

God's Story Your Story

February 8, 2015



Matthew 14:20-21
Faith 5 – A pattern for shaping a life of faith

Share:

What was the high point of your day? What was a low point?

Read: Reflect on the key verse from Sunday's reading,

And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Matthew 14:20-21

Talk:

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- Who are the miracle workers and healers in your community? How are they recognized? How are they rewarded? What is God's role in healing and the working of modern miracles?
- How much authority has God given you that you are reluctant to claim? What might you accomplish if you accept responsibility for the gifts God has given you?

Pray:

Jesus who performs miracles, open our eyes to see the miracles you perform on this earth each and every day. Stir in us wonder and awe at the things you accomplish in this world. Amen.

Bless:

God who never leaves us alone, feed us as we hear your word. Come to us in places we might not expect you. Amen.

Some Background

Miracles and healings were not unusual in Jesus' day. Many prophets and healers were able to perform them. The miracles and healings of Jesus drew attention to Jesus, and Jesus used those opportunities to tell people how much God loved them. What set Jesus apart from other miracle workers and healers was that he genuinely had been given the authority to perform them in God's name. Jesus was also the only one ever to be raised from the dead.

The interactions between Jesus and his disciples is of interest in these accounts. First, Jesus' initial command to them was to feed the crowds themselves. Perhaps he was trying to tell them that they had it within them to call upon God for help in performing such a miracle. Second, Jesus invited Peter to walk on the water with him. In both stories, Jesus tried to show that the disciples had been given God's authority to perform miracles, to preach, teach, and heal, just as he himself was doing.

Follow these stories of Jesus and his followers.

Sunday, Matthew 14:13-33, *Feeding 5,000*

Monday, Psalm 95:1-5, *Psalm*

Tuesday, Matthew 9:18-38, *Healings of Jesus*

Wednesday, Matthew 10:11-15, *The Twelve Apostles*

Thursday, Matthew 10:16-42, *Coming Persecutions*

Friday, Matthew 11:1-19, *John the Baptist*

Saturday, Matthew 11:20-30, *Woes*