

## SG5

## The Miracles of Jesus

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“Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.” Matthew 9:35,36

“And large crowds came to Him, bringing with them who were lame, crippled, blind, mute, and many others, and they laid them down at His feet and He healed them. So the crowd marveled as they saw the mute speaking, the crippled restored, and the lame walking, and the blind seeing, and they glorified the God of Israel.” Matthew 15:29-31

Miracles are one of the most recognizable features of Jesus’ earthly ministry. They were not rare, occasional events. They were a regular part of His daily life as He traveled from village to village, teaching, preaching, and healing.

A true miracle is something that cannot be explained by natural laws, scientific understanding, or human ability. It is an act that defies logic and cannot be duplicated by human effort. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus performed miracles that demonstrated His divine authority, His compassion, and His identity as the promised Messiah.

- Jesus healed a man with a withered hand, restoring it instantly.
- He walked on the surface of the Sea of Galilee during a storm.
- He calmed that same storm simply by speaking.
- He healed a woman who had been bent over for eighteen years.
- He cleansed lepers by creating living flesh where disease had destroyed tissue.
- He raised a young man from the dead as his funeral procession was leaving the city.
- He gave sight to a man who had been blind from birth.
- He cast seven demons out of Mary Magdalene.

These miracles were not illusions or symbolic stories. They were real events witnessed by real people.

Jesus performed miracles both privately and publicly. In Mark 1:29–31, He healed Peter’s mother-in-law inside a home with only a few people present. But He also performed miracles in

front of thousands, such as the feeding of the five thousand (Luke 9:12–17) and the feeding of the four thousand (Mark 8:1–13). He healed Samaritans, Jews, Gentiles, the wealthy, the poor, men, women, and children. He healed people in Judea, Galilee, Jordan, and Syria. He healed a Roman centurion’s servant, a synagogue leader’s daughter, and beggars on the roadside. His miracles were not limited to a certain group. Anyone who came to Him with faith received His compassion.

Jesus also revealed His heavenly glory during the Transfiguration (Mark 9:2–8). This was not a healing miracle but a supernatural unveiling of His divine nature. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became radiant.

Moses and Elijah appeared with Him, and the Father’s voice declared, “This is My beloved Son; listen to Him!” This moment confirmed that Jesus was not merely a miracle-worker but the eternal Son of God.

Jesus healed in the Temple in Jerusalem, right in front of the religious leaders who opposed Him (Matthew 21:14). Many people were healed simply by touching the fringe of His cloak. Others were healed when Jesus spoke a word. Some were healed through unique actions, such as blind Bartimaeus (Luke 18:35–43) or the man who washed mud from his eyes after Jesus applied it (John 9:1–7). Jesus used different methods, but the result was always the same: complete healing.

There are around forty miracles of Jesus recorded in the four Gospels. Each one was chosen by the Holy Spirit to teach a specific truth. Jesus’ first recorded miracle was at a wedding in Cana, where He turned water into wine at His mother’s request (John 2:1–11).

His final miracle before His crucifixion was healing the severed ear of Malchus, a servant of the high priest, during His arrest (Luke 22:50–51). Even after His resurrection, Jesus continued to perform miracles, including the miraculous catch of fish in John 21 and His ascension into heaven (Acts 1:9–11).

### Three Greek Words for Miracles

Biblical scholars often highlight three Greek words used to describe Jesus’ miracles:

The New Testament uses three important Greek words to describe the miracles of Jesus, and together they help us understand not only what He did, but why His actions mattered. Peter used all three terms in one powerful sentence when he spoke to the crowd at Pentecost: “*Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles (**dynamis**) and wonders (**teras**) and signs (**semeion**) which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know*” (Acts 2:22, NASB). In that single verse, the early church recognized that Jesus’ works were not ordinary events. They were divine acts that revealed His identity and mission.

The first word, *dynamis*, refers to a “mighty deed” or “power.” It points to the strength behind Jesus’ actions—the supernatural force of God breaking into human life. Our English word *dynamite* comes from this root, which helps us imagine the intensity of the power involved. When

Jesus healed the sick or calmed a storm, the miracle was not simply a helpful act; it was a display of God's authority working through Him.

The second word, *semeion*, means "sign." A sign always points beyond itself. Jesus' miracles were never random or meant to entertain. Each one revealed something about who He was and what God was doing through Him. When He fed thousands with a few loaves and fish, the miracle was not only about hunger being satisfied. It was a sign that the true Bread of Life had come into the world. His miracles invited people to look deeper and recognize the presence of the Messiah.

The third word, *teras*, is usually translated "wonder." It describes the sense of amazement people felt when they witnessed something extraordinary. These were moments that left crowds speechless, aware that they were standing in the presence of divine power. A "wonder" captures the emotional response—the awe, the astonishment, the realization that God was near.

When these three words are taken together, they paint a full picture of Jesus' miraculous works. They were powerful in their action, meaningful in their purpose, and awe-inspiring in their effect. They were not isolated events but part of a larger revelation of who Jesus truly was.

### **Why Jesus Performed Miracles**

Jesus did not perform miracles to gain attention or wealth. He never used His power to impress people or build a following. Scripture shows again and again that His miracles flowed from compassion. Matthew tells us, "*When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick*" (Matthew 14:14).

Jesus saw people who were hurting, lonely, or desperate, and His heart moved Him to act. His miracles were expressions of love—moments when the mercy of God touched human suffering.

These acts of compassion also fulfilled the promises of the Old Testament. The prophet Isaiah had described what would happen when the Messiah came: "*Then the eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will shout for joy*" (Isaiah 35:5–6).

Jesus' ministry matched these prophecies exactly. When John the Baptist's disciples asked Jesus if He truly was the One they had been waiting for, Jesus pointed them to the evidence of His works: "*Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM*" (Luke 7:22).

His miracles were not only acts of mercy; they were proof that the long-awaited Messiah had come. Through these miracles, Jesus showed His authority over every part of creation—over nature, sickness, spiritual darkness, and even death itself. Each miracle revealed a different aspect of His identity as the Son of God. They were not simply events in history; they were windows into the heart of God and signs of His kingdom breaking into the world.

## **Twelve Miracles of Jesus (Scripture references)**

Here are twelve miracles recorded in Scripture:

- Turns water into wine — John 2:1–11
- Walks on the water — Matthew 14:22–33; Mark 6:45–52
- Heals the centurion’s servant — Matthew 8:5–13; Luke 7:1–10
- Heals a paralyzed man — Matthew 9:1–8; Mark 2:1–12
- Calms the stormy sea — Matthew 8:23–27; Luke 8:22–25
- Feeds 5,000 men plus families — Matthew 14:16–21; Mark 6:35–44; Luke 9:12–17
- Raises Jairus’ daughter — Matthew 9:18–26; Mark 5:21–43
- Heals ten lepers — Luke 17:11–19
- Heals blind Bartimaeus — Matthew 20:29–34; Mark 10:46–52
- Heals a deaf man with a speech impediment — Mark 7:31–37
- Raises Lazarus — John 11:1–44
- Miraculous catch of 153 fish — John 21:4–11

Each miracle teaches something about Jesus’ character, His mission, and His power.

### **The Ten Lepers: A Lesson in Gratitude**

One day, as Jesus traveled toward Jerusalem, He encountered ten lepers (Luke 17:11–19). They stood at a distance, as required by law, and cried out for mercy. Jesus told them to go show themselves to the priests, and as they went, they were healed. Only one returned to thank Him—and he was a Samaritan.

Jesus asked, “Were there not ten cleansed? But the nine—where are they?”

Ten were healed physically, but only one was healed spiritually. This miracle teaches that gratitude is a sign of true faith. It also shows that Jesus cares about more than physical healing. He desires to heal the heart.

In the novel *Beggar Boy*, the main character sought Jesus to heal the scars on his face. But he was told that “the Master” was more interested in healing his heart—the eternal healing. This is the greatest miracle of all. Because of Jesus, sinful people can become children of God.

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.” John 1:12

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” 2 Corinthians 5:21

## Scripture Nuggets

“Then He said to the man, ‘Stretch out your hand!’ And he stretched it out, and it was restored to normal, like the other. But the Pharisees went out and conspired against Him, as to how they might destroy Him.” Matthew 12:13–14

“And when the men of that place recognized Him, they sent word into all that surrounding district and brought to Him all who were sick; and they implored Him that they might touch the fringe of His cloak; and as many as touched it were cured.” Matthew 14:35–36

“And the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.” Matthew 21:14

“While He was in one of the cities, behold, there was a man covered with leprosy; and when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and implored Him, saying, ‘Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.’ And He stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, ‘I am willing; be cleansed.’ And immediately the leprosy left him.” Luke 5:12–13

“Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins have been forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins’—He said to the paralytic—‘I say to you, get up, and pick up your stretcher and go home.’ Immediately he got up before them, and picked up what he had been lying on, and went home glorifying God.”

Luke 5:23–25

## Fill-in-the-Blank Worksheet

1. A true miracle is an action that cannot be explained by nature, natural causes, or the laws of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Jesus healed people because He felt \_\_\_\_\_ for them, not because He wanted fame or payment.
3. Jesus’ first recorded miracle took place at a wedding in Cana, where He turned \_\_\_\_\_ into wine.
4. The Greek word *dynamis* means “mighty deed” and is translated as \_\_\_\_\_ in Acts 2:22.
5. Isaiah 35:5–6 prophesied that the eyes of the \_\_\_\_\_ would be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped.
6. Jesus calmed a violent storm on the Sea of Galilee simply by \_\_\_\_\_ to it.
7. In Luke 17, Jesus healed ten \_\_\_\_\_, but only one returned to thank Him.

8. Jesus raised \_\_\_\_\_'s daughter from the dead, demonstrating His authority over death.
9. Many people were healed simply by touching the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus' cloak.
10. Jesus healed the severed ear of \_\_\_\_\_, a servant of the high priest, during His arrest.
11. The raising of \_\_\_\_\_ in John 11 is one of Jesus' most powerful miracles, showing His authority over the grave.
12. After His resurrection, Jesus performed the miracle of the great catch of \_\_\_\_\_ fish in John 21.

### **ANSWER KEY**

1. science
2. compassion
3. water
4. miracles
5. blind
6. speaking
7. lepers
8. Jairus
9. fringe
10. Malchus
11. Lazarus
12. 153