

We have seen Strange Things Today

We begin a new series of lessons on "The Miracles of Jesus." Through the Gospels we come to learn who Jesus Christ is. The miracles are one of the great tools that demonstrated the ultimate authority of Jesus, the power of God, the compassion of Heaven, the position of Christ and the basis of our faith in the Lord. This first lesson will define some terms and help us to begin this great journey into the miracle of Jesus. This is more than a historical study. The miracles of Jesus are the reason that we can trust the Bible.

The Miracles of the Bible have been under assault for centuries:

- By Deists who deny the activity of God in the world
- By Modernists who attempt to explain away miracles by natural causes
- By People who claim miracles are an everyday, common occurrences

A. Luke 5:26—when the crippled man took up his cot and walked out of the crowded house, the crowd was "seized with astonishment...filled with fear they were saying, 'we have seen remarkable things today.'"

- The KJV: "we have seen strange things today"

1. In Mark 4:41 after Jesus calmed the storm, the disciples became very much afraid and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"

2. John 11 after the resurrection of Lazarus, the chief priests convened a council saying, "For this man is performing many signs. If we let Him go on like this, all men will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation" (47-48).

- One of the first characteristics of a miracle was that people recognized these events as "supernatural"
 - no one brought charges of fraud, fakery, or deception

- John 3:2 Nicodemus concluded: "...we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him"

- John 9:33 "If this man were not from God, He could do nothing."



B. What is a Miracle?

- a miracle is a supernatural event that suspends the laws of nature. It cannot happen on its own.
- a miracle is done on purpose for a purpose
- a miracle was done before witnesses (believers and unbelievers, alike)
- a miracle was done with full, immediate and complete results.
- a miracle was done through the hands of a man of God or directly by God

❑ A miracle cannot be explained by natural means.

Understand, a miracle is not the odd, the unusual, the freaky, Ripley's Believe it or not, something that happens every 100 years, or, something that has a one in a million chances. With a miracle, it is impossible.

- Birth is not a miracle.
- Nearly being in a car accident is not a miracle.
- Faith is not a miracle.

Acts 2:22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles, wonders and signs which God preformed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know"

1. There are three words connected together with miracles:

- **signs:** from the Greek word 'semeion'. This tends to focus more upon the display.
The Jews ask for signs (1 Cor 1:22)
An evil generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it except the sign of
Jonah the prophet (Mt 12:39)
- **wonders:** causing the beholder to marvel. This focuses upon the reaction caused by the miracle.
- **miracles:** from the Greek word 'dunamis' indicating power. This word is used in Rom 1:16

1. The miracles demonstrated that Jesus Christ had all authority:

- He could change the chemical substance of things: turned water into wine
- He could multiply the quantity of things: multiplied the fish and loaves
- He was greater than the laws of nature: walk on water and stop storms
- He had authority over spirits: cast out demons
- He could do the impossible: cure the blind, heal lepers
- He wasn't restricted by distance: Canaanite woman's daughter healed
- He had authority into the next realm: called for Lazarus to come and he did
- He could raise Himself

A miracle was always more than healing the sick. It was about understanding who Jesus is and listening to Him.

2. What is the purpose of a miracle:

1. Give authenticity to the messenger of God
Exodus 4:1-5
Mark 16:17-18
Hebrews 2:2-4
2. Generate reasons to believe
John 20:30-31
Faith itself wasn't miraculous. It was up to the person to choose to believe
John 9:13-18; 12:37
John 20:29
3. Demonstrate the power of God
Often used to show the weakness of pagan gods (plagues of Egypt; Dan 3: 28; 4:37)
4. Further the cause of God
Miracles were used to open prison doors (Acts 12:7) to allow God's message to be preached

For Next Time:

- There are only SEVEN miracles in the gospel of John.
- (1) List them
 - (2) Each shows a specific power of Jesus. Identify what they show.