

Miracles of Jesus - Introduction

INTRODUCTION

- A. Words used in the New Testament for *miracle*
1. Miracle - mighty acts and manifestations of power.
 2. Wonder - an unusual event that causes one to marvel.
 3. Sign - an event which gives evidence of divine authority.
- B. Definition of a miracle - C. S. Lewis, *A miracle is more than something unusual...A true miracle is something beyond man's intellectual or scientific ability to accomplish...It is more than a highly improbable event; it injects a new element (the supernatural) into the natural order of things.*
- C. Purpose of a miracle
1. *The miracles are historically true, but they also serve to teach us heavenly truths that go beyond the factual accounts themselves.* Charles Ryrie
 2. To authenticate God's message and His messengers.
 - a. Apostles, Hebrews 2:3-4, *how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.*
 - b. Jesus, John 10:37-38, *If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.*
 - c. Charles H. Spurgeon, *They (miracles) were intended to instruct as well as to impress. They are sermons to the eye, just as his spoken discourses were sermons to the ear.*
 3. What is the message: Jesus is God the Son, the Messiah of Israel, the Savior of the world Who gives eternal life to those who place trust in Him alone.
- D. Are miracles for today?
1. Today, the Bible authenticates God's message and messengers, John 20:31, *but these (signs) are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His Name.*
 2. When miracles take place today
 - a. They represent God's heart of mercy, grace and compassion, Mark 1:40-43, *And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, "If you will, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, "I will; be clean." And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.*
 - b. They authenticate God's message where the Bible is not available.
- E. Quotes on miracles
1. Augustine (4th C), *I never have any difficulty believing in miracles, since I experienced the miracle of a change in my own heart.*
 2. G. MacDonald, *The miracles of Jesus were the ordinary works of his Father, wrought small and swift that we might take them in.*
 3. B. B. Warfield (19th C), *When our Lord came down to earth He drew heaven with Him. The signs which accompanied His ministry were but the trailing clouds of glory which He brought from heaven, which is His home.*
 4. Peter Abelard (11th C), *He (Jesus) restored to Lazarus a life, but it was a temporal life, and one that would die again. He bestows on penitents a life, but one that will remain, world without end.*
 5. Augustine of Hippo, *I never have any difficulty believing in miracles, since I experienced the miracle of a change in my own heart.*

F. Lessons of selected miracles (listed by Gospels)

1. *Introduction*
2. Matthew 14:22-33, *Faith Walk*
3. Matthew 15:22-28, *Tough Love*
4. Mark 1:21-28, *The Demon Possessed Man*
5. Mark 4:35-41, *Calming a Storm*
6. Mark 5:1-20, *Healing a Demon-Possessed Man*
7. Mark 5:22-24, 35-43, *The Healing of Jairus' Daughter*
8. Mark 5:25-34, *A Heavenly Delay from a Woman's Touch*
9. Mark 6:30-44, *The Bread of Life*
10. Mark 7:31-37, *Be Opened*
11. Mark 8:1-10, *Feeding 4,000*
12. Mark 8:22-33, *Sight*
13. Luke 4:38-39, *The Healing of Peter's Mother-in-Law*
14. Luke 5:1-11, *Gone Fishing*
15. Luke 7:1-10, *Healing the Centurion's Servant*
16. Luke 7:11-17, *Raising a Widow's Son*
17. Luke 13:10-17, *That Special Day*
18. Luke 17:11-19, *Thankfulness*
19. Luke 18:35-43, *Proper Vision*
20. Luke 22:39-53, *The Arrest of Jesus*
21. John 2:1-11, *The Wedding at Cana*
22. John 4:46-53, *The Growth of Faith*
23. John 5:1-14, *Healing at the Pool of Bethesda*
24. John 9:1-41, *Full Sight*
25. John 11:1-46, *The Resurrection and the Life*
26. John 21:1-14, *The Blessing of Obedience*
27. *The Greatest Miracle*