

Today we are going to learn about some amazing things from Jesus and others.

1. Amazing Lack of Faith Mark 6 : 1 - 6

Jesus talked and performed many miracles. When he came to his hometown the people wondered at first. Soon the wonder changed to familiarity. The people in the town spoke of Jesus in a manner that they knew him well. They mentioned the name of his brothers and noted that he had sisters as well. So now since they knew about Jesus' background and family, they could not put their faith in him. Jesus was amazed by the lack of faith. Many of us, we have taken Jesus for granted. Instead of reading the scriptures and being convicted we read and become content. The 'WOW' factor is altogether gone during our bible study. Has the hunger to know Jesus and the desire to practice his words been compromised? The Bible says that Jesus was amazed by their lack of faith. One of the key things that we can learn from here, is that familiarity with Jesus or his words can take away faith.

2. Amazing Obedience Mark 6: 6 – 13

Here, we find Jesus calling the twelve to him and sending them out two by two. Jesus also gave them authority to drive out evil spirits. He instructed them to take nothing: no bread, no bag, no money, and not even an extra shirt or shoes. They had to totally depend on strangers for shelter and food. Would you do that? What if you are asked to go, maybe with another disciple, to Ranchi or Bombay or Trichy or Calcutta or Cochin or Hyderabad or Visakhapatnam or Indore or Ahmedabad or Ludhiana or Jamshedpur or Srinagar or Patna or Jabalpur or Coimbatore or Jodhpur or Surat or Delhi or Malappuram or Pune? These 20 cities have been mentioned and there are 33 more cities which are known to have a population of over 1 million in our country. Let us not become weary to preach the word. Many of us think we need money but in reality what is needed is Jesus and an obedient disciple. For God this is enough. The money will come along the way. We have much to learn about obedience and faith, looking at these disciples.

3. Amazing Cowardliness Mark 6: 14-29

Here, we learn that Herod had arrested John and had put him in prison. John the Baptist had challenged Herod saying that it was not right to marry his brother's wife. For this reason Herodias (Herod's wife) wanted to kill John. But Herod wanted to protect him. John, on the other hand, was willing to stand up and preach the truth. John did not care about the consequences, and was even ready to forsake his life. Herodias, through her daughter, fulfilled her wish to have John killed. Though Herod had an opportunity and the power to defend John, he did not. Rather, he gave into pressure and executed John. We see here a good contrast between Herod and John. Herod- all powerful, King and a Kingdom- crumbled under peoples' pressure. John the Baptist, on the other hand- poor, single garment, one leather belt man- was shaking the very foundation of Herod's life. What was Herod missing? God was missing in Herod's life. In Revelation 21:8, it says cowards will go to hell. Cowardliness is not running away from someone who is brandishing a knife. Rather, cowardliness is

giving into pressure from classmates, colleagues, bosses and people. Let us decide to be bold Christians.

4. Amazing Multiplication Mark 6: 30-44

Jesus never did anything aimlessly or without purpose. Everything he said and did was for us to learn and grow spiritually. There was no food. About 5,000 men had been following Jesus. If we include the women and children, the number will be close to 10,000. Jesus asked his disciples to go and see what is there that can feed this large group. They come back with five loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus had multiplied the five loaves and two fish and fed that large crowd. The worst situation in the hands of Jesus can turn into the best situation.

From this, we can deduce that anything can be multiplied if it reaches Jesus. (Golden nugget: This is one of the reasons why we should be praying. Prayer is taking our unique problems to Jesus so that he can solve it.) The heart of every disciple should be to multiply, and especially to increase our bible talks. Here are some secrets of multiplication:

- a) Jesus got them to sit in groups – Are you part of a group? Are you committed to the group? Do you miss the Bible Talk? Do you love your Bible talk? Are you part of order or disorder in the Bible talk?
- b) Jesus prays - How is your Prayer? (20 mins) How is your bible study? (3 chapters a day) If you do not pray now you will pay later.
- c) The boy gave what he have. Many of us we do not give hence we do not receive. One who gives the most receives the most. (Ask yourself. Do you think it's only the little boy who had the food, or the little boy who gave away the food? Somebody has to give for the whole group to receive. Be like the little boy- to give, to serve, to sacrifice.)
- d) Satisfy – The group was satisfied – Every visitor that comes for Bible talk should go back satisfied. Their questions should have been answered. They should have learnt at least one thing from the bible discussion.

Let's have cranking multiplying Bible talks.

5. Amazing Walk Mark 6: 45-56

Jesus walked on the water. The disciples were terrified that it probably was a ghost. In Matthew, we read that even Peter walked on the water. When the people recognized Jesus, they walked and ran to meet him. They carried the sick on mats, touched the edge of his cloak and sought the healing. So we have people walking, sick people walking, Peter walking, the healthy walking, but what we are going to focus here is a different kind of walk. It says in verse 46, "After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray". Jesus walked with God. No wonder he could do so many wonderful and spiritual things. Today we could be running around and doing a lot of walking – walk to work, walk to school, walk to college, walk to the doctor, walk to hometown, walk to our parents, walk to our husband, walk to our wife, walk towards our children, a walk to education, a walk to entertainment, a walk to movies, a walk to even church and yet the most important walk is a walk with our God, just like Jesus did. How has your walk with God been? Make a firm decision to begin a new walk. Make a promise with God that for the rest of your life, no matter where you walk, that your walk with your Heavenly Father will never fade or fail.