

Week of March 11-17

MIRACLE MEMORY LOSS

Today's devotional-writer is Kurt Verderber. Kurt serves on our Board of Elders & teaches mathematics at SUNY Cobleskill.

Scripture Reading: Read Luke chapter 8

I've been blessed with a great memory when it comes to mathematical and scientific ideas and concepts. Unfortunately, the emotional and social events in my life are recalled with, shall we say, less picture quality. Even the great moments in my Christian walk will often slip away from the forefront of my mind. In fact, I sometimes experience what I like to call "Miracle Memory Loss."

If I were alone in this I would definitely be worried – and might resort to taking Ginko Biloba, or some other memory aid. It is a great relief, however, that scripture has many examples of people in my situation. How many of us often wonder how the Israelites could possibly murmur and complain to Moses after witnessing the plagues, the Exodus out of Egypt, the parting of the Red Sea? Time and time again, God's previous miracles were forgotten once a new "issue" arose in the desert.

We find the same thing happening in Luke 8. Jesus is teaching a large crowd when someone tells him that his family wants to see him (verse 20). In Mark we learned exactly *why* they wanted to see him... "When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, 'He is out of his mind.'" (Mark 3:21)

Why is this strange? Hold that thought... Go back real quick and take a look at the following verses: Luke 2:19, 33 – 35, and 51. See the pattern? Mary treasured these things in her heart. All of the strange and miraculous events, the prophetic words spoken about Jesus, even the wedding miracle of turning water to wine were etched in Mary's memory.

So what happened in Luke 8? You guessed it – Miracle Memory Loss! I have it, the Israelites had it, and even the mother of our Lord was prone to it.

So how do we counteract it? I find the best way is to count my blessings. The word *recount* is a synonym for remember, and it implies the act of counting something all over again. Pausing periodically in our walk to think, reflect, even write down what God has done for us eliminates the memory loss and gives us a fresh sense of the miraculous!

This past Sunday, we sang "Count your blessings, name them one by one..." Let's count our blessings and counteract miracle memory loss!

Action Step: Count your blessings! Make a list or verbalize all of the things (both large and small) that God has done in your life.

Prayer Focus: Pray thankfully for what God has done and will continue to do in your life. Remember, all that you have and all that you are is from the Lord.

Take-a-way: Miracle Memory Loss is cured when we count our blessings.

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