

Feb. 15-20

Monday, February 15, 2010 *Read: Mark 4:1-20* One theologian has said that Jesus had a two-fold reason for teaching in parables. First, to *reveal* the truth to those who really sought it; second, to *conceal* the truth from those who did not desire such knowledge. **Prayer starter: go back and reread verse nine; ask the Lord to give you ears that desire to hear His life-giving Word.**

Tuesday, February 16, 2010 *Read: Mathew 8:1-4* An outcast from society, this lowly leper shows us the essence of child-like faith and trust. Don't you love the Lord's two fold response: *I will...I can!* **Prayer starter: Isn't it wonderful to know that the Lord is willing to hear and help His followers. Where do you need help today? Talk with Jesus about it.**

Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2010 *Read: Matthew 8:5-13* The attitude of the Centurion is amazing. Such an important man could have easily replaced the sick servant with ease. Instead, a man who considers himself unworthy of the Lord's favor trusts that Jesus will have compassion on his servant. No wonder Jesus has such high praise for this military man. **Prayer starter: Where do you need the faith of the Centurion? A health issue? A financial problem? A family matter? Seek the Lord's strength today.**

Thursday, February 18, 2010 *Read: Luke 9:10-17* How did Jesus give to the people? Miraculously...generously...so that everyone had eaten...so much so that there were leftovers. It seems that the disciples, who had doubted that such a large crowd could be fed, was each left holding a basket full of bread and fish – perhaps a reminder to them that nothing is impossible for the Lord? **Prayer starter: Do you have doubts about the Lord's ability to help you? Meditate today on James 1:5-8.**

Friday, February 19, 2010 *Read: Matthew 14:22-34* See, you're not the only one to have doubts! Fear and doubt, if we're not careful, can cast out faith. Peter took his eyes off Jesus, became overwhelmed by the winds and waves, and doubted that he could really walk on water. **Prayer starter: Look up Proverbs 3:5-6. Let these verses serve as your prayer today.**

Saturday, February 20, 2010 *Read: Mark 7:24-30* Sometimes the Lord tests our faith in order to strengthen our faith and trust in Him. Although Jesus seems unwilling, the woman believes in the goodness and compassion of Christ. What an example for us all! **Prayer starter: What are you going to give up for Lent? How about giving up on the thinking that the Lord cannot help you with your problems and difficulties. He helped the woman in today's reading; He can help you. Ask Him!**