



# Summer Blockbuster Reading Challenge

3 months—4 Gospels—Go!

## THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2022



### Take your Pulse

What is your favorite Spring time scent?

What scent is maddening to you, that if you never smelled it again, it would still be too soon?

### Today's Reading

Matthew Chapter 9

Remember how at the end of Matthew Chapter 7, it was said the crowds were amazed because Jesus taught like one with authority, not like the scribes? Chapter 9 is a continuation of Chapter 8's demonstration of Jesus' authority. But now the more Jesus acts, the more the word about Jesus spreads. He heals a paralytic, and the crowds are in awe. He eats with tax collectors and sinners, and the Pharisees take note. He heals a rabbi's daughter and word spreads. He tells two healed blind men not to tell, and they go running and telling people about it. The world is full of pain. And Jesus is just one, and he is the Christ, the anointed one, but he is still just one. More must be a part of bringing the kingdom of God to fullness.



### Start the Thinking

The healing stories are some of the most difficult to read today. We want to experience the same healing that is found in these stories. Sometimes we do experience a miracle. Sometimes, our diseases still take us down. How do you reconcile stories of Jesus' healing with your own experiences with healing?



### Conversing with God

God of all new life, we seek the same healing Jesus gave. We yearn for the same healthy bodies as these in the Gospel stories received. Help us to trust your healing presence in our lives even when the healing doesn't look the way we want it to. In Jesus' holy name, we pray.

Amen



### Be blessed

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine brightly upon you that you experience all God's grace. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

In the name of the Father, and the + Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen