

A MIRACLE IS... JOHN 2:1-11

The purpose of this study is to give the participant a greater insight into and understanding of the person and Work of the Lord Jesus Christ through an examination of His miracles.

The miracles of our Lord were not only for the benefit of those who actually witnessed them in the First Century, but are pictures of spiritual truths that have great application for us in the 20th century. These time-honored truths concerning our Lord Jesus Christ are set forth clearly when we understand the miracles in greater depth.

What is a miracle? Though we could turn to Webster's Dictionary for a definition, the Word of God alone must provide our working definition. Therefore, we shall study the Bible to find the common denominators of those events known as miracles. As we note their characteristics six basic truths appear; six truths which repeatedly come to the fore through Christ's mighty acts, setting forth His true character and the specific reason He came to this earth.

A careful study of miracles throughout the Bible leads us to the conclusion that they did not occur in all generations but were found clustered around four or five time periods. The first group of miracles appeared at the time of Moses. The second was associated with the Prophets Elijah and Elisha many centuries later. The next appearance of miracles is related to the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ, the fourth at the time of the Apostles. As we study the miracles six truths will always be in evidence:

1. Every miracle is an act, not a process. The miracle takes place immediately - at once! A miracle of God is not a drawn-out affair. A heart attack victim cannot say that he was raised up by God miraculously if his healing takes place over a six-month period.

2. Every miracle is done in the external (physical) world. Because miracles are done in the physical world, regeneration (the internal, spiritual, gracious work of God's Spirit upon the soul) cannot technically be classified as a miracle. Many people today claim that regeneration and conversion by God is a miracle and it certainly is a mighty act of God, but since it is not done in the external (physical) world we cannot call it a biblical miracle.
3. Every miracle is visible to our senses (it can be heard, seen, touched, smelled or tasted). Since it is an act done in the external world it is certainly recognizable. As we study the miracles of our Lord, note very carefully how they were all observable. They were not done in the spirit world or in secret.
4. Every miracle can be explained rationally only by the immediate power of God. This means it is beyond all human explanation. Skeptics for centuries have tried to explain away the miraculous but no true miracle of God can be explained in any other manner than that God has been active supernaturally.
5. Every miracle accompanies a teacher of religion whether he is a prophet or an apostle. In the Bible no one was able to work miracles unless he was sent from God.
6. Every miracle confirms that the word spoken by the apostle or prophet is from God. Every miracle supports and validates the teaching surrounding the miracle. It is God's stamp of approval upon His truth.

In our study of Jesus' miracles, we will see that they confirm that He is a true Prophet sent from God - not only a prophet but the Prophet of God (Deut. 18:15). Thus He must be believed when He speaks concerning Himself and others. In other words: a miracle is a mighty act of God, done in the external world, visible to the senses, performed by a teacher of religion to confirm his spoken word.

Now, let us see if the first miracle of Christ meets all six aspects of our definition. Turn to the Gospel of John and read carefully Chapter 2:1-11.

What was the setting of this miracle?

Would this mean that Jesus approved of marriage as a social institution?

Why was Jesus' mother there?

Who else was present?

Why do you think Jesus' mother turned to Him and said, "They have no wine?"

What do you think Jesus was referring to in verse 4?

Do you believe Jesus' mother knew of her son's power?

When Jesus seemed to say He was not going to show His power, what did His mother do?

The six jars used for Jewish purification contained about 20 or 30 gallons each! With what substance did Jesus tell the servants to fill the containers?

Was there any question in the mind of the servants as to the substance?

Why?

How fast did the water turn into wine (v. 9)?

Was this done in the external world? _____

Was it visible to the senses?

If so, how do we know (v.10)?

To what power can we attribute this turning of the water into wine?

Did Christ touch the water or did He merely speak?

Is Jesus a prophet or an apostle? (See Acts 3:11-26)

How does this miracle testify that Jesus is from God?

Why did Jesus perform this miracle (v. 11)?

How would this mighty act bring glory to Jesus?

Why would it cause His disciples to believe on Him?

What more did they need to believe about His Person?

If this is His first miracle, what did they know about Him previously?

How does this miracle reveal His divine power and His commission to be the Messiah? _____

Bishop J.C. Ryle says, “Now for the first time Jesus lifted up the veil which He had thrown over His divinity in becoming flesh and revealed something of His almighty power and God-head.”

Christianity is a religion of great joy. Our Lord Jesus Christ does not bring sorrow and sadness, but wherever He is present, there ought to be joy. His personal presence is the great feature of the Biblical Gospel. And as the coming of Christ to the marriage feast supplied all that was lacking, our Lord’s coming into lives saddened with sin imparts the necessary ingredient for true, lasting joy. He makes us complete. Do you know the joy that Christ can bring? His first miracle reveals who He is so that you may enter into His joy!