

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## LUKE 8:22-9:26

This past week, our country saw a peaceful transfer of power. It's happened every four (or eight) years for 2 1/2 centuries. Americans arrange a legal, elected coup d'etat where we throw out one president and his cronies and bring in another. It's more civil than assassinations and bloody revolts, but it still reiterates the tenuousness of human leaders and governments.

### ***Presidents come and go.***

Yet Jesus is king forever. Jesus spent much of His ministry proving He's sovereign over disease, demons, nature, even death. Isaiah prophesied "the government will be upon His shoulders..." and "of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end." Jesus is the undisputed King over all God's creation!

And in Luke 8, Jesus proves it once more by *commanding the forces of nature and calming a storm.*

We start in Luke 8:22, "Now it happened, on a certain day, that He got into a boat with His disciples.

And He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side of the lake." And they launched out." And notice Jesus' words, He said, "Let us cross over..." You're not *going under* when Jesus promises you'll "*cross over.*"

"But as they sailed He fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water, and were in jeopardy." I've been to Israel ten times now, and one of our

most memorable moments was the year we were standing on Mount Arbel over the Sea of Galilee. When we arrived that morning, the sky was overcast and there was a light mist, but within minutes, the sun broke out and the clouds disappeared.

The lake and its surrounding area is famous for its changing weather... which often happens in reverse. Clear skies can also give way to sudden storms.

The lake sits 685' below sea level and is surrounded by mountains 3000' high. The topography is shaped like a funnel. Cold air pours down from the north over the Golan Heights and collides with hot air on the lake.

Storms pop up without warning. In 1992, ten foot tall waves crashed into downtown Tiberias causing damage. In ten-foot seas, a small fishing boat doesn't stand a chance. Luke puts it, *"They were in jeopardy."*

*"And (the disciples) came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!"* The boat was rocking and rolling - taking on water. It's about to capsize. *The disciples panic... while Jesus slumbers.*

Obviously, He wasn't the least bit frightened.

*"Then He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm..."* Jesus did to the storm what He'd done to the fever that racked the body of Peter's mother-in-law, He *"rebuked"* it. A *"rebuke"* is how you put a demon in its place. Could it be this storm was Satan's attempt to drown Jesus and defeat God's means of our salvation?

But Jesus not only rebuked the storm outside the boat, He also rebuked the lack of faith onboard the boat.

“But (Jesus) said to them, “Where is your faith?” And this was the point of the storm. *The stress in our lives is a test of our faith.* Jesus is the King who is sovereign over wind, waves, weather, and nature. If He’s onboard your boat; then don’t come unglued. Trust your Captain.

Our lives are like the Sea of Galilee. Serious squalls can pop up suddenly. Panic and fear are threats to our peace. Yet there’s nothing to fear when Jesus is in our boat. He calms the storm with His word. We need to learn to trust Him even when He seems to be asleep.

“And they were afraid, and marveled, saying to one another, “Who can this be? For He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!” Remember in Luke 5 after Jesus told the paralytic to rise and take up his mat, and he did - the people responded, *“We have seen strange things today!”* They were enthralled over **what** Jesus had done. But now after He commands the storm, His men ask, “**Who can this be?**”

The curiosity has graduated. *It’s gone from what to Who,* but Jesus will take them one more step further...

In Chapter 9 He’ll discuss *where?* They know *what* He did - *Who* He is - but they also need to know *where* He’s going. He’s headed not to a throne, but to a cross.

Verse 26, “Then they sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee.” Gadara was on the east bank of the lake. “And when He stepped out on the land,

there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs.”

The topography east of the lake is very different from the western shore. The east bank ascends rapidly into the Golan Heights. The cliffs are dotted with numerous caves. And these “*tombs*” were the demoniac’s home.

This was a madman. A gang of demons had stolen his sanity. And for many years he had walked among the caves naked, ostracized, lonely, and angry.

“When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, “What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!” The demon spoke through this man’s vocal cords... It’s ironic, after Jesus rebuked the sea, the disciples asked, “*Who can this be?*” But the demon already knew - Jesus was the Son of God.

Verse 29, “For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness.” Doctor Luke gives us a glimpse into this man's horrible existence. Demonic seizures would grip his body. Demons caused him to thrash around with supernatural violence. The guy went berserk. Not even shackles could restrain him.

“Jesus asked him, saying, “What is your name?” And he said, “Legion,” because many demons had entered him.” A Roman legion consisted of 6000 troops.

Obviously, many demons had taken up home inside this man... I like how J Vernon McGee translates the demon's answer, "What is your name? And he said "mob." A mob of demons made this man their home.

Verse 31 "And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss." And here's a revealing insight into the nature of fallen angels or demons. They don't like to be disembodied spirits.

Demons seek a habitation - a person's body in which to reside... Remember, the devil is a copycat. God's Spirit inhabits the believer to *transform* us into the image of Jesus. While evil spirits want to inhabit unbelievers to *deform* the image of God in them. *It's vandalism.* Demons specialize in spiritual vandalism.

Remember in Matthew 12:43 Jesus said, "When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.'" Demons desire to occupy a human body, but any body will do...

"Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. And they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them."

A demon can never inhabit a Christian! 2 Corinthians 6 makes this clear, "What fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with belial (that is, Satan)?" The Holy Spirit will never bunk with an evil spirit, thus Christians can never be demon-possessed.

If you're a Christian, and a demon walks by, he sees a "no vacancy" on your shingle. Whereas, on the other hand, if you don't know Christ, you're vulnerable.

For demons want a body, preferably a human body, but any body is better than no body. Demons sing, "If you can't be with the one you love, honey, love the one you're with." This is why they asked to be sent into the swine. Apparently, a *gig* with a *pig* is better than no gig.

"Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned." This story helps illustrate the depths of depravity of the human spirit.

Sadly, this man's spirit had tolerated the presence of demons for a long time. Whereas the pigs couldn't handle them for even a few minutes. As soon as they entered, the pigs went nuts. We're told they ran "violently" down the slope into the lake. You could say "the swine flu." They went *hog wild*. The pigs drowned.

Apparently, they committed "*souey*side." But don't feel bad for the pigs I'm sure they went to *hog heaven*.

"When those who fed them saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country." It became known as "*the case of the deviled ham*." The pig-feeders told the story to the citizens of Gadara.

"Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid.

They also who had seen it told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was healed.”

Notice how they find this man. There're three signs of mental health and wholeness that he now exhibits...

First, **he's under authority.** He's sitting at Jesus' feet. He's no longer thrashing, he's sitting calmly. He's surrendered his life to Jesus. He's now under control.

Second, **he's resumed morality.** His nakedness revealed a lack of shame. The demon had robbed the man of a sense of morality and decency and self-respect. And there's still a close connection between demonism and nudity. Satanic influence can mute a person's natural inhibitions and throw off restraint. The fact this man is now wearing clothes indicates he's returned to sanity and a sense of right and wrong.

And third, **he's in his right mind.** He's thinking clearly again. He has a new outlook. He no longer fears Jesus. Gone is the paranoia caused by sin. He's now able to accept and receive the love of Jesus.

This transformed demoniac is a great description of what Jesus does in all people. *He brings us under His authority!* We repent of sin and submit to His Lordship. Then *He restores morality and integrity* to our lives... Finally, *He frees us from fear to receive God's love...*

Verse 37 is an unexpected twist. “Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. And He got into the boat and returned.”

One Bible commentator describes their reaction as follows, "too much change, too fast, and they were scared." Folks get familiar with sin and bondage. Vice becomes a status quo. When Jesus sets people free it upsets the apple cart. It irritates the folks around them.

But I suspect there was more to it. The Gadarenes were raising swine - *while sausage and bacon were off-limits to Jews*. Perhaps they feared Jesus would damage their economy if He stayed and settled down.

For whatever reason, they ask Jesus to leave them.

But the story isn't quite over, "Now the man from whom the demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, 'Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you.' And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him." It was only natural that this man would want to go with Jesus, but he's sent home.

Jesus knew no one would appreciate the difference He had made in this man's life more than his own family and friends. And the same is often true with us.

Before you charge out into the world to preach the Gospel, first head home - and share the change Jesus made in your life with those who know you best.

Verse 40, "So it was, when Jesus returned (that is, to the other side of the lake and Capernaum), that the multitude welcomed Him, for they were all waiting for Him. And behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue." Whenever we go to Israel I always teach our



group in Jairus' synagogue. It's one of the best preserved structures in all of Israel.

On this day Jairus, a dignified Jewish leader, “Fell down at Jesus' feet and begged Him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter about twelve years of age, and she was dying.” What a sight, a proud rabbi, a community leader, on his knees in desperation at the feet of the itinerate preacher from Nazareth.

Yet few experiences in life humble a man faster than a threat to his child, especially his little girl. This man was broken! His daughter's life was on the line.

“But as He went, the multitudes thronged Him. Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years...”

Notice the contrast. How old was Jairus' daughter? *12!* And what different lives these two people had lived.

I'm sure the leader's daughter was born with a silver spoon in her mouth. For 12 years all she'd known was a *merry* life, while those same 12 years had been *misery* for this woman. *And isn't this how life works?*

Some are born into blessing, others seem destined to struggle in life. In the words of that great philosopher, Forest Gump, “Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're going to get.” Yet when Jesus enters the story, twelve years of circumstance can change quickly, and with no warning.

Notice too, Luke tells us, this woman “had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any.” Today she'd be scheduled for a hysterectomy.

Interestingly, we learn from Dr. Luke, not Matthew, that she had wasted all her money on physicians.

Jewish doctors had strange remedies for women with menstrual problems. The Talmud, a rabbinical commentary, proposed eleven cures for this malady, and all of them were outlandish. *For example...* She would be healed if she carried a kernel of barley corn found in the *dung droppings* of a white female donkey... Or if she took three pints of Persian onions, boiled them in wine, and drank them she'd be healed...

These were the kind of silly remedies this woman had wasted her savings on, *and she was still bleeding*.

And the worst of her suffering wasn't physical, but spiritual and social. A woman with this kind of malady would be unable to enter the Temple or synagogue.

She was in essence barred from public worship.

The little girl had lived in her daddy's synagogue, while this woman was forbidden to enter its doors.

But she **“came from behind and touched the border of (Jesus’) garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped.”** In Jewish culture, the border, or hem of a person's garment, spoke of that person's authority.

This woman believed Jesus was King over nature and had authority over sickness. If she could touch Jesus, He could deliver her from her dreaded illness.

Verse 45 **“And Jesus said, “Who touched Me?”**

Recall, they were passing down a crowded street. It was like a mosh pit. Folks had crowded in on all sides. **“When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, “Master, the**

multitudes throng and press You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'" It could've been dozens.

But Jesus (felt a particular touch) said, "Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me."

I love the saying of St. Augustine, "God loves each one of us as if there were only one of us to love."

Imagine, our Lord Jesus gets prayed to every minute of every day by millions of believers around the world. Heaven's switchboard lights up like a Christmas tree. Yet Jesus always has time to take each call.

Here, Jesus knew who touched Him, but He wanted the woman to step out of the crowd and acknowledge her faith publicly. This is why pastors give altar calls and invite folks to step out and pray with them. Jesus knows us *privately and personally*, but He understands we need to display the courage that responds *publicly*.

"Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately." Why she was reluctant to step forward?

Maybe she thought He'd demand a payment she didn't have. *Recall her experiences with the Jewish doctors...* Maybe she felt unworthy... We don't know.

But I love what Jesus tells her. "Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace."

Today, if you're miserable, and have wasted your money searching in vain for silly cures - *stop right now, reach out,*

**and touch Jesus!** Believe in His power and authority, and let Jesus stop the bleeding in your life.

But what about Jairus' daughter? Verse 49, "While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher." But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well." *Would you have believed?* Apparently, this ruler of the Jews did!

"When He came into the house, He permitted no one to go in except Peter, James, and John, and the father and mother of the girl." Peter, James, and John were the inner circle of His disciples... At the end of His ministry, Jesus had 120 followers in the Upper Room. At one point He sends out seventy. We've already read that He chose twelve. But of the 12 there were three.

And three times He singled them out: *when He raises this little girl... when He's revealed in His glory on the mountain... and when He prays in Gethsemane.*

"Now all wept and mourned for her; but He said, "Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping." What a diagnosis, "she's just sleeping." The child's death is temporary. She'll awake one day when God resurrects all dead bodies to live forever in either heaven or hell.

But that's why "They ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead." And if we'd been there we might've done the same. "But (Jesus) put them all outside, took her by the hand and called, saying, "Little girl, arise." Then her spirit returned, and

she arose immediately.” Jesus works a miracle and raises this little girl from the dead!

But notice, before Jesus worked *the miracle*, He first drove out *the mockers*. At times, the mockers are smart-aleck friends who question God's power. At other times, they live within and take the form of our own doubts and cynicism. But miracles happen most often in an ambiance of faith - an atmosphere of praise.

If you want Jesus to work a *miracle*, get rid of the *mockers*. Put them out, then fill your heart with faith.

“And He commanded that she be given something to eat. And her parents were astonished, but He charged them to tell no one what had happened.” Again, the command for silence was needed crowd control. If word spread that Jesus raised the dead imagine the rubberneckers who would flock to eyeball the miracle.

*And yet do you think they stayed silent?* I doubt it.

*How could they!* Their little girl was dead, and now she was alive. How could they not shout His praises!

Luke 9, “Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.” Folks were flocking to Jesus from all over Israel, whereas it was Jesus’ desire to take His ministry all over Israel. He wanted to launch out and strike while the iron was hot.

So here He commissions and empowers the twelve for their first foray into ministry. He instructs them...

"Take nothing for the journey, neither staffs nor bag nor bread nor money; and do not have two tunics apiece." In other words, *travel light!* I like Eugene Peterson's paraphrase. "Don't load yourselves up with equipment. Keep it simple; you are the equipment."

Jesus tells them, "Whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart." Don't bounce around looking for better accommodations. It's not *where you stay* - *it's what you've been sent to do* - that matters.

"And whoever will not receive you, when you go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet as a testimony against them." Here's another verse that still applies. Don't linger too long where you're not wanted. There're plenty of folks who'll welcome the good news.

Why waste time and effort knocking on doors where no one answers - just knock the dust off your feet and move on. "So they departed and went through the towns, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere."

Verse 7 "Now Herod the tetrarch heard of all that was done by Him; and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had risen from the dead, and by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the old prophets had risen again. And Herod said, "John I have beheaded, but who is this of whom I hear such things?" So he sought to see Him."

The puppet ruler, Herod Antipas, had tried to get *ahead* in life by beheading John the Baptist. John called Herod and his

wife, Herodias, on the carpet for their evil lifestyle. She schemed to have John silenced.

But now another voice from God is sounding. Jesus is on the scene and He's making Herod nervous. It's a good sign when God's servants make the evil men around them a little antsy. It's been said, "Jesus came to disturb the comfortable and comfort the disturbed."

Verse 10 "And the apostles, when they had returned, told Him all that they had done." Remember, this was their first venture into what would be a lifetime of ministry. Imagine their excitement! God had used them!

"Then (Jesus) took them and went aside privately into a deserted place belonging to the city called Bethsaida" - which means "*house of fishing.*"

Bethsaida was a fishing village located on the northern shore of the lake, right where the headwaters of the Jordan feed into the Sea of Galilee. Here the water is warmest. It's the site of the lake's best fishing.

"But when the multitudes knew it, they followed Him; and He received them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who had need of healing." Jesus had planned to debrief His disciples. They were primed for instruction. But huge crowds interrupted. He ends up ministering to the masses.

And evidently, it went on all day. Verse 12, "When the day began to wear away, the twelve came and said to Him, "Send the multitude away, that they may go into the surrounding

towns and country, and lodge and get provisions; for we are in a deserted place here.”

Verse 14 says there were 5000 men there - add the accompanying women and children and there may've been 15-20 thousand mouths to feed! And this was a rural area. There wasn't a single Waffle House in sight!

“But (Jesus) said to (His disciples), “You give them something to eat.” And they said, “We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless we go and buy food for all these people. For there were about 5000 men.” Apparently, the disciples had already canvassed the crowd, and all they could come up with was one little boy's sack lunch - *five tortillas and two sardines*.

“And (Jesus) said to His disciples, “Make them sit down in groups of fifty. And they did so, and made them all sit down.” Notice this, **Jesus was organized**.

1 Corinthians 14:40 tells us, “**Let all things be done decently and in order.**” Jesus did just that. He believed in God enough to organize ahead of time for a miracle.

If you pray for a larger crowd; then faith will get out and purchase some extra chairs. You'll act on what you believe. I love the ole adage, “**Don't agonize organize.**”

“Then He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the multitude.”

Notice, in this passage the four things Jesus does with the bread: **He takes, blesses, breaks, and then gives...** Which is exactly what He does with us!...



He **takes** us out of the world, then **blesses** us in Christ, and He wants to **give** us, but we're not yet digestible. We have to be humbled and **broken** of our pride and self-sufficiency. If not, we'll cause indigestion. People will choke on our haughtiness. It's only after we've been broken that we can be given out to others.

And of course, the process of brokenness is never pleasant. **A good humbling hurts.** God uses obstinate people and difficult situations. It's often painful, humiliating, costly - *that's why it's called brokenness!*

But it's absolutely necessary! *Brokenness* always follows *blessedness*. And when brokenness comes we tend to ask, "*What happened to God's blessings?*"

We assume God has abandoned us. Not so!

God's blessings will flow again, and more than ever, but for right now God is getting you ready to be used.

Verse 17, "**So they all ate and were filled...**" When Jesus blessed and broke the bread a molecular miracle occurred. The Master of the universe tinkered with the atomic structure and multiplied a lunch-able.

**"And twelve baskets of the leftover fragments were taken up by them."** There are always leftovers when the Lord does lunch. And there were 12 baskets - *one for each disciple*. It was as if Jesus was making a personal point to each, that he could trust Jesus with *his* needs.

When we give our **all** to Jesus - no matter how **small that all** happens to be, He enlarges its *impact and influence*. Though Jesus started out the day with a single order of fish

and chips, we're told *"They all ate and were filled."* **Jesus is in the habit of turning our meagerness into much...** miracles of multiplication!

Up until now the focus of Jesus' ministry has been, **"Who He is."** He's the King of the Universe. And to prove it, He's shown His mastery over *disease, demons, nature, death, sin, even subatomic particles.*

He manipulated the molecules of the fish and bread.

Now Jesus takes His disciples on a retreat to see if they've learned the lesson. **Matthew tells us they camped in northern Israel at the foot of Mount Hermon, near a town the Romans named Caesarea Philippi.**

The locals called the place *"Paneas,"* after the Greek nature god, Pan. And it was there that Jesus teaches His disciples that following Him doesn't always *pan out* the way we had hoped for or thought it would.

Verse 18 tells us, *"And it happened, as He was alone praying, that His disciples joined Him, and He asked them, saying, "Who do the crowds say that I am?"*

*What are the bloggers saying? What's the scuttlebutt on the talk shows? What's being tweeted about Me?*

*"So they answered and said, "John the Baptist, but some say Elijah; and others say that one of the old prophets has risen again."* Jesus was causing quite a stir. He was being compared to a who's who of Jews...

*"John the Baptist"* because their **message** was similar - repent!... *"Elijah"* because their **methods** were similar - they performed miracles... Matthew adds *"Jeremiah"* to the list -

since their **mercy** was also similar. And some labeled Him **"one of the old prophets"** - without specifying who, for it was obvious Jesus had the weightiness or **moxie** of an OT prophet.

But in verse 20 Jesus **"said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"** And here's the million-dollar question.

Actually, the correct answer is worth more than a million dollars. Your answer determines your eternity!

**"Peter answered and said, "The Christ of God."**

**"Christ"** is the English translation of the Greek word **"Christos,"** which is the Greek translation of the Hebrew, **"Messiah"** which means **"chosen or anointed."**

At King David's coronation, Samuel poured a ram's horn of oil on the king's head. This symbolized the outpouring of God's Spirit. The OT had promised that a descendent of David would sit on the throne of Israel forever. This ultimate king was called the **"Anointed One"** or **"Messiah."** Jesus was this eternal king who would rule over God's eternal kingdom. And here Peter hits the nail on the head! Jesus is the Christ!  
*A+ Peter!*

The disciples know **"who Jesus is,"** but now He's going to teach them, **"where He is going."** Here's the turning point in Jesus' training of the twelve. **They understand His *identity*, but what about His *destiny*?**

**"And He strictly warned and commanded them to tell this to no one, saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day."** The disciples had

visions of Messiah being a *Mighty Liberator* and *Righteous Ruler*, but a *Suffering Servant*? Though the idea was written about in the OT, the Jews had no clue. He didn't fit their expectations.

This is why Jesus wants them to know where He's headed, for they'll have to follow. Verse 23, "Then He said to them all, **"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."** To follow Jesus, you have to die to your own expectations and embrace His will *even if it's hard, or costly, or painful - and you need to do it day after day.*

A man on a cross has no will of His own. He's completely surrendered to the will of a higher authority. This is what Jesus was calling on His disciples to do, **surrender**. They knew His identity, but would they embrace His destiny, *and take up His cross? Will you?*

**"For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it."** Life is like a wet bar of soap. Grip too tightly, and it'll slip out of your hand. Give it to God to hold, and He'll lather it up.

Verse 25 **"For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?"** Life is perishable. Like a slab of meat or a gallon of milk - hang on past its date and it spoils. But consume it in the right way and it becomes a source of replenishing health.

Be selfish and life spoils. Give it to God and life lasts.

**"For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own**

glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels.” Stand up for Jesus’ sake today, and God won’t hesitate to *stand up* for you when it matters most. But the reverse is also true. Deny Him and He’ll deny you.

Just knowing who Jesus claims to be is not enough.

You’ve got to follow Him to where He’s headed, *and that’s the cross*. His call is still the same, *to surrender!*