

# Jesus' Miracles

## GraspingGod.com's Bible Study Lesson #6.05

### Jesus' Miracles Bible Verses:

Therefore Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written, that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name... There are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they would all be written, I suppose that even the world itself would not have room for the books that would be written. John 20:30-31; 21:25 NHEB.

### Preliminary Bible Study Questions:

- 1) Why did Jesus perform miracles?
- 2) To what do miraculous signs and wonders point?
- 3) What is Jesus Christ's greatest miracle?

Thanks for joining this inspirational teaching about our awesome and powerful Lord Jesus Christ.

We discovered in the earlier lessons about God's miracles - that he enjoys expressing himself through these great signs, wonders, works, and powers.

Miracles bring God glory by turning human eyes and hearts his direction, that is, to heaven. People who believe miracles have the ability to see beyond what their five senses permit.

God also enjoyed expressing himself by miracles through his Son. Remember, all miracles are God's miracles, and therefore, he receives the ultimate glory (John 5:19).

Our eyes now turn to the direct miracles of Jesus. This is our introduction lesson to Christ's miracles.

We'll biblically answer all the pertinent questions concerning the miracles of Jesus. Without a doubt, Bible miracles are meant to expand our faith and direct our eyes toward God, so let's get started with this critical lesson about the power and authority of God, which has passed on to his Son.

### Jesus' Miracles Prophesied

The universal works of God the Father, his Son, and their Holy Spirit are mainly directed towards the salvation of people. The redemption of individual people from sin and destruction, from God's perspective, is the hallmark of the history of mankind. The members of the Christian Trinity all work together in order to save people from their own sin (John 5:30).

God is always at work in people's lives (John 5:17), leading them back to him (John 6:44), from a state of spiritual death (Colossians 1:21). God accomplishes this spiritual mission through sundry means, such as the Bible, preachers, life's circumstances, and sometimes even great

miracles, including the Bible stories and miracles that are historically recorded for our benefit (1 Corinthians 10:11).

Jesus was sent to earth for many reasons, *i.e.* revealing the Father to us (John 1:18); becoming our sacrificial Lamb (John 1:29; Hebrews 9:27-28); becoming the first to be resurrected (1 Corinthians 15:20); and, to preach the gospel (Mark 1:38).

Jesus was sent, for purposes of this study, to fulfill a ministry of miracles. Isaiah 35:4-5 predicted that Jesus was coming with powerful miracles, "Tell those who have a fearful heart, "Be strong. Do not be afraid. Behold, your God will come with vengeance, God's retribution. He will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped."

Summarily, and ultimately, Jesus Christ came to serve the Father by fulfilling the Scripture's prophecies and by abiding perfectly in God's Law (Matthew 5:17-18; John 5:45-47; Hebrews 10:5-7). All Jesus' work was for the benefit of those who will believe in God and his word, through him alone (John 14:6; Hebrews 2:10-11).

The dark flipside of all this is that Jesus' great works will be to the detriment of all those who will refuse to believe in God through him (John 3:18-19).

## **Jesus' Miracles Prove Authority**

God has passed on at least part of his universal authority to his Son as part of the plan of redemption. John 5:22-23 states, "*The Father judges no one. Instead, he has given the Son absolute authority to judge, so that everyone will honor the Son, just as they honor the Father.*" Hebrews 1:2 confirms, "his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom also he made the worlds."

You heard that correctly, the world was created by God through his Son. Additionally, since Christ's earthly work was approved by God, he has also been granted supreme authority over all of their Creation, including over mankind. He earned the right, unlike anyone else (Colossians 1:19-20).

In order to authenticate the claims of Jesus to people, God gave him the ability to perform miracles. John the Baptist was sought affirmation about the person and work of Jesus, and subsequently sent his friends to ask, "Are you the Messiah we've been expecting?"

Jesus answered John, "*Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended by me*" (Matthew 11:2-6).

Jesus' miracles are evidence, ultimate proof, that Jesus was sent by God his Father to redeem mankind. Jesus says, "*But I have a greater witness than John - my teachings and my miracles*" (John 5:36).

The powerful miracles of Jesus are used by God to authenticate his Son. The Kingdom of God had come through the person and work of Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son. The Old Testament pointed to Jesus, and he finally arrived. The Savior was affirmed by his miracles.

## **Jesus' Miracles Are Signs**

Street signs point to things - they direct our attention to where we are heading. If we turn the wrong way down a one way street, a sign will immediately tell us that we're in error and danger lies ahead. God's signs do the same.

Biblical signs direct people's attention to God's Kingdom, our ultimate destination.

For example, God ushered Jesus into the world with a miraculous sign, "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin will conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel [meaning God with us]" (Isaiah 7:14). Unfortunately, not many people understood that particular sign, but some did, like John the Baptist.

Many of Jesus' miracles pointed to deep spiritual truths that God was trying to teach people, as well. For instance, Jesus' first miracle turned water into wine. John 2:11 informs us that Jesus performed that particular sign to reveal his divine glory.

Jesus soon thereafter, miraculously knew a woman had been married five times and that she was then living in adultery. Jesus gave the woman at the well that particular sign of knowledge in order to open her eyes to the Messiah. He also revealed that the Spirit was the Living Water (John 4:10; 4:24).

Jesus' miracles demonstrate truth and give us direction to eternal life - critical elements in the plan of redemption. Jesus bore witness to the Kingdom by coming in great power, *e.g.* the dead were raised (Luke 7:11-15) and Satan was bound (Mark 3:27).

You can now view the miracles of Jesus as directions to the reality of God, sin, judgment, and eternal life. We're wise to pay attention to God's directions. Does he have YOUR attention?

## **Recipients of Jesus' Miracles**

Oftentimes the rejected and poor were the recipients of Jesus' miracles. James 2:5 shares, "Did not God choose those who are poor in this world to be rich in faith, and heirs of the Kingdom which he promised to those who love him?"

The poor "inherit" eternal life. The implication is that no one earns or deserves eternal life. One's goodness and sincere intentions, including one's mental assent in God, do not win eternal life.

Eternal life spent in heaven with Jesus is an inheritance gift made possible by the death of the Messiah. Repentance of your sin based on one's belief in Christ is the ticket to heaven (Ephesians 2:8-9).

The following point isn't always the case, but, it's the general *modus operandi* of God's work. The Father chooses the recipients for eternal life, and therefore, his miracles are meant to draw the chosen one's attention to the Kingdom.

For instance, Mark 2:10-11 records Jesus proving that only he has the authority to forgive the sins of the chosen, and then confirms the power with a healing miracle. Jesus said, *"So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins."* Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, *'Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!'* Jesus' miracle of healing was powerful and it wowed many onlookers (Mark 2:12).

The weak, sick, deaf, lame, blind, dumb, demon-possessed, poor, and other needy people are often humble; therefore, they are many times the recipients of Jesus' miracles. This physical group represents the spiritual group of people who know that they're sinners and the fact that they need Jesus to be their Savior.

Jesus says, *"God blesses those who are poor [in spirit] and realize their need for Him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs... God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth"* (Matthew 5:3; 5:5).

Matthew 19:30 records Jesus driving home the point, *"But many who are the greatest now will be least important then, and those who seem least important now will be the greatest then."* Pride leads to eternal death, while humility finds new Life. Let's discuss this thought further.

## **Reactions to the Miracles of Jesus**

There were so many different types of reactions to Jesus Christ's miracles. Let's start with the negative reactions and progress to the positive.

**God's miracles, whether through Jesus or some other agent, always brings Him glory.** The first groups of reactions are examples of people who refuse to give God glory. They want glory themselves. The people we're studying first have a cold, hard rock in their hearts.

The Pharisees and Sadducees walked up to Jesus one day demanding that he show them a miracle. Jesus was well into his ministry by this point in time. These religious leaders already heard his teaching and knew that Jesus said his authority came from God. They had probably witnessed Jesus miracles in the past. They were testing him, though, wanting to see yet another. Jesus blasted them with this indictment, *"Only an evil, adulterous generation would demand a miraculous sign."*

Jesus directed this group to the biblical sign of Jonah and the Whale, which foretold his resurrection. In other words, **Jesus told them to believe Bible prophecy that pointed towards his life, death, and resurrection.**

Jesus warned the disciples to beware of the teachings of the Pharisees and Sadducees (Matthew 16:1-12). So, if you feel the need to actually "see" a miracle from God before you believe in

Jesus, then heed the warning given by Jesus to this group. Read and believe the Bible! And... to be on the safe side, don't ever demand anything from God Almighty.

Yet another group of Pharisees and Sadducees challenged Jesus and his miracles (Matthew 12:9-14). This group was so bent on exposing Jesus as a fraud that they lost all sense of shame. Jesus healed a man with a deformed hand on the Sabbath Day. The group of religious leaders became so enraged that they wanted to kill Jesus. Normal people would be thrilled for the healed man, and they would be in utter amazement of Christ.

Their pathetic excuse was that Jesus broke the Jewish Sabbath Day rules by performing medical work on the man on Saturday. The problem was that their claim sprung from man's rules, called "the traditions of the elders," and not God's Word, the Scriptures. **Jesus informed them that God biblically allows for man to do works of mercy on the Sabbath Day.**

This group of unbelievers were so hateful of their Messiah that they became foolish, judgmental, irrational hypocrites. Do you place your "religion" before the Savior? Do you refrain from helping others because your religion stops you? If so, you're practicing a false religion and wasting your time.

Another group actually accused Jesus of working miracles by Satan's power. We'll discuss that in-depth in another lesson, but, let's just say that it didn't go over too well with Jesus (Matthew 12:24-30). Don't go where these fools went.

Jesus' miracles always lead to a decision, whether you witness them or read about them in the Bible. **It's God's power meeting your limitations right where you are.** Can you believe in miracles? Do YOU believe in miracles?

Jesus healed a paralyzed man and the man jumped up and ran off. Matthew 9:8 records the people's reaction, "Fear swept through the crowd as they saw this happen. And they praised God for sending a man with such great authority." **This is a proper response to the miracles of Jesus: fear and praise.**

People need to fear a God who has the power and authority to perform miracles. The reason is that God possesses the power and authority over nature. He also possesses the power and authority to judge and condemn people. **So, instead of arguing with him, we should stand in awe and wonder, praising his mighty name.**

His greatest miracle, of course, is forgiving people's sin! Jesus, the authority on miracles, will do that very thing for you. **If you seek one miracle from God, make it this one - the miracle of forgiveness!** (Luke 7:47-50). Be careful because unbelief stops this particular miracle (Matthew 13:58). Tell God you want to believe.

**Grasp This!**

**Fruit of the Spirit Response to Jesus' Miracles:**

Jesus will answer your plea for forgiveness if you approach him with a child-like faith, believing in his great works, miraculous signs, and amazing power.

Jesus will take the power he possesses and literally, spiritually touch and cleanse your soul. He'll forgive you, and then adopt you into the family of God.

My friend, once that happens, you become a fellow heir with Christ (Rom 8:17; Titus 3:7). Let that sink into your soul a moment.

If you have faith in Jesus (John 6:29), repent of your sins (Mark 1:15), and believe that the Bible is God's word (John 5:39-40; Psalm 138:2), *you will be saved, but not just saved... you will be Jesus' fellow heir, eternally reigning over God's beautiful world! Wow!*

It all sounds too good to be true, doesn't it? If so, that's because Satan has you blinded (2 Corinthians 4:4). Hey, it happens to all of us. Cast that devil away from you - he's a liar (John 8:44). Die to the devil. Die to yourself. Trust in Jesus. Commit to Jesus now.

**Jesus' Miracles Bible Study Questions:**

- 1) What does the fact that God created the world through Jesus have to do with Jesus' miracles?
- 2) Does not believing in the biblical accounts of Jesus' miracles keep one from true salvation? Why or why not?
- 3) In the BIG picture, is it beneficial to be handicapped on this earth? Discuss after reading Matthew 5:3-5.

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In that same hour Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit, and said, "I thank you, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for so it was well-pleasing in your sight. All things have been delivered to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is, except the Father, and who the Father is, except the Son, and he to whomever the Son desires to reveal him." Luke 10:21-22 NHEB.

Turning to the disciples, he said privately, "Blessed are the eyes which see the things that you see, for I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see the things which you see, and did not see them, and to hear the things which you hear, and did not hear them." Luke 10:23-24 NHEB.

**Miracle Prayer:**

Lord God Almighty, I bow before you, and open my soul to your Truth. Please, God, use your incredible power to melt my frigid unbelief and change my cold heart into a warm home for your Spirit. Make me a new creature in Christ. Help me to love others, and able to meet their needs. I give my life to you, O Lord. In Christ's name. Amen.

Read more: <http://www.graspinggod.com/jesus-miracles.html#ixzz2N6RSmVd2>

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