



A storm had come up suddenly on the Sea of Galilee. The disciples, who had been rowing through the night, saw Jesus coming to them walking on the sea. Even though they had seen Jesus perform many miracles, this was new. At first they were afraid, but when Peter heard Jesus challenge him to take courage, Peter said, "Command me to come to you on the water." Jesus said, "Come," and Peter walked on the water. But as is common to us all, Peter just took a few steps and turned his eyes to the stormy night. He immediately began to sink. "Jesus save me," he said, and Jesus did!

*What lesson did Peter learn from his experience? Why did Jesus still save Peter even though this disciple's faith slipped?*

*Why is the relationship between you and Jesus more important than a momentary miracle?*

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Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. In a very real way, God was passing by. Many did not know, many did not see, others just did not take notice. But 10 men with leprosy did. In those days, this disfiguring and terminal disease was mysterious and frightening, contagious and made people outcasts. Standing at a distance from Jesus, as was demanded by Jewish laws, they had to shout to be heard, "Have mercy upon us!" Jesus told them to go see the Temple priests, the only ones who could proclaim them clean which would allow them to return home. As they went, they were all healed. But only one turned back to give thanks.

*Why was it important to Jesus that they returned to give thanks? Are there miracles in your life you need to give God thanks for?*

*Faith is celebrated; giving God glory is expected.*

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Legion was his name, "legion" meaning many demons tormented this man, a man who lived among the graves near Gerasene. Everyone in the area knew of him, and they were afraid. When Jesus came close, Legion immediately knew who he was, "Son of the most high God," the demons within imploring him not to come close. Jesus worked many different kinds of miracles — water into wine, multiplied bread, walked on water, healed the blind and crippled, raised the dead, forgave sins and now cast out demons. That which torments humanity, Jesus has authority and power over it. Here the demons had to ask permission to even go into a herd of pigs. Evil can't win!

*Jesus has power over evil and authority over the evil one. How does this encourage you as you pray, live your life and deal with the ups and downs that everyone experiences?*

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Giving alms — gifts to the poor — was a common Jewish practice. A man who had been crippled from birth was lying in the dirt at a gate by one of the entrances to the Temple Mount. Here he begged. He did not seem to know who Peter and John were, so he looked up hoping for a coin in his basket. Instead, he got an unexpected and unasked for miracle. "Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have, give I to you, in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene — walk!" The once crippled man walked into the Temple area, where thousands had seen him many times, thousands who were now filled with wonder and awe.

*Why did Peter use the name, "Jesus Christ the Nazarene" before the miracle? Is the miracle the center of this event?*

*What is the center focus of your life?*

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