

SIGNS AND WONDERS

WEEK 1 – TAKE UP YOUR PALLET

MONDAY – Restored disciple



John 21: 17 & 18 *The third time He said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love Me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep. Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.”*

Peter was devastated and he didn't know what to do. So he went fishing, back to what he knew. He had seen the resurrected Lord but his denial still troubled him. He was still broken. But, there next to Lake Galilee Jesus and Peter met. And in that beautiful account of Jesus asking Peter “Do you love Me?”, three times, He restores and heals Peter's spirit. Jesus then commissions Peter to ‘feed My sheep.’ And what happens? Peter goes out in faith and love to serve – he has one of the greatest ministries recorded. In fact, he is the rock on which Christ built His church!

Jesus meets us in the place of our brokenness and despair and asks “Do you love Me?” If our answer is “Yes Lord” and we come in sincere repentance, Jesus restores us.

Many of us can testify to the amazing work of God in our lives. Call it answered prayer or a miracle – it doesn't matter. What matters is where Christ intervenes, lives are changed. BUT – that is not the end. He restores and puts us together and ALWAYS commissions us. “Go feed my sheep.” “Go care for my people.”

Often we are better equipped to serve others from a point of our own brokenness. From the humility of our struggles. No matter what is in your past, or your denial of Jesus, you can draw near to Him. That is enough to be of use in His Kingdom.

Picture yourself standing at the shores of Galilee with Jesus. Do you love Him?



Prayer is having an open, honest conversation with God. Talk to Him now about what is on your heart. AMEN

TUESDAY – If we can only get to Jesus



Luke 5: 18 & 19 *Some men took a man who was not able to move his body to Jesus. He was carried on a bed. They looked for a way to take the man into the house where Jesus was. But they could not find a way to take him in because of so many people. They made a hole in the roof over where Jesus stood. Then they let the bed with the sick man on it down before Jesus.*

Is this miracle about the healed man or the people who brought him to Jesus? No doubt both.

The people – perhaps they were friends and family who went to great lengths to get this man to Jesus. Pushing their way through the throng of a crowded house was impossible but they cared enough to overcome the barriers – the red tape – just to get right up to Jesus. They cared enough to make a hole in a roof!

To what lengths will you go to help someone? What kind of caregiver are you? Not only to your family and friends but to all you come in contact with. “...You *will know them by their fruits*” (Matthew

7:16). Do you care enough to go to extraordinary lengths to get to Jesus? Imagine the scene: they are standing outside the house wondering how to get inside. Then someone suggests making a hole in the roof to lower him down. I might have been one of those that said “You can’t do that!” But that is exactly what extraordinary faith and a call to serve does.

Isn’t it wonderful that they knew they just had to get to Jesus? They didn’t have to fix their friend, they just had to get him there. Then it would be okay. What joy is ours when we finally realise we just need to take everything to Jesus? Phew!



Prayer: Lord help me to bring everything to You in prayer. Help me to bring the needs of others before You as well. Help me to look at life in unconventional ways. Thank you, Lord. AMEN

WEDNESDAY – Jesus stopped



Mark 2: 5-7 *When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”*

This bold band of caregivers achieved their mission: they got him to Jesus. And JESUS STOPPED His teaching. There were no security guards or bouncers who rushed up to take care of the disturbance and throw them out. Jesus stopped.

I find this an amazing concept. When we come before Jesus – He stops for us. He focuses on us and He has time for us. Can you hear Him say “Child, what is it?”

As we live out our Christian commission of serving, are we stopping long enough to say “How can I help you?” In our busy schedules, struggles and problems, can we still look upward and outward to see where there are needs? To be generous?

The story is told of a CEO of a prominent company, who saw the need to invest in the people who

worked for him. He would regularly walk around his offices saying “How can I help?” There is no need to relate the success of this company!

There were the teachers of the law who criticized what Jesus was doing. Perhaps there is a bit of them in us as well. We may criticize others in a way of compensating for the lack of our compassion and caring.

But to change the narrative of our world, where corruption, lack of resources, mistrust and greed are rife we need to follow Jesus’s way and STOP. LOOK. PRAY. HELP.

Can you, at least for this week, really look around you – perhaps at the homeless person at the robot, a neighbour or friend, your son/daughter or your domestic worker and ask “How can I help?”



Prayer: Lord open my eyes to the needs around me. Where in my corner of this world can I help? AMEN

THURSDAY – Pick up your mat and walk



Mark 2: 11 & 12 *“I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.”*
He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

The man was healed. He stood up, took his mat and walked out the door in full view of everyone. What strikes me as significant is that he confidently stood and walked. What faith in the miracle of Jesus!

I wonder if we are displaying that kind of faith in the signs and wonders we see in our lives. Do we believe our prayers are answered? If Jesus says to us “Pick up your mat and walk” – do we? Perhaps we are afraid of making a spectacle of ourselves and we choose to first sit on a chair and then lean on something while we hesitantly get up. Testing the waters. We might want to slip out the side door for fear of our critics who are watching us.

Sadly, all too often this is our response to Christ. We watch what we say to our non-Christian friends for fear of being ridiculed. It is easy to testify what God has done for us when we are in church circles but out ‘there’ we would rather not talk about it. However, let the change that you have experienced be evident in the way you are living. Living out changed lives.

I think Albert Einstein had the right idea: *There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.* When Christ is in the details of my life, my very life is a miracle.

Pick up your mat and walk.



Prayer: Thank you for the miracle of everything around me. I pray that everything I do may reflect the wonders of what You have done in my life. May the way I live life, be an encouragement to others. Guide me Lord. AMEN

FRIDAY – See the beauty, see the miracle



Colossians 1: 16 *For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him.*

Miracles Exist Today

Poet: Catherine Pulsifer

*Miracles exist today
Old tales of legend speak,
Though we may not notice them,
Vast beauties at their peak.*

*Set your eyes to wander,
From the skies and to the earth,
Look a little closer
And you'll fully understand the
worth.*

*Searching for miraculous proof
Doesn't have so far to go,*

I choose to believe that everything is a miracle. I need to see the beauty and hope around me. For me to see that God is around me and speaking to me through His creations. I need to see that there is still beauty in this world and I need to show it to others.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life." He is offering to help us create a meaningful life and a

*These miracles can be seen all
around us,
If we only open up our souls.*

*Many wonderful occurrences
Can happen in one single day,
But it's up to us as individuals
To notice them on our way.*

*In our world filled with noises
Let peace lead the way,
Take note of these surprises,
They're with us every day!*

way of recreating a better world – starting with an outstretched hand to the person next to us. Today we have a choice to let Jesus overhaul our minds and change our narrative.

*For every house is built by
someone, but God is the builder of
everything. (Hebrews 3: 4)*

Who is building your house?



Prayer: For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth and friends above, Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise. AMEN