

# Ministering like Jesus

How to Grow in Healing, Deliverance and Miracles

A 30-Day Devotional from Mark's Gospel

Jane Berry

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Cultivate (7.5x9.25) Self-Publishing Template © 2019 Renee Fisher

Cover Design: Fiverr (Sam\_4321)

Cover Photo: Shutterstock

Editor: K. Brough

Cataloguing in Publication Data:

Title: Ministering like Jesus: How to Grow in Healing, Deliverance and Miracles.

**ISBN-13: 978-0-6488425-1-4**

ISBN-13: 978-0-6488425-0-7 (electronic)

Subjects: Christian Devotional; Christian Faith; Christian New Testament Meditations.

<http://www.unlockingthegold.com>

# Endorsements

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I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. It's a great blend of two things that I love: biblical focus and practical application. I've been on short term teams with Jane on several of the occasions she shares here. She always seeks to find first, what God is actually saying, then to walk it out. It's encouraging to see some of the fruit of those moments in these pages.

Personally, as I have read this book, I have been challenged at different points to acknowledge the difference between my life and the ministry of Jesus. In this thirty-day approach, Jane urges us to follow the example of Jesus. Let's do it!

—Craig Petty  
Lead Pastor, Stairway, Victoria, Australia

It has been my pleasure to get to know Jane, her husband Gary and their children Sarah and Josh through the ministry of Stairway Healing Rooms. Each of them has contributed significantly to the Healing Rooms team and the people they have ministered to. Jane has, in recent years, been on the Leadership Team of Stairway Healing Rooms and has helped steer the forward progress of this ministry into where it is today.

She is a gifted woman of God, who loves Him and loves the people He brings to her. Her focus is on seeing them healed and living the abundant life that Jesus died to give them. She has seen many people healed, set free and walking out their destiny in God. In this devotional, she releases an anointing for each reader to do the same.

She is a gifted wife and mother, and it is a joy to see her children living a Christ centred life and being encouraged to step into all God has for them. They are world changers in the making.

As you read this devotional, you will be blown away by the personal testimonies Jane shares. You will grow in your relationship with Jesus through reading the Bible passages and personal insights Jane shares. You will be challenged and encouraged to step into the shoes of Jesus and walk like He walked this earth. You will be equipped to minister like Him. You will be set free and you, in turn, will set others free!

God is so faithful with all that He has promised us, and He is with us as we step out in Him.

—Jenny Cornish

Founder, Stairway Healing Rooms, Victoria, Australia

Jane is an amazing woman of God. I highly recommend reading this book. It will give you a fresh revelation of our God who heals. If you apply what you read, your faith will grow, and you'll see healings taking place – first in you, then in the world around you!

Jane is someone who prays with confidence and total faith. She expects to hear God. She expects to see people healed. She expects God to come through. She believes in a God that never disappoints. Jane challenges me in my faith, giving me practical advice and ways to grow. She has given me great encouragement in seeking first God's Kingdom with many timely, accurate prophetic words. Jane lives a Kingdom life of power.

—Katharine Goschnick

Community Chaplain, Peninsula City Church, Victoria, Australia

# Dedication

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**T**o Jenny Cornish (founder & ex-Director of Stairway Healing Rooms) for your incredible leadership, and for challenging me in how I pray and the authority I carry. There have been various keys I have learnt from you about healing and lifting off shock and trauma. Thank you. I will always be grateful to you for stopping me during a Healing Rooms Board Meeting when we were praying for team members. I started praying “Lord if it is Your will...” and you stopped me and explained that is not how we pray as it is God’s will that we receive healing. I will be forever grateful to you, Jenny.

To all the Stairway Healing Rooms team members – I have greatly valued and appreciated ministering with you all. We have learnt from each other as we have journeyed together. We have had a lot of fun times and have seen God heal people in miraculous ways. It has been a blast!

To my husband Gary and children Sarah and Josh – you are incredible to do life with, and you continually challenge me to be all whom God would want me to be. Thank you.



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# Before You Begin

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**H**ave you ever struggled with praying for healing for people but not seeing them healed? Have you ever wondered what to do when you see someone demon-possessed? Needed to see food multiplied? Wanted to lessen the destruction of a cyclone or tornado? Do you desire to learn more about Jesus and how He ministered?

Come with me on a journey over these next thirty days, and you will see how Jesus ministered, healed, delivered and performed miracles.

Discover the keys to seeing people healed and set free, and experience miracles in your own life by examining how Jesus healed people and performed miracles.

If we follow Jesus' example, I believe that we are more likely to see people healed and set free, and miracles performed.

In reading the Gospels, a substantial problem seems to occur. It appears that there is no set formula that Jesus used for healing. Instead, we see that He knew His identity, used His authority and treated people with compassion and dignity.

I have deliberately not selected one chapter each day. Instead, thirty select passages have been chosen from Mark's Gospel that focus on Jesus ministering.

Join me as you read the selected Bible passage that describes what Jesus did, along with:

- an explanation of the verses,
- a testimony from my life, and
- questions to help encourage you to reflect upon how Jesus' example can impact you.

We conclude each day with a written prayer, followed by space to write one 'key' that you can apply to your life.

My prayer for you is that as you follow Jesus' example, you flourish. I decree and declare that as you read and apply the insights you gain, you will see your own life, and the lives and circumstances of others around you, healed, transformed and redeemed. Your life will be permanently changed for the better, walking with Jesus in this way.

# The Gospel of Mark

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AUTHOR: JOHN MARK

THEME: JESUS IS THE TRUE MESSIAH

**T**he Gospel of Mark is historically considered the most reliable of the Gospels since it was written before the Gospels of Matthew, Luke, and John. Being written closer to the actual time when Jesus was alive on earth, plus written more concisely and factually, gives it more credence. In their account of Jesus' life and ministry, it is believed that both Matthew and Luke have borrowed material from this Gospel.

The author of Mark's Gospel is believed to be a Christian named John Mark, a man the Bible refers to only a handful of times. In Colossians 4:10, we read that Mark was a relative of Barnabas who was one of the leaders of the Church at Antioch. Mark accompanied both Paul and Barnabas on one of their missionary journeys. He was also Peter's companion in Rome.

Mark's Gospel is the shortest of all Gospels and focuses on the main events in Jesus' ministry. Mark emphasizes that Jesus is the true Messiah and that, by believing in Jesus, you can be saved.

Mark wrote about Jesus' actions more than describing the content of Jesus's teaching. Mark also does not include a lot of the parables that Jesus used for illustrating.

Mark loves to emphasize the compassion of Jesus. Numerous times throughout Mark's Gospel, we see that Jesus had compassion, whereas Matthew's Gospel never once mentions this. We are not sure why. Perhaps Mark had personally experienced Jesus' compassion in a compelling manner.

Highlighted throughout the Gospel of Mark are numerous contrasts surrounding Jesus. These fill out for us the character and personality of Jesus and provide learning opportunities for us. Jesus was a man who loved people, no matter who they were. In Mark 2, Jesus is feasting with Levi and his friends (the tax collectors and sinners) while John's disciples are fasting. In Mark 3:1-7, Jesus heals a man's shrivelled hand on the Sabbath. The man had a crippled hand, but at the same time, Jesus was highlighting the Pharisees with their wrong priorities and their broken, stubborn, and crippled hearts. We can so easily become crippled with societal, cultural and religious rules and misguided priorities that it prevents us from seeing who Jesus is. This directly impacts how we live a full life with Jesus.

Since Mark is so passionate about describing the actions of Jesus, we too can learn from studying this Gospel and examining the actions of Jesus, specifically in how He healed people, cast out demons and performed miracles. In fact, we often see Jesus casting out demons before healing someone. This has enormous implications for ministering like Jesus.

## DAY 1

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### MARK 1:7-8

And this was his [John's] message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

**J**esus' ministry begins with John the Baptist introducing Jesus as even more powerful than himself. John was the most powerful prophetic voice for the previous three centuries in Israel. No person alive at that time had witnessed anyone as prophetic as John. Yet here he was claiming to be insignificant in comparison to Jesus.

To untie the straps of someone's sandals implies that you are their servant, yet John goes so far as to say that he is not even worthy of being Jesus' servant. He is presenting Jesus as being overwhelmingly significant. John is encouraging everyone to receive from Jesus this fresh outpouring of the Spirit that is available to all.

John is calling attention to the One who is ushering in God's Kingdom in a new way. John's baptism was a baptism of repentance and forgiveness. It was symbolic of what God can, and will, do. It required total honesty and reliance on God.

God's Spirit empowers Jesus' ministry. We too can partake in this by also being empowered with the Holy Spirit. Without being empowered by the Holy Spirit, ministry, and indeed life, can be ineffective and dry.

Jesus is the Messiah, and He has a new baptism. To be baptized is to be completely immersed. When we are completely immersed in water, it is easier to manage if we let go of everything that is not essential to survive. When we are immersed and filled with the Holy Spirit, it is easier if we release everything that we have previously controlled and allow the Holy Spirit to direct. We are a new creation, a new person (2 Corinthians 5:17). The Holy Spirit has taken over and is now pouring out of us, touching and changing everything around us. People notice the difference.

On our own, we are limited, but the Holy Spirit can do so much more within and through us. More than we could ever think of, dream, or imagine.

The moment I was filled with the Holy Spirit, I felt like I was a new person; full of electricity and able to conquer the world. I was ready to set the world ablaze because I now realized that nothing was impossible with God. Several hours later, I can remember looking around and noticing people going about their normal daily activities. I was shocked because I felt so different and so full of joy, and I wanted everyone else to have what I had. I wanted them to receive that life-changing gift from the Holy Spirit. He had changed my entire inner world in an instant, and I felt that life would never be the same again.

I love praying with people to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Even more exciting to me is when people who have just been filled with the Holy Spirit pray for others to be baptized with the Spirit. Children are fantastic at this and tend to be straight forward and matter of fact in what they say. No pretence. No masks. No judgement. I have watched as they simply pray for someone to be baptized with the Holy Spirit using only a few words and expect the Holy Spirit to fill the person up completely. They do not

necessarily wait for a sign or confirmation or evidence like speaking in tongues. To them, it is a given. It is like they prayed, the person received. Now go and live it out.

Entering the 11-13-year-old Sunday School Room, I was blasted with noise, boisterous boys wrestling, and the girls in groups chatting. I had been invited to teach on the supernatural and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Since my son was slightly older, I was used to the surge of testosterone in this male age group. Thus, it didn't phase me. After an extremely short teaching time, I encouraged everyone to stand and start to pray for each other. I stood there basking in amazement as these boys, minutes before trying to out-do each other in gaining attention, were transformed as they uttered a couple of words in prayer over each other, experiencing the presence of the Holy Spirit. The joy and serenity suddenly emanating from them was the first sign for them of the transformation that the Holy Spirit can bring.

Have you been filled with the Holy Spirit?

John is ushering in the proclamation that Jesus is the full gospel. Just as John is ushering in Jesus, we are called to usher in and point to Jesus. Jesus is perfect, spotless, the representation of God on this earth, exuding grace, mercy, and forgiveness. We can be transformed into Jesus' likeness through the power of the Holy Spirit.

## **Reflection:**

- Have I been baptized with the Holy Spirit? What is the evidence of that in my life?
- What is inside of me that permeates out of me for other people to see?
- How does my life usher in, and point to, Jesus?
- Understanding that the Holy Spirit can do so much more within and through me, what are the dreams God is laying on my heart? What are the impossible things that only by faith I can accomplish?



**Prayer:**

Holy Spirit. You are welcome here. Fill me up completely so that I overflow.

Have free reign in me.

Help me to live in a way that points others to You.

I decree and declare that everyone I connect with today will receive a download of whatever they need from You, whether it is peace, freedom, joy, love, healing or hope.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

**The key for me today is:**

## DAY 2

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### MARK 1:10-11

Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

**A**s you come up out of the water, you can automatically throw your head back. Part of this is to help get the water out of your eyes and off your face. Taking a fresh, deep breath and opening your eyes, it is like you realize that you are free from all restrictions and able to see clearly without any hindrances.

As Jesus came up out of the water, I wonder if He automatically threw His head back and looked towards heaven. We read that He saw this astounding picture of heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending filling His vision. Absolute peace, clarity, assurance filling Him as He watched the Spirit landing on Him. What would it take for us to be able to see what the Spirit is doing and where it is going and landing?

Is our first response in every situation that of looking to heaven, seeking the Father and waiting for His answer? That of looking to God and seeking the Father's approval, not man's approval.

Jesus heard His Father affirming His identity and His design. “You are My Son” speaks of relationship, intimacy, belonging, and connection. As a son, we have different privileges, access, responsibilities, roles, relationship, rules, levels of intimacy and inheritance than someone outside of the father-child relationship.

As someone who has come into God’s Kingdom, we are adopted fully into the family of God. Thus, Father God says the same thing about us. “You are My son/daughter. I love you. As My adopted child, you have full access to everything My Son has.”

I will always remember the time I asked God how He saw me; what He thought of me. Immediately a stunning picture filled my mind. It was of me as a Princess. I was wearing a long, sparkling gown, pearl blue in colour. On my head was placed a spectacular diamond tiara. My face was radiating with joy. I was struck by the truth that God saw me as this sensational individual. He saw me as someone so remarkable, so full of worth; it took my breath away. I had never believed I was pretty but had also never really thought about it. I just knew that I was not pretty. Looking at myself as a woman of royalty in this picture in my mind, I realized that God saw me as beautiful, as His princess. He was my Daddy, I was His daughter, and in His eyes, I was beautiful, and that was all that mattered.

A similar ah-ha moment occurred several years ago for my son. We were at a prophetic training night at church, and there were several exercises that we were inspired to do. We were each given a blank piece of paper and a pen and encouraged to ask God what He thought of us and then write it down. Josh was perhaps ten at the time. He was a typically adventurous boy whose actions were misunderstood at times and often found himself in trouble as a result. After the activity, I quietly sidled up to him and asked him what God had said to him. He turned to me with glowing eyes and with pride and admiration, he said, “God said that I am a good boy and that He loves me.” This touched his heart and his self-image at the very moment with what he

needed to hear. God is amazing.

With God, it depends on the relationship, not what you think, believe or do.

What I feel about myself does not determine who I am.

What God says about me needs to determine my identity.

How are you responding to Father God in your role and identity as His child? Does your identity as His child flow into how you live your life and what you say and do?

It is all about *who* we are and *whose* we are.

This passage is a profound affirmation of God's love and pleasure in His child. It ends with Jesus hearing the words, "With you, I am well pleased." The Father is championing us, speaking of Jesus', and our, design. It is an affirmation. There is a finality with this statement, as when you create something, and you sign off on the finished product. "Yes, I am completely delighted, content, pleased, satisfied with what I have created. Nothing more needs to be added." This, too, is how God views us. He is completely delighted with how He created us. Is that how you see yourself?

## **Reflection:**

- Is there anything about myself that I think I am missing?
- What does God say about me?
- Take a few moments to imagine Father God speaking over you – “You are My beloved child whom I love. With you, I am well pleased.” What do you hear? Feel? Sense? What does it provoke in you?
- What are the implications for me and how I live my life, when Father God says to me that I am His beloved child and He is well pleased with me?
- Am I a recipient, like Jesus, of God’s grace and Spirit?

## **Prayer:**

Thank you, Heavenly Father, that You model a healthy relationship and Fatherhood.

Thank you that You fully accept me and that I belong to You; that I am Your child. Thank you that You see me and are well pleased. Thank you that You recognize the work in progress plus the finished product. Thank you that I have open access to You and all that You have.

I declare that I will live, and walk, in my true identity as Your beloved and worthy child.

I decree that because of my status in You, Father God, and as Your child, I will help others to experience Your love so that they too can experience a relationship with You.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

**The key for me today is:**

## DAY 8

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### MARK 2:2-12

They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. 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?”

Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, “Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk?’ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the man, “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!”

**H**ow desperate are you? How desperate are you to see people healed and restored in every area of their life?

This man's friends were desperate. They carried the paralyzed man through the streets on a stretcher because they had heard about Jesus. They believed their paralyzed friend could receive healing. They did not stop when they could not get near Jesus. They immediately looked for another solution to be in Jesus' presence. How often do we stop when the 'door shuts' or obstacles are in our pathway?

The friends showed incredible faith in the face of opposition. They could not get near Jesus, so they carried this man, on a stretcher, up some stairs. It was difficult. It was not easy.

Desperation fueled their faith.

It became even more costly when they made an opening in the roof. The house did not belong to them, yet they were damaging the structure by creating a hole. I am sure the owner of the house would not have been pleased with suddenly having a massive hole in his roof! He would want it fixed. Still, the friends did not stop. Their faith and desperation meant that they would do anything to see their friend healed and made whole.

Imagine if Jesus had not healed their friend. Would they have had to lift him back up through the hole in the roof; a virtually impossible task, or wait until everyone had left so they could take their friend out the door? Perhaps they did not even consider this. They just wholeheartedly believed that Jesus would heal him.

Meanwhile, in all of this, the paralyzed man is dependent on his friends. He had to rely on his friends to get him close to Jesus. Lying there on his mat, being jostled around as his friends raced him to Jesus, I wonder what was going through his mind. Did he want to give up? Was he encouraging his friends to push through the crowd and find a solution? Was the paralyzed man as desperate for his healing as his friends were?



Physically we may not be paralyzed, but what about emotionally? Does fear paralyze us?

This man needed God. He also needed friends to 'carry' him when he could not do anything.

It took a combination of faith and action for this man to get to Jesus. His friends needed to believe it; otherwise, they would have given up when obstacles started appearing. They also needed to work to get the man to Jesus. They needed to act on their faith.

My two children had anaphylaxis and severe allergies when they were younger. Anaphylaxis to eggs, nuts, soy, fish, cottonseed oil, and sesame seed. Intolerant to milk. Fructose intolerance. Gluten intolerance. Sulphur and salicylate reactions as well. Receiving prayer numerous times had made no difference. But I was desperate. Desperate for their healing.

At one stage, we travelled interstate to attend a conference where a missionary and her husband were speaking. This couple saw miracles in their lives daily. We needed a miracle in our children's lives. Like these friends who were desperate for the man's healing, I was desperate for my children's healing.

The missionary's husband prayed over my children one night. His concise prayer, "Oh God, take care of this family," brought a tired, frustrated and offended comment from me. "What sort of prayer is that?" spurted forth from my mouth. My husband quietened me, and we quickly exited and drove back to the hotel for the night.

The next morning on arrival at the conference centre, I glimpsed the wife praying with a lady. She was kneeling with the lady on the floor with her arms around this lady who was deaf. At the end of the time, the deaf lady could hear. The missionary grabbed her handbag and took off for the toilets.

We took off after her. I was desperate. I wanted her to pray for my children. I would do anything for my children to be healed.

After waiting for some time in the toilet, I realized it was not appropriate to hang around in there, waiting for prayer. Back in the auditorium, the thought of the woman with the blood issue (Mark 5:22-34) and her desperation kept coming to me. I was like this lady with the blood issue. I was so desperate I would do anything to experience healing.

I grabbed my kids' hands and took off down the corridor towards the toilets. This lady was walking towards me. My daughter took off running, but I grabbed my son's hand and said to the lady, "Excuse me. Can you please pray for my kids to be healed from anaphylaxis?"

This lady said yes, touched my son on the arm and said to me, "Mum, they're fine. Don't worry about it."

I was speechless.

I made a choice then and there to believe that Jesus wanted to heal my children and was healing my children. Immediately a peace came over me, confirming my decision. As I spent time with God, He confirmed in my heart and mind that yes, my children were healed.

Back home several days later, we went out to the local Chinese restaurant to celebrate my daughter's Christian birthday. (As a family we celebrate each year on the day that our children decided to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour – like a spiritual birthday.)

As we were ordering, I felt strongly prompted by God to say to my husband that the kids could have anything to eat that they wanted. I knew that it was a 'God-thing' as I was a Critically Care trained Registered Nurse and under no

circumstances would I make a decision to give my children something to eat that would harm them.

My husband was quite concerned and questioned whether it would be wiser to have them allergy tested by the Pediatrician first to make sure they were no longer anaphylactic. He also checked whether I had the adrenaline injection in case of anaphylaxis.

I knew within myself that our children were healed. The assurance from God was so strong. That evening, our children ate soy, nuts, egg, and fish with no reaction at all. (Please note, I am not advocating testing healing to anaphylaxis using this method. **Please consult your doctor first before you change anything after receiving prayer for a medical condition.**)

In today's passage, we see these friends having incredible faith and trying their hardest to get the man to Jesus. They were willing to do whatever it took to enable this man to be in Jesus' presence. On seeing the friend's faith, Jesus says, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

The Rabbis (teachers of the law) believed that until all your sins were forgiven, you could not get healed from sickness. According to the Rabbis belief, Jesus was saying the right words to this man for him to be healed, yet the Rabbis then appear incredulous at Jesus' words. The Rabbis believed that Jesus was blaspheming as only God could forgive sins, and only the Rabbis themselves could pronounce that forgiveness.

Obviously, the Rabbis were yet to recognize Jesus as the Son of God. They seemed a bit shocked that Jesus, a mere man, was saying He could forgive sins. Jesus immediately knew in His Spirit what the Rabbis were thinking. Jesus then turns and directly addresses their attitude and beliefs. Can you imagine this, and the awkward silence that may have followed?

The Rabbis would not have had an issue with Jesus saying to the paralyzed man to get up and walk, but they had a massive issue with Jesus saying your sins are forgiven. Jesus counteracts with informing them that He is the Son of Man and that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. Interestingly, He does not say Son of God.

Jesus' response challenges me. Jesus knew what they were thinking, and their incorrect heart attitude and directly addressed it. Whoa! How often do I have a wrong heart attitude? At those times, I am sure Jesus wants to address my attitude immediately, but do I allow Him? That is when I seem to place a distance, a wall, between Jesus and myself. What if, at those times, I allowed my heart and thinking to soften and immediately turn my heart towards Jesus and ask Him what He would like my response to be?

As if to counteract the Rabbis and their incorrect belief that your sins must first be forgiven before you can be healed, Jesus turns back to the paralyzed man, telling him to get up, take his mat and go home. Jesus announces the very thing that the Rabbis wished He had said to begin with – that of being physically healed.

Jesus commanded the man to do an action that would demonstrate he was healed - get up and walk. People need to 'try out' their healing. To perform an action they couldn't do before. If they have a frozen shoulder and receive prayer, ask them to try and lift their arm and see if they can raise it any higher than before. If they have lower back pain and they cannot bend and touch their toes, ask them to try and bend and touch their toes after prayer.

When people try and do an action after prayer that they could not do beforehand, it is evident if any change has occurred. If there is any change, it is an excellent opportunity to comment on the improvement and thank and praise God for any evident healing. In thanking and praising God, people's faith level that God is healing them raises as well.

Notice that Jesus not only gave the man an action to do but also told him to take his mat with him. In other words, clean up your own mess before you leave. Jesus made sure the man did not leave the mat behind. It is not our responsibility to clean up other people's mess. The mess may be physical, emotional, relational or spiritual. It may involve the person extending forgiveness towards someone. How often do we clean up other people's messes instead of addressing the issue with them? Do not shortchange people, and their healing, by cleaning up their mess.

## **Reflection:**

- In what area of my life do I need to exercise more faith today?
- How desperate am I to be near Jesus, whole and free?
- How keen am I to bring that healing and freedom and wholeness to others? What will it cost me?
- Who needs me to be a friend to them (like this man's friends) and desperately seek healing for them?
- As soon as I see a glimmer of healing, do I praise and thank God? Do I keep my eyes on what God is doing and not on what is still left to heal?

## **Prayer:**

Father God, I am sorry for all the times I have had an attitude like the Rabbis and have judged others. I am sorry for all the times my heart attitude has been wrong. Please forgive me. Help me, Father God, to always keep a soft heart towards You.

Father God, thank you that You see beyond the physical. Thank you that You see the real need in me and in others.

I declare today that I will endeavour to see the deep need in other's lives and then act on that.

Thank you that You can make me whole, free and healed. Thank you that this freedom, wholeness and healing is available for everyone I meet.

I want to live a life of total faith and dependence on You.

Holy Spirit, please open my ears and eyes to hear and see those people who need a touch from You. I decree today that I will reach out to them and allow them to receive directly from You and come closer to You.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

**The key for me today is:**

## DAY 18

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### MARK 6:6b-13

Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits.

These were his instructions: “Take nothing for the journey except a staff – no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Wear sandals but not an extra shirt. Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.”

They went out and preached that people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

Calling the Twelve to Him, He gave them authority over impure spirits and sent them out. It appears that the only training the disciples had received was by being around Jesus and watching Him - learning by what Jesus said and modelled. Thus, a large part of their training came from intimacy with Jesus, spending time with Him. Getting to know Jesus’ heart, character and motives, and seeing how He operated in a variety of situations. They knew Jesus so intimately that they could easily share who Jesus was. What a great reminder to us of the importance of being with Jesus.

As the disciples were sent out to share about Jesus, they went in pairs. There is power in being with another person who has a common goal, who has had



complementary training to you, and who supports you. Ministering with another person can be so encouraging and inspiring as you spur each other on in Jesus. There is also comfort in knowing that your partner 'has your back' and that you do not need to be an expert in everything. Together you can minister more effectively than on your own.

We are not called to be 'lone rangers' but to do life together, which includes ministering as well.

Many times, as I have ministered with a partner, I will realize something fresh as my partner prays for the person. Isn't God good! God speaks to you about a deeper issue for the person. There is power when two or three pray together.

In the parting comments that Jesus made to them as the pairs went out, Jesus gave the disciples authority over impure spirits. We too, have been given authority as sons and daughters of God, over impure spirits. Do you recognize the authority that Jesus has given to you? Do you not only recognize it but operate in it? Do you realize this authority extends to driving out demons?

How do you feel when you become aware of an impure spirit? We have been given full authority by Jesus to cast it out, to operate in a far higher realm than the demonic spirit. Is this reflected in your level of faith, your beliefs, your attitude, your feelings, your actions?

My husband and I received a call to go to a psychiatric patient's home one day as no local minister was available. The mental health worker knew that we would respond and turn up, as we had previously done when asked. As we met the patient in the street, we realized that this man was too scared to enter his home. He had just been discharged from hospital and was afraid. He believed there were demons in his house. This man was so terrified that he could not even walk to his front door.

Going to this man's home was not something I would volunteer to do alone. Nor should I have ever done it alone. It was essential to have someone else with me, for protection, for spiritual insight, and the debriefing afterwards.

As the man explained the issue, he would not even look at his house. I glanced at my husband and saw that he wanted me to take the lead. I was uncertain how to approach it as I did not sense anything demonic exuding from the house.

While the psychiatric worker unlocked the front door of the house, we quietly cast demons out of this man. I then felt to begin calling this man's spirit to attention and blessing him. I blessed his identity and how God had made him. I blessed him with how God saw him and how valuable and significant he was.

As soon as I said "Amen", this man bolted for the front door and entered the house. His facial features relaxed, and he began to smile. He stated that he felt better. We were welcome to come in and pray, but he thought that it was all dealt with now. We followed him into the house and prayed through every room, but in evicting demons and blessing his spirit, this man changed. He was no longer scared.

The disciples anointed many sick people with oil and healed them. Obviously, they had access to oil to anoint people. Anointing people with oil was a normal part of the process of people receiving healing. Please hear me – I am not being legalistic about this and saying that people need to be anointed with oil to receive healing. No. Jesus did not say that or do that. There was no anointing with oil of the woman with the blood issue. Many others did not receive an anointing with oil. But in this case, the disciples were anointing people with oil as part of the healing.

I love anointing people with oil as I find it is a powerful act. I carry a little bottle of fragrant oil with me. Before I anoint anyone, I ask them if it is okay

for me to anoint them with oil. I then place my finger over the opening of the bottle, upend the bottle and a small amount of oil smears my finger. With my fingertip covered in oil, I then make the sign of the cross on the person's forehead as I say what I feel led to verbalize by the Holy Spirit. It usually starts with "In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, I anoint you with oil for ....."

Being instructed to not take anything with them except a staff as they went out to minister meant that they were not reliant on themselves or what they had with them. They were not to rely on their resources or money. They could only rely on the power of the Holy Spirit.

Imagine if we only relied on the power of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives. Can you envisage how the disciples must have felt as Jesus sent them out? Sure, they may have been excited at being able to put into practice all they had seen Jesus do and say. I wonder if there were also some feelings of trepidation. I know that those times when I have been pushed in the deep end in a ministry situation, I can easily go to a place of fear. Usually, this is when I take my eyes off Jesus and on to my abilities. However, this is the time when I need to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit more than ever.

What would my life look like then, if I relied on the power of the Holy Spirit throughout every part of my daily life? What would I see? Feel? Experience? What would others experience? How would others be changed by being around me? How do we need to change our lives so that we are totally reliant on the power of the Holy Spirit in every aspect of our lives?

Is there an area today where you need to rely on God rather than yourself?

Jesus' final instructions to the disciples before they went out and ministered was that if a place or person does not welcome you or listen to you, then leave that place. Do not try and keep ministering in an area that is not ready for the impact of Jesus. Wow – this is so vital.

Have you ever kept trying to influence someone for the gospel and they did not want to receive it? Have we believed a lie that we need to keep trying to change people's beliefs about Jesus? The lie that this is our responsibility? Jesus was very clear to the disciples that they were to 'shake the dust off' their feet as they left those people.

Shaking the dust off our feet also means shaking off the words that have been said to us by these people; words that have hurt us or settled deep within our emotions. It is no longer our responsibility to remain with these people for the sake of the gospel message if they do not wish to receive it.

Are you even in a rut and not seeing the power of the Holy Spirit evident daily in your life? Sometimes, our culture holds us hostage to how we live our life. Is there something in your life that you need to change?

I love how today's Bible passage ends. "They went out and preached that people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them." When I look at my life, and the everyday fruit of my actions and words, do I see many people set free, many people healed, many people come into the Kingdom?

## Reflection:

- If those men could leave everything, going out in pairs taking nothing, preaching, healing, and evicting demons, what is stopping me? How do I translate this from Bible times to my current situation?
- Do I recognize, and accept, when someone is not ready for Jesus?
- What is my response when confronted with impure spirits? How have I reacted in the past? Is there something else I could try instead?
- Do I carry a small container of oil with me so that I am always ready to anoint someone with oil?
- Is there an area today where I need to rely on God rather than myself?
- What would it look like to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit in every aspect of my daily life? What changes would occur?

## **Prayer:**

Jesus, thank you that You desire me to be with You, to spend time with You, to be intimate with You.

Thank you, Jesus, for the authority that You have given me to cast out impure spirits, to heal the sick and to preach the gospel.

I repent of the times when I have not wanted to, or I have not been prepared, or I have shirked my responsibility concerning ministry.

Help me to be able to recognize when people are not ready to hear about You or experience You.

Thank you that You are always with me and working through me.

I always want to be alert and prepared to work with You. I desire to stay close to You and hear Your heart for others.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

**The key for me today is:**

