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The Miracles of Jesus

“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

A genuine, undeniable miracle is considered an action that cannot be explained by nature, natural causes, or the laws of science as we know them. In other words, a miracle is something that defies human logic and cannot be duplicated by human endeavors. Miracles are things Jesus did constantly for the better part of His three years of ministry.

As examples, Jesus healed a withered hand making it normal; walked on top of the Sea of Galilee; by speaking He calmed a major life-threatening storm; healed a crippled woman severely bent over to walk straight again; created living flesh where there was only dead flesh (leprosy); raised a young dead man back to life as he was being carried out on his bier to be buried; healed a blind man who had been born blind since birth; even casted seven demons out of the life of Mary Magdalene.

Jesus performed miracles in private (such as Peter’s mother-in-law, *Mark 1:29-31*) and in front of many thousands of people on more than one occasion (*Luke 9:12-17; Mark 8:1-13*). He healed Samaritans, Jews, people in Jordan and Syria, a Roman centurion’s servant, a rich man’s daughter, beggars in the street, anyone who came to Him. Jesus Transfigured Himself revealing His heavenly glory on a mountain with a private group (*Mark 9:2-8*) and healed in the Temple in Jerusalem in front of the religious leaders of the nation (*Matthew 21:14*). Many were physically healed by touching His cloak, others were healed just by Jesus speaking a word,

and some were healed uniquely (such as blind Bartimaeus, *Luke 18:35-43*) by washing mud out of his eyes placed there by the Lord.

There are around forty of Jesus' miracles recorded in the four Gospels. Most of these were recorded for the benefit of the readers for the purpose of providing a teachable moment to be learned or a specific lesson associated with the miracle. Jesus' very first miracle came as a request by His mother at a wedding in Cana where he changed water into wine (*John 2:1-11*). He even healed the severed ear of Malchus (servant of the High Priest Caiaphas) while He was being arrested the night before the crucifixion (*Luke 22:50,51*). Numerous miracles also took place after the resurrection not the least of which when Jesus physically ascends upward in the sky and enters Heaven in the presence of many people (*Acts 1:9-11*).

Biblical scholars usually associate three Greek words pertaining to Jesus' ministry of miracles:

“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*

‘miracles’ – (GK: *dynamis*) which implies a mighty deed performed. The English word for dynamite is derived from *dynamis*. An inherent power with strength and ability

‘signs’ – (GK: *semeion*) a sign transcending the common course of nature, usually involved with remarkable events

‘wonders’ – (GK: *teras*) which signifies something very extraordinary, attributed to something strange and unexplainable

Jesus performed miracles as part of His daily ministry. He never was interested in fame and notoriety – instead He performed miracles because He felt compassion. Jesus never received money, payment, or earthly treasures as a result of His miracles. An important point to consider, is that Jesus' enemies and skeptics never claimed that His miracles were ‘fake’, orchestrated, or fabricated. In fact, because of the authenticity of the miracles, His enemies desired to kill Him, instead of praising God (*Luke 13:31,32; Luke 22:50,51*).

What Jesus did do however, is fulfill the Messianic prophecies foretold by the prophets of Israel. “*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 † (*Luke 7:22*). What Jesus did do was prove that He has absolute power and authority over nature. What Jesus did do was demonstrate to the world the He truly was the ‘Son of God.’

There are many resources for a comprehensive study of miracles in the Bible. In this brief study guide we list twelve miracles of Jesus recorded in Scripture:

- Turns water into wine John 2:1-11
- Walks on the water Matt 14: 22-33 Mark 6:45-52
- Heals the Centurion's servant Matt 8:5-13 Luke 7:1-10
- Heals a paralyzed man Matt 9:1-8 Mark 2:1-12
- Calms the stormy sea Matt 8:23-27 Luke 8:22-25
- Feeds 5,000 men plus families Matt 14:16-21 MK 6:35-44 Luke 9:12-17
- Raises Jairus' daughter from the dead Matt 9:18-26 Mark 5:21-43
- Heals 10 lepers of their disease Luke 17:11-19
- Heals blind Bartimaeus Matt 20:29-34 Mark 10:46-52
- Heals deaf and speech impediment Mark 7:31-37
- Raises Lazarus from the grave John 11:1-44
- The miraculous catch of 153 fish John 21:4-11

One day on His way to Jerusalem, Jesus came across ten lepers (*Luke 17:11-19*) and as they continued their journey, all were completely healed of their leprosy. Only one (a Samaritan) returned to thank and honor the Lord. Jesus rhetorically asked, 'Where are the other nine?' That day, ten lepers were physically healed, but only one was healed spiritually. In the novel, Beggar Boy was seeking Jesus to heal the scars on his face and was told that 'the Master' would be more interested in healing his heart – the eternal healing. This (in the opinion of the author) is the greatest of miracles. Because of Jesus, sinful people can now be called 'the children of a holy God' (John 1:12) and will reign with Christ as heirs of the throne. "*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!" 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

“When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick.” Matthew 14:14

“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