight behind them. Words that are rooted in God carry a different kind of authority. They are not empty—they are backed by heaven.

This doesn't mean every word we speak has to feel profound or dramatic. In fact, as Jesus shows us, sometimes the most powerful words are the simplest ones—spoken with quiet confidence, because they are aligned with

what God has already said.

So the invitation here isn't to speak more—it's to listen more.

Because when you truly hear Him, you won't have to strive to make your words effective. They will already carry the authority of the One who spoke them to you.

Reflection

Are your words coming from pressure? From your own thoughts? From copying someone else's success—or from what God has personally spoken to you?

Prayer

Lord, I look to the Holy Spirit to help align my words with Yours. Teach me to listen before I speak. Help me speak from what You have revealed, not from what I feel or what I see around me. Let my words reflect Your truth and carry Your authority. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Diving Deeper

Proverbs 18:21

Friday WHEN NOTHING SEEMS TO HAPPEN

Key Scripture

Mark 11:14

Devotional

Jesus speaks to the fig tree. It's a direct, intentional moment—He addresses it, declares something over it, and then... nothing appears to change.

At least, nothing visible.

There's no immediate reaction. No outward sign that anything has taken place. No confirmation at the moment that what He said had any effect at all.

And then, just as quietly as He spoke, he walked away. No lingering. No checking for results. No second attempt. He simply moves on.

This is the moment where most people would struggle. In fact, this is where many would stop believing altogether. Because we have been conditioned to expect immediate results. We often associate effectiveness with what we can see right away. If nothing happens outwardly, we assume nothing happened at all.

But the story doesn't end there.

The next day, as they pass by the same tree, the disciples notice something remarkable—it is completely withered. Not just on the surface, but *from the roots*. Which means something *did* happen. Just not where they could see it yet.

This is such an important picture of how God often works.

He doesn't always start with what is visible. He starts at the root. He works beneath the surface, in places that are hidden from our view, in ways that don't immediately register to our natural senses.

Before anything changes outwardly, something is already shifting underneath.

And if we're not careful, we can misinterpret the silence. We can assume that because we don't see movement, nothing is happening. But in reality, God may be doing His most significant work in the unseen.

This is where faith becomes real.

Faith operates in that space—the gap between what God has spoken and what you can currently see. It lives in the tension between promise and manifestation. It trusts that just because something hasn't appeared yet doesn't mean it hasn't already begun.

Jesus didn't need visible confirmation to believe that what He said had taken effect. He trusted the source. He trusted the authority behind His words. And He understood that what happens at the root will eventually show up in the fruit.

That same principle applies to us.

When God speaks something to your life, when He leads you, when He gives you direction—it doesn't always result in immediate, visible change. Sometimes, the first evidence of movement is hidden. Sometimes, the process begins where only He can see.

But that doesn't mean it isn't working.

So don't abandon what God has spoken just because you don't see it yet. Don't walk away from a promise just because it hasn't shown up in the way or timing you expected.

It's working.

Even now, beneath the surface, something is being formed, shifted, and established.

And in time, what started at the root will become visible in the fruit.

Reflection

Have you given up on something God spoke because you didn't see immediate results?

Prayer

Father, help me trust You in the unseen. Strengthen my faith to believe that You are working even when I can't see it. Give me patience to remain steady and confidence to hold onto what You have said, knowing that You are faithful to complete what You have started. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Diving Deeper

Mark 4:26–27 — Notice the progression: seed, soil, the first sprout, the ear, then the full grain. Growth happens in stages, and much of it takes place out of sight before it is ever revealed.

Saturday THIS IS THE PATTERN

Key Scripture

Mark 11:24–25

Devotional

By this point, if you've been walking through the chapter slowly, the pattern is no longer hidden—it's clear. What may have seemed like a collection of moments at first now reveals itself as a consistent way of living that Jesus is modeling from beginning to end.

There is a rhythm to His life. A flow. A pattern that everything else is built upon.

We come to Him continually in prayer—not just to ask for things, not just in moments of need, but to know Him. To be with Him. To live in a way that pleases Him. This is where everything begins.

And from that place, something starts to take shape.

It flows into obedience. It produces insight.

It leads to words spoken that are backed with His authority.

Those words go to work in the unseen... And eventually—fruit shows up.

This isn't theory. This is what Jesus was demonstrating the entire time.

Every step, every moment, every response in Mark 11 fits within this pattern. Nothing is disconnected. Nothing is random. It all flows from relationship with the Father and returns back to it.

And even the ending of this passage matters.

Right after Jesus speaks about mountains moving—right after He reveals the kind of faith that can see the impossible take place—He immediately says something that might seem, at first, unrelated:

"When you stand praying, forgive... so that your Heavenly Father may forgive you..."

Why bring forgiveness into this moment?

Because this whole thing is about relationship with the Father.

Faith is not a formula. Authority is not a technique. These things cannot be separated from the condition of your heart and your connection to Him. Unforgiveness, offense, and disconnection disrupt the very relationship that everything else flows from.

You can't separate faith from relationship.
You can't separate authority from connection.
Everything flows from there.

And once again, you see the rhythm that has been present throughout the chapter.

Jerusalem—public, visible, active.
Bethany—humble, hidden, quiet.

Jesus moved in power publicly. People saw the miracles. They heard the teaching. They witnessed the authority. But what sustained that power was not found in the public moments—it was found in His private return to the Father. Again and again, He stepped away from the noise, away from the spotlight, and back into humility, back into quiet, back into relationship.

That's the pattern. And it's the pattern we're invited into as well.

If you want to see fruit in your life—lasting fruit, meaningful fruit—it won't come from chasing moments or trying to manufacture results outwardly. It won't come from striving to recreate what you've seen somewhere else. It will come from returning, daily, to Him.

From building a life that is rooted in relationship. From choosing connection over performance. From allowing everything—your obedience, your words, your actions—to flow from that place.

Because when the root is healthy, the fruit will come.

Reflection

Are you trying to produce results outwardly without maintaining relationship with Him inwardly? Do you desire Him more than the results you're believing for?

Prayer

Father, help me to grow daily in my relationship with You. Draw me into deeper intimacy and alignment with Your heart. Teach me to value connection with You above everything else, and I will trust You with the results. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Diving Deeper

1 Peter 5:6–7, John 15:1–11

Sunday SERMON NOTES

This image shows a full page of blank handwriting practice paper. It features 20 evenly spaced horizontal red lines across the entire page, providing a guide for letter height and placement. The background is a solid off-white color. There are no margins, text, or other markings present.

Week 3

CALMING THE STORM

(Speak your Answer)



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Monday

BECAUSE MY DAD SAID

Key Scripture

Mark 4:35-36;5:1-20 (NASB)

Devotional

The first miracle here is assignment. Jesus says in verse 35, "Let us go over to the other side." It is clear that they were not on a boat by accident. They were headed somewhere for a purpose. They had an assignment.

This all becomes clear when they get to the other side. There is a demon-possessed man that approaches them. Jesus drives the demons out of him and into a herd of pigs. This is amazing, right? A job well done. Well, it wouldn't have been, if the storm was too big for them. But the truth is, the assignment was bigger.

I firmly believe Jesus was able to stand in faith over fear because He lived in His assignment. It is because He knew He had a purpose on the other side of the waters, it allowed Him to stay steady and full of faith that the storm was nothing but an inconvenience. So much so, He could sleep through it.

I remember when I was just a kid, my dad took me camping. Neither of us are outdoorsmen by any means and we especially weren't back then, but it was just to have some fun and get away for a bit. I remember hearing noises outside of our tent that night. I was so scared and kept looking at him. He would tell me "It'll all be worth it when we catch a fish tomorrow."

I remember just last year calling my dad about a hard season in my life where I was walking through grief, anger, and a lot of confusion. I wanted to give up, leave, and quit everything. He would tell me "God still has an assignment for you where you are."

There are miracles in my life that were on the other side of perseverance. I had to understand my assignment was bigger than my opposition and that gave me strength to see miracles break out in my own life. The voice of my father gave me so much assurance and hope that I would see the other side.

I think of Jesus in these moments, not shaken by the storm, saying to Himself "It's okay, because My Dad said..."

Reflection

How might your current "storm" look different if you truly believed there was an assignment waiting for you on the other side of it?

Prayer

Father, thank You that my life has purpose, even when things feel uncertain. Help me to trust Your voice over what I see and feel. When fear rises, remind me that You've already spoken direction over my life. Give me faith bigger than my storm and let that faith be driven by assignment. In Jesus name, amen.

Diving Deeper

- Philippians 1:6 He who began a good work will carry it on
- Joshua 1:9 Be strong and courageous... the Lord is with you

Tuesday IT'S NOT ME, IT'S YOU

Key Scripture

Mark 4:40 (NASB)

Devotional

The first thing the disciples did when the wind and storms raged around them was make it Jesus' responsibility. They didn't think they had any part to play in the sea being calmed. They just looked at Jesus.

Now, Jesus is the hope of the world. He is God in flesh. He does have the power to calm the storm and the sea, but what is His response? His response is to look back at His disciples and say "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

I can think of so many times in my life where I just looked up and complained. I complained about my job. I complained about my family. I complained about my season of life. Things didn't change for me for a while until I finally realized so much of this wasn't God refusing or ignoring me; it was me not having any faith for what I really wanted.

I often think of those rom coms where the guy breaks up with the girl and he looks at her and says "It's not you, it's me." He only says that to make her feel better. In reality, I think Jesus is often saying the opposite. "It's not Me, it's you!"

If you're wanting things to shift and change in your life, if you're looking for a miracle to take place in your home, your job, your relationships, etc. I believe Jesus is more than willing and able, but you need to know that you have the key! YOU have the Holy Spirit.

So, for some of us, it's time to look at the wind and waves around us full of faith instead of complaint and discontentment. It's time to understand that the waves and winds of my life can be calmed in Jesus' name.

Reflection

Where in your life have you been asking God to change something, when He may actually be calling you to respond in faith instead of frustration?

Prayer

Jesus, thank You that You've given me Your Spirit and the ability to live by faith. Forgive me for the times I've complained instead of trusting You. Help me to stop looking at my situation with fear and start speaking with faith. Remind me that You are with me, and give me the boldness to believe that things can change in Your name.

Diving Deeper

- Mark 11:22–23 — “Have faith in God... speak to the mountain”
- James 1:6 — Ask in faith without doubting
- Luke 10:19 — Authority given to believers

Wednesday

WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS

Key Scripture

Mark 4:37 (NASB)

Devotional

Things always seem to happen in waves. It's not just one minor inconvenience or something happens that frustrates you, it's everything happening at once. At least, that's how things happen for me.

The same day they are out of your favorite sandwich at your regular lunch spot is the same day you got snapped at by a family member or reprimanded at work. Then you came home and your dog chewed your shoes. I mean, what a day!

I love what it says in verse 37 “...the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up.” So it wasn't just raining with some minor wind, the boat was already filling up with water. It was getting bad very quickly because so much was happening at one time.

I believe this is strategic from the enemy. The enemy has a plan for you just as God does. His plan is to steal from you, kill you, and destroy you. Not my words either (John 10:10). If he can get you in a moment where you feel like all is lost, he wins. That is why he isn't casual with his attacks on our lives. This is why miracles don't happen casually either.

I'm reminded of Elijah in 1 Kings when he was outside of the cave. He had just had one of his best moments. He called down fire from God in order to rebuke the prophets of baal. What a victory. What a miracle. Yet he immediately finds himself defeated outside of a cave begging God to take his life.

His life wasn't lost. He wasn't defeated. But those waves were massive and they came all at once.

God knows the miracle you need. Sometimes when everything happens at once we can look to him feeling defeated, but He will strengthen you and remind you of your calling and purpose just as He did with Elijah. God sees the bigger picture. Those waves are temporary.

Reflection

When everything seems to hit at once, do you tend to believe the moment defines your life — or trust that God is still working for your good?

Prayer

God, when life feels overwhelming and everything hits at once, help me not to lose perspective. Remind me that this moment is not the whole story. Strengthen me when I feel worn down, and help me to trust that You are still working, even when things feel chaotic. Give me peace in the middle of the pressure and confidence that these waves are only temporary. In Jesus name, amen.

Diving Deeper

- John 10:10 — The enemy comes to steal, kill, and destroy
- 1 Kings 19:9–18 — God meets Elijah in the cave and reminds him of his purpose
- 2 Corinthians 4:8–9 — Pressed but not crushed

Thursday NOW YOU SEE ME, NOW YOU DON'T

Key Scripture

Mark 4:38 (NASB)

Devotional

The disciples were with Jesus all the time. They saw the miracles He did. They saw His ministry up close and personally. You would think they would not doubt or question Him, yet that seems to be a recurring theme in scripture.

When things were going well they never doubted Jesus. They believed in Him and had zero reservations about Him performing miracles or providing in any way. Yet, when this storm happens, they run to Him, and they ask Him this question, "Do you not care that we are perishing?"

It's so easy to see God in the good times. You think, "Things are going well, and I feel God's provision so I don't question Him. I don't doubt that He is good." Yet there are times we so easily forget how good He's been to us as soon as we go through difficulty.

We think of God like a magician. The same ones that show up and disappear. They throw the smoke pellet down to the ground and say "Now you see me. Now you don't." That's funny, but that's not the God I serve. He is always present and willing. He is not elusive.

The truth is, the same God that has shown up for me and you in the past is the same God that will show up in our present and our future. Remember the goodness of God in the good times and the hard seasons.

God is not a magician. He is not showing up and disappearing for His own entertainment or amusement. He is always present, and Christ is interceding on your behalf for the miracle you need.

Reflection

What are some ways we can remember God's faithfulness in every season?

Prayer

God, thank You that You are constant and always present. Forgive me for the times I've doubted Your goodness when things got difficult. Help me to remember how You've been faithful in my past so I can trust You in my present. Strengthen my faith so I don't forget who You are, even in the middle of a storm. In Jesus' name, amen.

Diving Deeper

- Hebrews 13:8 — Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever
- Psalm 77:11–12 — Remembering the works of the Lord
- Lamentations 3:22–23 — His mercies are new every morning

Friday A MAN OF FEW WORDS

Key Scripture

Mark 4:39 (NASB)

Devotional

Growing up, I had a friend who didn't say much, but when he did, it was profound. Seriously, when he spoke people leaned in and listened. People wanted to hear what he had to say about things. His opinion mattered. Why? Because he didn't just blabber all day, he really thought about things carefully and handled things with wisdom.

Wisdom and power doesn't need a lot of words. In fact, Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for praying all day in the streets, but having zero substance to them. In other words, they were praying a whole lot of nothing. It was all a performance, but when the Spirit of God is present and you are believing for something in faith, it doesn't take much for God to move.

That is what we see from Jesus. He stands up in the middle of a storm, the wind and the waves raging around Him, and He simply says "Hush, be still."

Jesus believed in this principle to His core. We see this in his Sermon on the Mount, He says "So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him." He is saying not to pray like Pharisees and his main reasoning is that God already knows what you need.

What a confidence we have that will sharpen our words. We don't have to babble, God knows what we need. Instead, pray with substance. Whatever we are believing for, we can pray with confidence and not showmanship.

God knows what you need, so let that sharpen your prayer life.

Reflection

What would change in your prayer life if you truly believed God already knows what you need?

Prayer

God, thank You that You already know what I need before I even ask. Help me come to You with honesty and faith. Teach me to pray with confidence, not performance. Let my words carry faith and trust in who You are, knowing that You hear me and care about every detail of my life. In Jesus' name, amen.

Diving Deeper

- Matthew 6:7–8 — Don't babble like the pagans
- Matthew 8:8 — The centurion's simple, faith-filled words

Saturday STAY CLOSE, STAND OUT

Key Scripture

Mark 4:41 (NASB)

Devotional

There is a moment in scripture that I absolutely love. Acts 4:13 says "Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus."

The Greek word for unschooled and untrained is "idiōtai". In English, this is translated as "idiots". Meaning that what was significant about Peter and John was not their education, training, or qualifications, but rather their time with Jesus. People took note of it.

In this story, after Jesus got up and rebuked the wind and waves, the disciples were afraid of Jesus and began to take note of His power. He was on an entirely different level of faith than they were.

When you begin to believe God for miracles in your own life and begin to have crazy faith for God to move, people start to take notice. Why? Because the world is programmed to doubt. The world is programmed to live in despair and chaos. So having faith and boldness is going against the grain.

May people take note of our lives in difficult seasons because we responded differently than everyone else around us. May people take note that we have been with Jesus and the Holy Spirit is working in us and through our lives.

Not because we are the most qualified, but because we hunger and thirst for more of God's Spirit in our lives, and because of that, we stand out by standing in faith.

Reflection

Would the way you respond in difficult seasons cause people to recognize that you've been with Jesus?

Prayer

Jesus, more than anything, I want my life to reflect that I've been with You. Not because of my ability or qualifications, but because of Your Spirit working in me. Help me to respond with faith when others respond with fear. Give me boldness to trust You in every situation so that others can see You through my life. In Jesus name, amen.

Diving Deeper

- Acts 4:13 — Recognized as having been with Jesus
- Galatians 5:22–23 — The fruit of the Spirit
- 1 Corinthians 1:27 — God uses the foolish things of the world

Sunday SERMON NOTES

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Week 4

WOMAN WITH THE ISSUE OF BLOOD



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Monday

FAITH IN WAITING

Key Scripture

Mark 5:25-34 (TPT)

Devotional

Have you ever found yourself waiting for a miracle?

Maybe you're in a place where God has spoken a promise to you—but you're still in the waiting. You're wondering where to go, what to do, or how it's all going to unfold.

Let me ask you something:

When you received that promise, what did you do with it?

Did you take God at His word and choose to believe it?

Did you begin to speak it out?

Did you move forward in faith, trusting what you couldn't yet see?

I've been there. In fact, I would be lying if I said I'm not there even now as I write this.

My husband and I received a promise so clearly from the Lord—that we were to have a child. It felt urgent, like something we needed to step into right away. So we did. We prayed. We asked for clarity. We asked for wisdom and preparation. We even took small steps of faith purchasing a few things as a way to align our actions with what we know God had spoken. As we began walking it out, we also started seeking medical answers and were met with report after report saying it would be very difficult for us to have children.

So we did what many people do: we pursued everything we felt led to do in the natural.

Somewhere along the way, we felt a gentle conviction from the Lord. It was as if He was reminding us: *You're trying to force what I already promised.*

We realized we had started striving instead of trusting. We were trying to make something happen in our own strength instead of allowing God to fulfill His promise in His timing. Even in the middle of that, the Lord began to encourage us in ways we couldn't ignore. The Lord began to send people across our path—random, unexpected moments—who would speak life over us and release prophetic words that confirmed His promise of a child. They had no idea what God had already spoken to us, yet their words confirmed it again and again.

God will use people around you to strengthen and encourage your faith especially in seasons where you're tempted to doubt. As I'm writing this I wish I could say we've already seen God fulfill this promise and that we're holding our child in our arms but we are still pursuing our miracle by believing what God said **first**. We are still trusting the Lord. We are still holding onto His word as He continues to remind us of it. We are choosing to see what we cannot **yet** see. Our faith has not wavered—and yours doesn't have to either.

When we look at the woman with the issue of blood, we see a similar pattern.

For 12 long years, she tried everything she knew to do. Scripture tells us she spent all she had and, instead of getting better, she actually grew worse. She exhausted every natural option available. This reminds us that God often provides wisdom, knowledge, and professionals like doctors, counselors, or mentors to help us in practical ways. Seeking medical help is not a lack of faith; God uses doctors and experts as part of His plan for our wellbeing. Here's the key: sometimes the need is more spiritual than natural. Her healing didn't come from what she could do in the natural. It came from a moment of faith that connected her to the power of God. It was spiritual.

I want to encourage you today: even in the waiting your faith matters! It's our faith in the unseen that is pleasing to Him. He is still good. He still hears your prayers. He still sees your heart. We will not doubt! We will choose joy and peace as we surrender and believe through faith! Take hold of your faith, and connect it with His goodness, even in the waiting. Instead of trying everything else, come to Jesus. Take hold of your faith and anchor it in His goodness even when you don't see the outcome just yet. Trust that He is working in all things even in the 12 years of waiting. You are whole, you are healed and you are fully equipped to run your race that He has set before you!

This week we are going to see how the woman with the issue of blood took action with her faith. She didn't have passive faith, but **active** faith—and that's exactly what we are stepping into this week.

Reflection

What miracle am I believing for right now, and how can I shift from striving in my own strength to resting in His power?

Prayer

Father, thank You for Your goodness in all things. Thank You for Your constant grace and unfailing love over my life. Today, I choose to trust You. I choose to believe Your Word and Your ways above my own understanding. Even in the waiting, I declare that You are good no matter what I see or don't see. Thank You that You are still a God of miracles. You are working, even now, in ways I cannot see. I place my healing, my hopes, and every promise You've spoken into Your hands. I choose faith over fear, and trust over striving. I believe that what You have spoken will come to pass, in Your perfect timing. Thank You, Lord. In Jesus' name, amen.

Diving Deeper

- Hebrews 11:1 (NASB), 2 Corinthians 5:7-9 (NASB)
- Listen to: "Easy" by MercyCulture Worship

Tuesday FAITH IN WAITING

Key Scripture

Mark 5:27 (TPT), Romans 10:17 (NASB)

Devotional

Yesterday, we focused on trusting God in the waiting and holding onto His promises. Today, we begin the journey of **active faith**. But what does that look like? How does it actually begin?

It begins with hearing.

Your ears carry more weight than you realize. What you hear becomes a seed planted in your heart. The woman with the issue of blood first **heard** that Jesus was coming before she acted or spoke a word. She received the truth, and that truth led to her miraculous freedom. What fueled her faith was *simply knowing what she had already heard*: Jesus is coming. She heard, she believed, and that hearing set her free.

Scripture tells us that the seed is the word of God and that faith comes by hearing it. So, when it comes to your miracle—whether it's your healing, your breakthrough, or your promises, ask yourself: What does God say about that? Has He already spoken something to me through His Word, a prophetic word, a dream, a vision, etc.? While we're at it, what seeds are being planted within your heart? Who's planting them and what and who are you listening to? How has your faith been affected by what you are hearing?

Hearing can build faith or it can plant doubt, fear, and unbelief depending on what you allow in you. The woman with the issue of blood had boldness. Why? How? Because she heard Jesus was coming and that was enough. She heard the truth, and that truth set her free. She trusted that truth! Your hearing must change in order to create the shift from striving to fully believing. What the enemy longs for more than anything is to rob you of any promise or miracle God has already spoken over you—supernatural healing, a child, financial freedom, etc. and he does that by bringing doubt, fear and unbelief into your heart. Mark 4:15 says, "...where the word is sown: **when they hear**, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them." What happens when something gets sown into our hearts by hearing? The enemy immediately comes and attempts to rob us of that word. It's up to us to not tolerate it! It's up to us to remain in faith and to speak with our authority that Satan will NOT rob us of what God has said to us! How do we do this? By aligning our heart with God's through surrender and as our faith increases. As your ears align with God's heart, your faith rises, and that faith moves the heart of God.

Today, take intentional time to meditate on what God has spoken over you through His Word. Listen closely to what He says about the promises in your life—your healing, your breakthrough, your provision. Let His Word dwell in you richly, taking root deeply in your heart. Incline your ear to His voice, making His truth your priority.

Reflection

What has God spoken about the miracle I'm believing for—and what/who have I been listening to that's causing my faith to waver?

Prayer

Father, thank You for Your Word and for showing me what true faith looks like. I want to align my heart with Yours, Lord. Incline my ears to hear You clearly, and reveal anything that may be hindering my faith through what or who I am listening to. Give me grace, Lord, to make the necessary adjustments to what I allow into my heart. May Your Word and Your heart dwell richly within me. It is your truth that gives me faith, hope and freedom. Give me boldness in my faith through hearing. Today, I choose to make Your voice and Your Word my priority. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Diving Deeper

- Read Colossians 3:16 (NASB), Mark 4:15;20 (NASB), Luke 8:15 (NASB), James 1:2-8 (NASB)
- Listen to: "Easy" by Elevation Worship

Wednesday

FAITH THAT SPEAKS

Key Scripture

Mark 5:28 (TPT), Mark 11:23-24 (NASB), Proverbs 18:21 (NASB)

Devotional

First, the woman with the issue of blood heard the truth that Jesus was coming. Immediately after, we see her faith shift from the internal to the external. In verse 28, Scripture tells us she was saying to herself out loud, "If I could touch even his clothes, I know I will be healed."

She knew she would be healed.
She knew the miracle was coming.
She didn't just hear it. She spoke it.

She declared it into existence, using the power of her tongue.

What is this? This is **active faith**—faith moving from the heart into action. When you shift your faith from being internal to being spoken, it activates the realm of God's power in your life. Mark 11:23-24 tells us to speak to the mountains in our lives, using the authority God has given us through the power of our words. Why? Because faith without action is dead (we'll explore this more tomorrow). Just as your ears must incline to the Father, so must your words.

I was on a phone call with a friend last year, and they shared how they were struggling with depression. They said, "I just keep begging God to take it away," and later added, "I'll just leave it alone now because eventually it will go away on its own." I asked them, "Where do you think these thoughts are coming from, and what are you saying to them?" Their blank stare said it all—they hadn't even realized their words were shaping their reality. They simply said, "I just keep hoping they'll eventually go away."

What was happening here? They got a seed planted within them of doubt and unbelief which caused them to give up with their words and actions. Their faith became stagnant and stopped speaking to the depression vs. speaking about it.

Our words matter. Active faith isn't passive. It isn't just believing quietly in your heart. It is activated through what you speak and do. I have to ask you: do you truly believe what God has said? Do you truly believe His promises? If you do, why not declare them boldly? Speaking God's Word aligns your faith with His heart and gradually removes unbelief, because you are no longer giving the enemy space to operate. Your words carry authority, and that authority activates your faith.

The woman with the issue of blood did not say, "I hope this works." She didn't say, "I really hope this stops now." She didn't wait passively for Jesus to notice her. No—she spoke with confidence: "I know I will be healed." How did she know? Because she believed in her heart, and her words matched the seed that had been planted within her.

Speak your faith boldly! Don't just sit and ponder the promise. Declare it out loud. Speak to the mountain in your life and watch it move. The enemy wants nothing more than to keep you silent, but today, let's choose to push

out every seed of fear, doubt, and unbelief by speaking God's truth over it. You have authority! Use it through your prayers, your words, and the conversations you engage in. Let your faith be active, vocal, and unstoppable.

Reflection

In what ways can I activate my faith boldly through my words in my everyday life?

Prayer

Thank You, Lord, for giving me bold faith! Thank You that You are bigger than any mountain, any fear, any doubt, or unbelief. I thank You, Lord, that You are moving powerfully on my behalf right now. I declare Your Word and Your ways over every mountain in my life, in the name of Jesus! I speak and declare that every fear, every doubt, and every lie of the enemy must go in Jesus' name. Thank You, Lord, for the confidence You give me in my faith. Thank You that You are actively healing me, providing for me, and working in every area of my life where I have needs. I trust that this is only a testimony in the making. Thank You, Jesus. I love you. Amen.

Diving Deeper

- "Don't just pray for it, proclaim it." – Christine Caine
- Listen to: "Another One" by Elevation Worship

Thursday FAITH THAT MOVES

Key Scripture

Scripture: Mark 5:27 (TPT)

Devotional

Verse 27 in The Passion Translation says, "...she pushed through the crowd and came up from behind Him and touched His prayer shawl." Other translations simply say, "she touched His garment."

Over the past few days, we've reflected on the waiting, the hearing, and the speaking, but today, we step into what it looks like to activate faith through action.

Picture this moment: she is pressing through a crowd of people, all trying to get to Jesus. Bodies surround Him. People are reaching, moving, and gathering close, yet she is determined to get to Him. She pushes through with one goal in mind: to touch Him. What's remarkable is that many were touching Jesus (verse 31), but it was this woman whose touch caused power to flow from Him. Why? Because she didn't just hear or speak. She acted. She took what she had heard and declared seriously enough to move on it. Every time I read that she "pushed through," I see something deeper: desperation. Urgency. Determination. I see a heart saying, "I will push through whatever stands in my way to get to that promise." I see a heart saying, "I will do whatever it takes to touch the King."

What is that?

That is faith activated through action.

Her movement revealed the heart behind her belief. Her belief produced action, and her action confirmed her faith. Why did she move to begin with? Why did she press through? Because she knew her miracle was on the way, and she believed it with full conviction. Hebrews 11:1 defines faith for us: *"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."*

The word *"conviction"* in Greek can also mean *"persuasive proof or a deep and unshakeable certainty."* Faith isn't a casual agreement; it's being fully convinced that God's promises are true. We do this all the time in everyday life: You go to work each morning fully believing you will get paid for your hours. You flip a light switch with full confidence that the light will turn on. There's no second-guessing because your belief is real. The same is true spiritually. Our actions reveal what we truly believe about God's Word. It proves that our faith is alive, active, and unwavering.

Let the woman with the issue of blood encourage you today! Push through your crowd. Reach for the hem of his garment! Refuse to let the enemy slow you down. Let your heart burn with a faith that hears, speaks, and acts. Don't settle for passive faith—have active faith.

Live with a faith that declares: *"I know God is true, and I know His Word is real. I will move. I will act. I will take every step to align my faith with His power."*

Maybe that means quitting a job the Lord has asked you to leave, even though it's scary. Maybe it's preparing for a promised child by buying a pacifier or an outfit, even though it feels premature. It could mean stepping out in generosity, tithing, or giving, even when finances feel tight. Faith moves you into the promise. Faith activates your obedience. Faith says, *"I will not wait passively. I will move. I will act. I will push through because God is faithful, and His Word will not return void."*

Reflection

In what areas has doubt crept into my faith, keeping me from acting on what I know and have heard to be true?

Prayer

Thank You, Lord, that You are a God of miracles! Today, I choose to act on my belief in You—to step boldly into the areas You have called me to simply because I trust what You have spoken. I commit to living out active faith rather than passive faith. I trust You, Lord, and I trust that Your Word does not return void. I declare that I believe in You, and I believe in Your miraculous power. Show me ways to take steps in faith today. I rebuke any doubt, fear, or unbelief in Jesus' name and choose to align my heart fully with Your truth. Amen.

Diving Deeper

- Read James 2:17 (NASB), James 2:26 (NASB), Proverbs 3:5-6 (NASB), Philippians 1:6 (NASB)
- Listen to: "Miracles" by Jesus Culture

Friday FAITH THAT PLEASES

Key Scripture

Mark 5:30-34 (TPT), Hebrews 11:6 (NASB)

Devotional

Imagine a child cleaning their room without being asked by their parent. They help set the table for dinner and even assist with cleaning afterwards. They do it all without being told, going the extra mile—not for a reward, but simply to make their parent happy. Why? Because they feel joy when their parents notice their effort and delight in them. That joy motivates their actions.

Now think of a close friend coming over for their birthday dinner. You prepare their favorite recipe, set the table, clean your home, and make sure everything is just right. Why? Because you love that friend and want to express that love through your actions.

Pleasing someone involves aligning your actions with what you know will bring them joy, motivated by love and care. In our journey with God, this is exactly what faith does. Scripture tells us that faith pleases God (Hebrews 11:6).

So what does this mean? It means our faith is more than simply believing in God. It's a posture of the heart: trust, love, and obedience that align our thoughts, words, and actions with His will. Just as a child acts to bring joy to their parents, or a friend goes the extra mile to show love, we express our love and trust in God through faith that moves, obeys, and pleases Him. That's exactly what we see in Mark 5:33-34.

Scripture tells us that the woman with the issue of blood *"fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth."* This is significant. By speaking the whole truth openly, even in front of the crowd, she demonstrated reverence, humility, and transparency. Immediately after, Jesus responds: *"Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."* Notice—it was her faith that made her well. Why? Because her faith pleased Him. Just like a child who delights in pleasing their parent, or a friend who expresses love intentionally, our faith when genuine, trusting, and aligned with God brings Him joy. Did you know that your faith can make God smile? That's a beautiful truth.

This week, we've explored what it looks like to walk in such faith. The root of this faith is not the miracle. The root is the condition of the heart. Faith that pleases God doesn't chase a miracle for selfish gain; it seeks to honor and delight Him. The woman's healing wasn't simply because of her need. It was because her faith pressed into His power with a pure heart, trusting Him fully.

This is the kind of faith that pleases God.

To be honest, you can hear the right things, speak promises out loud, and take action in faith and still have the wrong motive. When your heart isn't right, it changes everything. Our hearts should always be set on pleasing Him. That's why it's His will over my own. God's will is always good. It is always to heal, to provide, and to protect. He has already provided the way, but our role is to link up with Him through faith that pleases Him. We align our hearts with His purposes, not trying to manufacture the miracle ourselves, but stepping into His power with trust, obedience, and love.

We change what we listen to in order to please Him. We choose what we watch to honor Him. We may even delete a social media app to align with His heart. We speak words of goodness and love to please Him. We forgive others to please Him. We have faith to please Him.

It all starts with surrender. We see this in the woman with the issue of blood. She surrendered completely. She fell down before Him and was transparent with everything in her heart. Her surrender, humility, and alignment with God's will—the faith that pleased Him—is exactly what *made her well*.

Reflection

What is the motive behind my faith and can I say it's pleasing to God?

Prayer

Lord, I thank you for this time with you. I choose to lay all things aside and surrender to you right now. I want to please you in all things. Have your way in me Jesus. Have your way in my family. Have your way in my job. I want to have faith that honors you and is aligned with your will for my life. I love you Lord. Have your way. Amen.

Diving Deeper

- Read James 4:1-12 (ESV)
- Listen to: "Move Your Heart" by UpperRoom & "Monday Morning Faith" by SEU Worship

Saturday FAITH THAT REMAINS

Key Scripture

Mark 5:34 (TPT), Hebrews 11:1 (NASB)

Devotional

As we bring this week to a close and stir ourselves up by learning from the woman with the issue of blood, I want us to pause and see something truly powerful in the conclusion of her story in Mark 5.

Let's take it back to the beginning. She had waited for 12 long years, trying every natural solution she could find. After all that time, she still heard, still spoke, still acted, and still believed. Here's the key: it wasn't her effort that healed her. It was her faith that remained, linking up with the power of Jesus.

Look at verse 34 as we conclude: *"Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."*

Notice He calls her "daughter." I want you to really take hold of this. Jesus isn't just acknowledging her healing; He is affirming her identity through her faith. He doesn't end the story by simply saying, "Your faith worked. See you later." No, He calls her daughter. Why is this so beautiful? Because her identity was never meant to be held in her sickness, her struggle, or her years of waiting. Her identity is found in Jesus. He calls her healed, equipped, whole,

provided for, and His. Her faith remained, and through that faith, Jesus revealed her true identity: valued, seen, loved, and restored.

Let me ask you, do you know in your heart who you are and who God is? I want you to dig deep: who do you believe you are? Who do you believe God is?

Your identity is not in your circumstances, your waiting, your sickness, your financial struggles, or your past. Your identity is in Him. He calls you daughter, He calls you son. And when your faith is anchored in that truth, it becomes unshakable. Your identity becomes a fuel tank for your faith.

Once you know who you are and who He is, you can confidently say, “no matter what happens, He is faithful. He is good. He is a way maker who makes a way when there is none. My faith will not be shaken! I am healed. I am anointed. I am called! I will not be discouraged, and I *will* remain seeing the unseen! I will remain believing what my God said before I believe any other voice that touches my ears!”

My faith will remain and ***will not waver!*** We stand today knowing who we are and whose we are. Our God is a God who keeps His word and works on our behalf no matter the length of the waiting. May our faith remain—to please Him, to honor Him, and to fully believe that our God is a God of miracles!

Reflection

Where in my life do I need to remind myself that my faith—not my effort—links me to God’s power?

Prayer

Thank You, Lord, for speaking to me so clearly this week! Father, I thank You that I am healed, I am forgiven, I am whole. I thank You that I am Your son, I am Your daughter, and I am Yours forever. My identity is in You alone, not in my circumstances. Today, I choose to remain steadfast in my faith, because I know who You are and who You say I am. I trust You, Lord, and I am forever grateful that You are a God of miracles, unshakable and faithful. Thank You, Jesus! Amen.

Diving Deeper

- Hebrews 10:23 (NASB), Ephesians 3:20 (NASB), Colossians 1:10 (NASB), Galatians 2:20 (NASB)
- Listen to: “Faithful to the End” by Bethel Music & “Surrounded” by UpperRoom

Sunday SERMON NOTES

I BELIEVE IN MIRACLES



WORD OF LIFE

Series Guide
