

The Strange Miracles



In our study of the *Miracles of Jesus*, it is interesting to see that only three miracles are found in all four Gospels. Those are:

- ❑ The Feeding of the 5,000
- ❑ Healing of the severed ear at Jesus' arrest
- ❑ The Resurrection of Jesus

In the chart below, we find the number of specific miracles listed in each of the Gospels:

Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
23	21	21	10

A. Another aspect in this study is to see the times when Jesus did not do a miracle

1. Mt 12:38-42 (Mk 8:11-13) The Pharisees asked to see a sign. Jesus refused.
2. Mt 27:40-42 The crowds were asking for Jesus to come down off the cross. Jesus refused.

B. Most of the miraculous healings of Jesus were done on individuals, or occasionally two people

1. The cleansing of the ten lepers (Lk 17:11-19) would be what we call a "group" healing. All ten had the same health issue and all ten were healed by Jesus. The Samaritan who returned to thank Jesus received forgiveness.

C. There are two miracles that are set apart from the others. They seem strange and even out of place. This study looks at both of them

• The healing of a blind man is a most unusual and strange miracle (Mark 8:22-26)

1. Others brought this man to Jesus
 - This man wasn't born blind because he understood what trees ought to look like
 - Twice Jesus touches this man
2. It seems as if the miracle didn't "work" the first time
3. This was done on purpose for the sake of the disciples

(Mk 8:13-21, 27-30)

- Do you see anything? (Mk 8:23)...he began to see everything clearly (25).

- This likely is a reference to where the apostles were in their faith.

This wasn't a mistake
This wasn't an issue with Jesus' power
It wasn't to allow the man's eyes to adjust
It wasn't because of the man's faith

Miracles always point beyond themselves"
Ken Chumbley, Matthew

• Making the fig tree wither (Mt 21:18-22; Mk 11:12-14)



1. Both contexts reveal that Jesus was "hungry" - a point of His humanity
2. Jesus saw leaves but no figs
 - Early fruit appeared before the leaves. The fruit was not fully mature until summer (why Mark says it was not the season)
 - To have leaves but no fruit indicated that the tree would be barren the entire season
3. Jesus "cursed" the tree, which shocked the disciples
 - The tree was an illustration of Israel. They had the pretense of being right, but they were barren, fruitless and unproductive to God. Israel, too, would be cursed for a lack of faith