

Chapter 8

MIRACLES OF JESUS



“Water into Wine” compliments of Austin Avenue United Methodist Church, Waco, TX

REASONS FOR MIRACLES

Although in the previous chapters we have stressed the earthly life of Christ and the impact it had upon his teachings in Scripture, it is now necessary to broaden that focus based on the fact that Jesus was both **human** and **divine**. Since it was important for our Lord to endure the temptations and hardships that his children encounter on their earthly journeys, it was obvious that he drank from the cup of life that a mere human experiences. However, this chapter's topic on the miracles he performed automatically takes us deeply into new territory; that of the divinity of Jesus Christ.

Since the mission of our Lord was to deliver the message that he was the Son of God and the long awaited Messiah, it was necessary to establish this fact clearly in the minds of his own people. Throughout the Old Testament, the cries of the Jewish people were repeatedly and passionately sent heavenward in prayer for the long promised Messiah(also referred to as the New Moses) to arrive with the mission of delivering them out of the hands of their oppressors, thus, ushering in the Messianic Age; "Olam Hava (world to come)."

In the "Complete Jewish Bible" written by David H. Stern, he outlines the prophecies from the Old Testament (Tanakh) that must be fulfilled by Jesus (Yeshua) in order to be accepted as the long awaited Messiah; familiar Scripture used as a measuring rod by the Jews to evaluate the statements of an individual making this claim.

Thus, the following Scriptures from this list offer an explanation as to the reason Jesus performed miracles throughout his ministry:

Isaiah 61: 1-2 "The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn..."(*Life Study Bible, New International Version*)

Jesus then quoted these words in **Luke 4: 18-21**, as he read to the people in the synagogue, stopping in the middle of Isaiah 61: 2 saying, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."(*Life Study Bible, New International Version*)

Another prophecy listed by Stern from the Old Testament (Tanakh) was that the long awaited Messiah would have a ministry of healing. **Isaiah 35: 5-6** states this by reading, "Then will the

eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.” *(Life Study Bible, New International Version)*

Then, as John the Baptist was sitting in prison awaiting his death and needing confirmation that Jesus was indeed the Messiah for whom he had paved the way, Jesus responded with these words found in **Matthew 11: 5, “The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor.”** *(Life Study Bible, New International Version)*

In addition, it is important to point out that during the time of Christ’s ministry on earth, it was a common occurrence for individuals to place claim on being the long awaited messiah. Thus, not only did people view all announcements with a jaundice eye, but needed miraculous proof beyond any possible doubt for a person making this proclamation to even capture their attention; thus, the arrival of the miracles of Jesus.

THE COMPASSIONATE MESSIAH

Before concentrating on the miracles Christ performed, let us focus on life for the downtrodden during the time our Lord walked the earth in human form. Recalling back to an earlier chapter that described the vast number of Jewish people that were frantically struggling to survive every moment of each day was truly astounding and appalling to say the least. Given this situation, it is important to recognize the difficulty Jesus faced in delivering the message of the kingdom; which was that of addressing people wearing disease ridden bodies as the result of abject poverty; making it almost impossible for his message to resonate in their minds. What was the likelihood for individuals to concentrate on heavenly things when their physical bodies were crying out for relief? What a mass of hideous sickness must have thrust itself into the path of our Lord. Given the weakened physical condition of the many suffering from disease states the atmosphere would have reeked with the foul odors resulting from their lots in life. Witnessing constantly those suffering from ulcers and putrefying sores must have always been in the path of Christ. The horrifying cries constantly uttered by those enduring the agony of existing under the monstrous evil of oppression must have been ever present no matter the road Jesus chose to travel.

Yet, dear reader, Scripture clearly states that not once did our Lord show any sign of distaste or disgust, but instead viewed them with a heart full of compassion and pity. **Matthew 11: 28-30** best describes how Jesus felt and feels today about his children who suffer in life by stating, **“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”** *(Life Study Bible, New International Version)*

Thus, the actions of Jesus are best described by reading from the book of Isaiah 42: 3; the scroll Jesus had not only memorized as a child, but read aloud in the synagogues upon many occasions; words that lived in the heart of Christ as evidenced by his consistent behavior during his time on earth. **“A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.”** (*Life Study Bible, New International Version*)



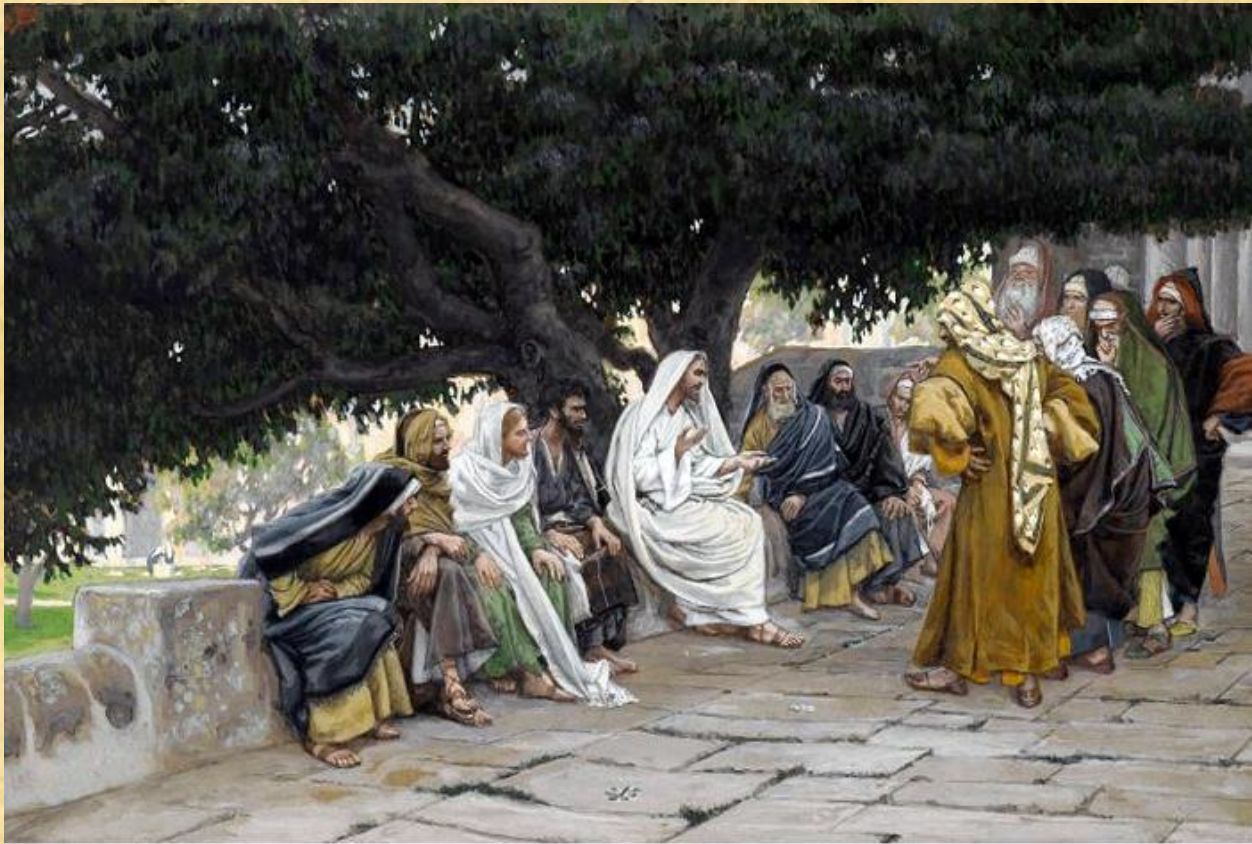
“THE SICK WAITING FOR JESUS TO PASS BY”, by James Tissot

The actions of Jesus clearly set him apart from those claiming to be messiah! Our Lord went against the teachings of the law by associating with people labeled by the religious leaders as being untouchables and unclean. The act of connecting with them in any manner made the one doing the touching, unclean, as well. In Biblical times, it was believed those classified as downtrodden in society were there because of being punished for a committed sin. Everything from being poor to suffering from physical illness was viewed as being in this condition as the result of sinful behavior; thus punishment straight from God.

Consequently, when the compassion flowed from the heart of Christ like a crystal clear stream from the desert, great multitudes followed him and he healed them all! The heat of fever, the lethargy of palsy, filth of leprosy or the rage of madness were no match for the Jewish Messiah’s power that came from the mighty hand of God! Down every path, throughout the villages and in every corner of the fields, the divine power of the Lord

triumphed over evil. Pause and think for a moment how the people who suffered from years of disease and starvation reacted to the healing actions of Jesus. It is no wonder he had to escape to quiet places during the night or in boats floating on the water with the purpose of communing with his Father in a time of restoration. Yet, this time alone in the presence of his Father was so critical to his existence that it was always a top priority; thus never missed or ignored.

Unfortunately, these actions from our Savior caused an enormous schism between the rulers of the day and Jesus. In their eyes, he was breaking the law; actions that were punishable by



The Pharisees and the Sadducees Come to Tempt Jesus by James Tissot

death! After all, not only was the ministry of Jesus viewed as a radical departure from the law, but also posed a threat to the leaders' base of power. Thus, it was understandable, after viewing the great masses of people clamoring after Jesus it was no wonder the attention of the Jewish leaders was quickly captured. They were convinced that this person claiming to be the messiah was definitely going to draw the attention of the Roman officers who would then label it as insurrection, and at the same time, diminish their base of control. Therefore, the leaders joined forces in planning ways to trick Jesus into making a fool of himself by demanding to see miracles, thus, setting him up for failure while simultaneously breaking the law.

Matthew 16: 1-4 shows not only the response of Jesus to the Pharisees and Sadducees, but also lets everyone know that he did not perform miracles for show. They had tried to explain away Jesus' miracles as a sleight of hand coincidence and use of evil power. However, since they believed that only God could do a sign in the sky, they were certain that the request as recorded below by Matthew would be way beyond Jesus' ability; thus setting him up for failure.

Matthew 16: 1-4---"The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and tested him by asking him to show them a sign from heaven. He replied, "When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a miraculous sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah." Jesus then left them and went away. (By using the sign of Jonah, who was inside a great fish for three days, Jesus was predicting his death and resurrection.) Life Application Bible New International Version)

MIRACLES OF JESUS

Although the miracles of Jesus are recorded in the other Gospels, the ones described in this chapter will be centered on the seven from the book of John with the exception of Calming the Storm and the Transfiguration. Since the thrust of the writing in John is to stress the deity of Christ, we will pay close attention to those he chose to pass along. One thing scholars point out is that three signs of the Old Testament (Tanakh) prophecies are fulfilled in the book of John.

- 1) All power and authority are given to Jesus as the Son of Man.
- 2) The lame and sick are healed.
- 3) The dead are raised to life.

Before we center on the first miracle Jesus performed, not only is it important to marvel at the jubilation expressed by the poor souls healed of a disease that had caused each minute of their lives to painfully drag along, it is critical to be conscious of the inward change acceptance of salvation had upon those paralyzed by despair. When the Lord spoke God's Words of Power, the feelings of joy and peace that replaced torment were astounding. Think of Mary Magdalene described in Luke from whom seven demons had been removed. So immeasurably was her life changed, that Scripture portrays her as being a devout follower of Jesus; even placing her at the resurrection site as the first to behold the risen Christ.

Thus, it is important for us to not distance ourselves from Mary's story because of the date in history her healing occurred. No matter the point in time when evil is removed, the act is too great without discerning it; making the new life imparted too remarkable to not be perceived. "By his stripes we are healed". (Isaiah 53: 5) Also, Jean-Pierre Isbouts author of "In the Footsteps of Jesus" wrote: "What is clear, however, is that the miracle accounts appear

in the oldest strata about Jesus--the earliest traditions that circulated before they were collected and edited by the evangelists." Unlike now, people living during the time of Christ believed that miracles were symbolic of the supernatural power of God.

Edelfelt Christ and Mary Magdalene 1890.JPG





WONDEROUS ACT OF JESUS

WONDEROUS ACT

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Jesus cleanses a leper	8: 2-4	1: 40-45	5: 12-16	
Heals a centurion's servant	8: 5-13		7: 1-10	
Heals a disciple's mother-in-law	8: 14-15	1: 29-31	4: 38-39	
Heals the sick and possessed	8: 16-17	1: 32-34	4: 40-41	
Jesus calms the storm	8: 23-27	4: 35-41	8: 22-25	
Jesus sends demons into the swine herd	8: 28-32	5: 2-13	8: 26-33	
Jesus heals a paralyzed man	9: 2-8	2: 3-12	5: 18-26	
Jesus raises the leader's daughter	9: 23-26	5: 35-43	8: 49-56	
Jesus heals the hemorrhaging woman	9: 20-22	5: 25-34	8: 43-48	
Jesus cures a possessed mute	9: 32-24			
Jesus heals a man's withered hand	12: 9-14	3: 1-6	6: 6-11	
Jesus heals a possessed blind-mute	12: 22-24		11: 14-17	
Jesus feeds 5,000 people	14: 13-21	6: 34-44	9: 12-17	6: 1-14
Jesus walks on the sea	14: 25-27	6: 48-52		6: 19-21
Jesus heals a woman's daughter	15: 22-28	7: 24-30		
Jesus feeds 4,000 people	15: 32-39	8: 1-9		
Jesus heals an epileptic boy	17: 14-21	9: 17-29	9: 38-43	
Jesus sends a tax coin in a fish's mouth	17: 24-27			
Jesus heals a blind man/two blind men	9: 27-31 20: 30-34 21: 18-22	10: 46-52	18: 35-43	
Jesus makes a fig tree wither		11: 12-14		
Jesus casts out an unclean spirit		1: 23-28	4: 33-37	
Jesus heals a deaf-mute		7: 32-37		
Jesus heals a blind man in Bethsadia		8: 22-26		
Jesus escapes from the raging crowd			4: 27-30	
Jesus commands that fish are caught			5: 1-11	
Jesus raises a widow's son			7: 11-17	
Jesus heals a crippled woman			13: 11-17	
Jesus heals a man suffering from dropsy			14: 1-6	
Jesus cleanses 10 lepers			17: 11-19	
Jesus heals a servant's ear			22: 50-51	
Jesus turns water into wine				2: 1-11
Jesus heals an official's son				4: 46-54
Jesus heals an invalid				5: 2-15
Jesus heals a man blind since birth				9: 1-41
Jesus raises Lazarus				11: 1-44
Jesus commands that fish are caught				21: 4-8

*This chart taken from "Biblica The Bible Atlas Barron's" * Typed with bolder print to accommodate the vision issues of the elderly*

MIRACLE #1: JESUS TURNS WATER INTO WINE



Marriage-at-Cana by Vladimir Makovsky 1887

John 2: 1-11

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee, Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, Do whatever he tells you." Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." This the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him. *(Life Application Study Bible, New International Version)*

The Free Dictionary by Farlex defines a miracle as “an event that appears inexplicable by the laws of nature and so is held to be supernatural in origin or an act of God.” Furthermore, words from C. S. Lewis add to this by stating that “a miracle is something beyond man’s intellectual or scientific ability to accomplish.” Both definitions fit the first miracle Jesus is said to have performed; turning water into wine at the marriage celebration in Cana.

However, when one takes a deeper look at the significance of this miracle occurring at the beginning of our Lord’s ministry, we must first recall God’s relationship to the children of Israel from Isaiah 54: 5, “For your **husband** is your Maker, whose name is the LORD of hosts; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel, Who is called the God of all the earth.” (NIV) This Scripture clearly describes God’s position to his chosen people as that of a **husband or bridegroom** when entering into the original covenant with them. Unfortunately, his chosen bride, the children of Israel, did not hold up their end of the covenant agreement, thus, ending this partnership. Although the relationship as described in the Old Testament between God and his people was not a lasting agreement, Scripture consistently refers to a period in time when the Father, not willing to give up on the concept of marriage, would establish with his bride a new covenant; a promise that was taught to generation after generation of the Jewish people.

Thus, when Jesus walked past John the Baptist, he spoke these words as recorded in **John 3:28-29** New King James Version (NKJV)²⁸ **You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, ‘I am not the Christ,’ but, ‘I have been sent before Him.’** ²⁹ **He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled.”**

In the book “Manners & Customs of Bible Lands” by Fred H. Wight, it is stated that the wedding banquet was presided over by the ruler of the feast. (Also called the master of the banquet.) It was his duty to take care of the preparations and during the feast make certain that the guests lacked for nothing. His job also included that of returning thanks at the dinner and pronouncing benedictions at appointed times. In addition, it was his responsibility to bless the wine the bridegroom had provided.

However, it appears that Mary, the mother of Jesus became acutely aware of the shortage of wine and thus set on a mission to save not only the host the embarrassment by failing to follow the protocol of correct hospitality, but also that of preventing him from breaking the law regarding such. Through the gesture of seeking help from Jesus, she has immediately placed her son in the position of the bridegroom; the individual responsible for providing wine. However, as the conversation between Mary and Jesus unfolds, her son’s reply to the request, **“Dear woman, why do you involve me?”** and **“My time has not yet come.”** **John 2: 4** (*Life Application Study Bible—New International Version*) have created much debate. One viewpoint held by scholars when Jesus states his time has not yet come relates directly to the shedding of his blood on the cross for our sin; a point that will be fully discussed when he shares the last

supper with his disciples as described in a later chapter. Regardless, Jesus' actions set the entire feast astir. Specifically calling for the six stone water jars that were normally used for ceremonial washing that would hold 20-30 gallons to be filled to the brim with water, our Lord was leaving no room for doubt as to the magnitude of the miracle he was getting ready to perform. Certainly, no individual could think wine had been added to the water in the jars, but would fully realize that a **supernatural happening had occurred**. The words that came from the lips of the master of the feast must have set the entire banquet abuzz. Thus, since all residents of the village usually were invited to the wedding festivities, an ample number of people witnessed the first miracle of Christ.

Result: The first miracle of Jesus at a wedding in Cana not only caused his disciples to believe, but also allowed Jesus to send a clear message to the Jewish people that he was, indeed, the promised Messiah for which they hoped; the long awaited marriage between God the husband with his people once again; meaning Jesus was to be the BRIDEGROOM of the Second Covenant. The drink the people tasted was supernatural wine from heaven.

MIRACLE # 2: HEALING THE ROYAL OFFICIAL'S SON IN CAPERNAUM

Healing the royal official's son by Joseph-Marie Vien, 1752.



John 4: 46-54

Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death. "Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe." The royal official said, "Sir, come down before my child dies." Jesus replied, "You may go. Your son will live." The man took Jesus at his word and departed. While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, "The fever left him yesterday at the seventh hour." Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." So he and all his household believed. This was the second miraculous sign that Jesus performed, having come from Judea to Galilee. *(Life Application Study Bible, New International Version)*

The royal official, thought to be in the service of Herod, had traveled 20 miles with the goal of seeking the assistance of Jesus. Even though he had legal authority over our Lord, the use of the word "sir" clearly shows the man reversed roles, placing himself at the mercy of Christ. Even though his actions showed great humility, his words also signaled a strong faith that he believed Jesus to be under the power of God. In addition, when his servants met him with the good news that his son would live, he immediately gave all credit to Jesus by announcing to those around him the very second when the Lord had performed the miracle. At that moment in time, by giving the glory to Christ, he not only had become a powerful disciple for our Savior, but in the process had led his entire household to the Lord.

Result: Certainly it is obvious from the royal official's behavior that he had confidence that Jesus could heal his son. However, at the same time, he bowed in reverence to the Lord by obeying Jesus' directions without hesitation. When Christ told him to go home, he immediately departed; thus, a demonstration of great faith. In addition, even though he could of feared showing weakness in front of his household, he remained faithful, giving all credit to Jesus by sharing the time the miracle was performed, albeit it 20 miles away. It is critical for all of us to internalize the fact that distance, time, or space does not prevent our Lord from working in our lives. He is master over all. Unfortunately, how many times have we put so much space between ourselves and Jesus that he is unable to reach us? Bend the knee in humility, pray, and believe!

MIRACLE # 3: CHRIST HEALING THE PARALYTIC AT BETHESDA

Christ healing the paralytic at Bethesda, by Palma il Giovane, 1592.



John 5: 1-18

Sometime later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. Here a great number of disabled people used to lie--the blind, the paralyzed. One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?" Sir, the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me." Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, and so the Jews said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat." But he replied, "The man who made me well said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'" (*Life Application Study Bible, New International Version*)

First, it is important to include **John 5: 4** from the Holman Christian Standard Bible stating, "because an angel would go down into the pool from time to time and stir up the water. Then the first one who got in after the water was stirred up recovered from whatever ailment he had", to shed light on the lame man's reply to Jesus' question about wanting to get well. It was well known during this time that at certain seasons, an angel of the Lord would come down and stir the waters. The first person entering the pool after the water had been stirred was healed from his infirmity. The Pool of Bethesda is a pool of water in the Muslim Quarter of Jerusalem, on the path of the Beth Zeta Valley whose remains were uncovered by archaeologists in the 19th century. Their find exactly matched John's description as recorded. This particular pool was also mentioned in Second Kings as well as Isaiah.

Result: This miracle was an example of the sovereign act of healing on Christ's part; truly a demonstration of mercy. If you then continue reading the verses that follow in this chapter, you will soon discover that Jesus sought the man out and reminded him that his healing lasted and to stop sinning for he knew the man needed to also be spiritually forgiven. (Evidently, many of the reported healings at the pool were not actual happenings and were without lasting power.) Then, dear friend, read on and witness the reaction of the Jewish leaders to the healing of a man that had been living in despair for thirty eight years. They were not rejoicing that he was no longer trapped inside a body that did not work, but used it as a way of pointing out that both Jesus and the man had broken the law by working on the Sabbath. This incident also sheds light on Jesus' stance that the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. Do you take time to rejoice when others are blessed?

MIRACLE # 4 FEEDING THE 5000



Feeding the multitudes by Bernardo Strozzi, early 17th century.

John 6: 5-14

When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Eight months' wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, **"Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."** (*Life Application Study Bible, New International Version*) (*The Jewish people believed the supernatural manna would reappear through the long-awaited Messiah*)

Miracle of the Loaves and fishes by James Tissot

This painting gives the scope of the miracle by visually seeing the large number of people present.



Before focusing on the miracle where Jesus fed the 5000 people, it is important to visit Numbers 27: 16-17 from the Old Testament and center on the phrasing used by Moses and again by Jesus in his ministry. The Scripture below occurred just after Moses had been led to the mountain by God to look upon the Promised Land and was told to replace himself as leader with Joshua. Moses' reaction was as follows:

Moses said to the Lord, "May the Lord, the God of the spirits of all mankind, appoint a man over this community to go out and come in before them, one who will lead them out and bring them in, so the Lord's people will not be like sheep without a shepherd." . (Life Application Study Bible, New International Version)

The book of Mark, 6: 34 notes that Jesus not only had compassion when he saw the large crowd following him, but also compared them as being like sheep not having a shepherd. Once again, it is obvious that Jesus was well acquainted with the Torah, and at the same time was the Son of God who wove a silver thread of continuity from Exodus to Revelation in the Bible. Even when Hoshea, the leader to replace Moses was assigned his new name, "Joshua", one can see the hand of God at work well ahead of the miracles performed by Jesus. (The name Joshua is also the original Hebrew form of the Greek name Jesus. The shortened form of Joshua is the name Jeshua.) Does this offer confidence that our God is truly in charge and is surprised by no event regardless the historical date?

Result: Then, as we view what the disciples found when searching for food stuffs available in the enormous crowd, please note that "BREAD" was at the forefront of the miracle. In a previous chapter, we learned that bread was the food that provided sustenance for most people and also centered on Jesus describing himself as the "Bread of Life." Thus, in this miracle prior to serving the people, he looked toward heaven and prayed to his Father before breaking the bread. Here we have Jesus, called the "Bread of Life" as well as the "Good Shepherd", supplying nourishment to his people. Folks, please note that the Lord showed compassion, lacked nothing as far as the ability to meet the challenge of the massive number of mouths to feed, remembered to go to his Father in prayer, and then filled the bellies of all present with leftover food which his disciples gathered. HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD! Even though the disciples doubted based on what they viewed as impossible circumstances and limitations, the Master supplied and met the challenge. Have no doubt, dear one, our Lord is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. As the Shepherd of your life, he can supply your every need and never be without a solution or run short of answers.

The first letters of the Greek words for *Jesus Christ*, *Son of God*, and *Savior* spell the Greek word fish. The fish is an early symbol for Jesus Christ and also for the believer. (Christian Believer—Knowing God With Heart and Mind by Abingdon)



MIRACLE # 5 JESUS WALKS ON WATER

MIRACLE # 6 JESUS CALMS THE STORM

(Jesus Calms the Storm not found in John, but similar so included)

Let us first focus on the personality of the Sea of Galilee; the lake on which the next two miracles performed by Jesus occurred. Lying low in the Great Rift Valley, surrounded by hills, this lake could have been classified as being extremely changeable. Although wearing an incredibly calm appearance in the morning, by mid-afternoon, the heat of the Rift Valley would suck down the cool air of the heights, causing mighty squalls to erupt that built into treacherous waves. Although the angry waters returned to a glassy stillness within thirty minutes, the possibility of encountering one of these acts of nature could strike fear in the hearts of the most experienced sailors; fishermen like Peter, James, and John. Even with their vast knowledge that came from sailing vessels on this familiar body of water, it was impossible to predict the arrival of a disturbance on this fickle lake. Thus, two miracles that Jesus performed demonstrating his power over nature to his disciples occurred on this very site; one where he walked on water to reach them and the other when he commanded a raging storm to cease.

Please keep in mind the timeline under which Jesus is operating for preparing his disciples for his departure; being three short years. When he was no longer visible in their eyes, he knew as his messengers, they would be going through many storms while spreading the good news of the kingdom. He also was aware their mind set regarding the coming messiah rested upon knowledge obtained from Old Testament Scripture. Thus, if the Lord wanted to establish his relationship with God in their eyes, he recognized the necessity of relying on the teachings from both Job and Psalm to connect himself directly to Jehovah (YHWH). Since the New Testament did not exist, it is critical to recall that as Jews, his disciples would have been familiar with the Old Testament Scriptures showing the ability of God to defeat the unruly powers of nature's chaos.

Job 9: 8

"He alone stretches out the heavens and treads on the waves of the sea. (New International Version (NIV))

Psalm 77: 19

Your path led through the sea, your way through the mighty waters, though your footprints were not seen. (New International Version (NIV))

When Jesus walked on water toward his frightened disciples, as well as calmed the storm while sitting in the boat among them, it was clearly an unveiling of his divine identity. In both

miracles, Jesus demonstrated he was in control of nature and did it with an unperturbed calm that sent an important message to his followers of his power and authority.

MIRACLE # 5 JESUS WALKS ON WATER



Jesus walks on water, by Ivan Aivazovsky (1888)

John 6: 16-21

'When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them. A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. When they had rowed three or three and a half miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were terrified. But he said to them. "It is I; don't be afraid." Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.' (Life Application Study Bible, New International Version)

Please note, when Peter saw it was Jesus, in his usual display of exuberance, he jumped out of the boat and noisily made his way toward the Lord. As long as he believed, he walked on water. However, when doubt entered his mind, the stormy waves caused fear and terror to rage. No matter, it is important to realize that Jesus scolded him only for his doubt. After all, he courageously stepped out of the boat and made every attempt to get to Christ. Have you ever been afraid to step out of the boat into unfamiliar waters?

Also, the response of Jesus, "It is I; don't be afraid," an opening Greek phrase, has been identified by scholars as a statement belonging among those called his "I am" sayings; thus a way of establishing his identity as the long awaited Messiah and connection to God.

Result: By walking on water, Jesus not only showed his mighty power over the forces of nature, but also demonstrated through Peter's actions that faith is the key.

Let us now move on to the miracle when Jesus calmed the angry waters by focusing on his exact location in this storm as compared to the one where he walked on water.

Mark 4: 35-41 (English Standard Version ESV)

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side."³⁶ And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him.³⁷ And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling.³⁸ But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"³⁹ And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.⁴⁰ He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?"⁴¹ And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

In the last miracle, the disciples were by themselves in the boat because Jesus had chosen to be alone in prayer with the Father. Therefore, his disciples, having followed his directions to go ahead, found themselves facing the battle of their lives against waves that had a record of winning by the number of lives they had claimed over time. We must note, in the miracle when Jesus commanded the waters to be still, he was in the boat fast asleep while his

disciples took control of the vessel. Thus, although possessing full knowledge their Lord was in their presence, they displayed the same fearful reaction in both miracles.

However, one noticeable difference between the miracles is the reaction of Jesus to their cry, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" When he was awakened by their desperate call for help, he strongly rebuked their actions by shaming them for their "little faith."

MIRACLE # 6 CHRIST CALMS THE STORM



Bakhuizen, Ludolf – "Christ in the Storm on the Sea of Galilee - 1695" by Ludolf Bakhuizen

(Note how the artist captured the violence of the storm)

Result: This particular miracle is thought by many scholars to be a message to not only his disciples, but all followers of Christ, meaning us, too, that we are to not pray out of fear, but out of a deep-seated faith in God. Believers, rest assured that God is with us and is always taking care of us.

MIRACLE # 7 JESUS HEALS THE MAN BORN BLIND



Healing the Man Born Blind by El Greco, ca. 1570 (Staatliche Kunstsammlungen, Dresden).

John 9:1–41

9 As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ² And his disciples asked him, ³“Rabbi, ⁴who sinned, ⁵this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ⁶ Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but ⁷that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁸ We must ⁹work the works of him who sent me ¹⁰while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ¹¹ As long as I am in the world, ¹²I am the light of the world.” ¹³ Having said these things, ¹⁴he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. ¹⁵ Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud ¹⁶and said to him, “Go, wash in ¹⁷the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and ¹⁸came back seeing.

REACTION OF THE NEIGHBORS¹⁹ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, ²⁰“Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ²¹ Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ²² So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ²³ He answered, ²⁴“The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight.” ²⁵ They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

REACTION OF PHARISEES²⁶ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ²⁷ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ²⁸ So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” ²⁹ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not ³⁰from God, ³¹for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, ³²“How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And

¹⁷there was a division among them. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, ¹⁸“He is a prophet.”

REACTION OF PARENTS¹⁸ ¹⁸The Jews^l did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰ His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. ²¹ But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²² (His parents said these things ²³because they feared the Jews, for ²⁴the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should ^aconfess Jesus² to be Christ, ^bhe was to be put out of the synagogue.) ²³ Therefore his parents said, ^c“He is of age; ask him.”

REACTION OF MAN²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, ^d“Give glory to God. We know that ^ethis man is a sinner.” ²⁵ He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I^l was blind, now I see.” ²⁶ They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷ He answered them, ²⁸“I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸ And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but ^hwe are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, ⁱwe do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰ The man answered, “Why, this is ^lan amazing thing! ^kYou do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that ^lGod does not listen to sinners, but ^mif anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ ⁿIf this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴ They answered him, ^o“You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they ²cast him out. ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in ^qthe Son of Man?” ³⁶ He answered, ^l“And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and ^sit is he who is speaking to you.” ³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.

REACTION OF THE LORD³⁹ Jesus said, ^l“For judgment I came into this world, ^uthat those who do not see may see, and ^vthose who see may become blind.” ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, ^w“Are we also blind?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, ^xyou would have no guilt; ^dbut now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains. (English Standard Version) (Subheadings above taken from “The Miracles of Our Lord by Charles Caldwell Ryrie)

In order to gain a full understanding in this miracle of Jesus’ teachings, it was critical to supply a larger amount of Scripture than usual. Also, by borrowing from Charles Caldwell Ryrie’s classification of reactions the writer felt it would offer a greater understanding of the miracle’s impact, and also display how difficult it was for our Lord to get across his message for the arrival of the kingdom of heaven.

First, do you find the neighbors reaction of denial of the healing by convincing themselves that it was not the blind beggar? Their attitude toward the miracle causes the statement, “Seeing is believing” to not hold up, doesn’t it? Can you identify with this behavior?

Second, note the path the Pharisees chose to take; one that would not allow a change of mind. Even after irrefutable evidence, some clung to their original position. Are you identifying with this as well? Do you have an open mind to new information or change?

Third, did the posture of the blind man’s parents cause you to gasp in disbelief as they proceeded to disassociate themselves with their own son? Does that give you a feel for the enormous fear that surrounded the people when Jesus walked the earth? Does that fear still exist today? Can you think of instances witnessed during your life on earth of this happening?

Next, were you able to have sympathy or empathy for the man, as a new believer, having to face such enormous, seemingly insurmountable forces when truly everyone should be

rejoicing because he was healed? Having never seen an angry face before in his life due to blindness, what impact do you think this had upon the situation? Were you relieved when Jesus came to the rescue of this new believer? In discipleship, do you see the importance of coming along beside someone who has just become a Christian?

Last, does this miracle add new meaning to Jesus calling himself the “Light of the World”? Light always overcomes darkness? Our lives are truly transparent to the Lord. That is why all the secrets of mankind will be revealed during the judgment to come.

Result: Does God’s grace take on special meaning at this point?

MIRACLE # 8 RAISING OF LAZARUS



The Raising of Lazarus, by Duccio, 1310–11

John 11:1-45 English Standard Version (ESV)

The Death of Lazarus

11 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So, when he heard that Lazarus^[a] was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. ¹⁰ But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." ¹¹ After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." ¹³ Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ So Thomas, called the Twin,^[b] said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

I Am the Resurrection and the Life

¹⁷ Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles^[c] off, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰ So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.^[d] Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

Jesus Weeps

²⁸ When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved^[e] in his spirit and greatly troubled. ³⁴ And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"

Jesus Raises Lazarus

³⁸ Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." ⁴⁴ The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

In order to have a better understanding of what Jesus would have seen and heard upon arrival at Lazarus' tomb, the stage needs to be set as to the usual (funeral) customs followed at that time in the Bible Lands.

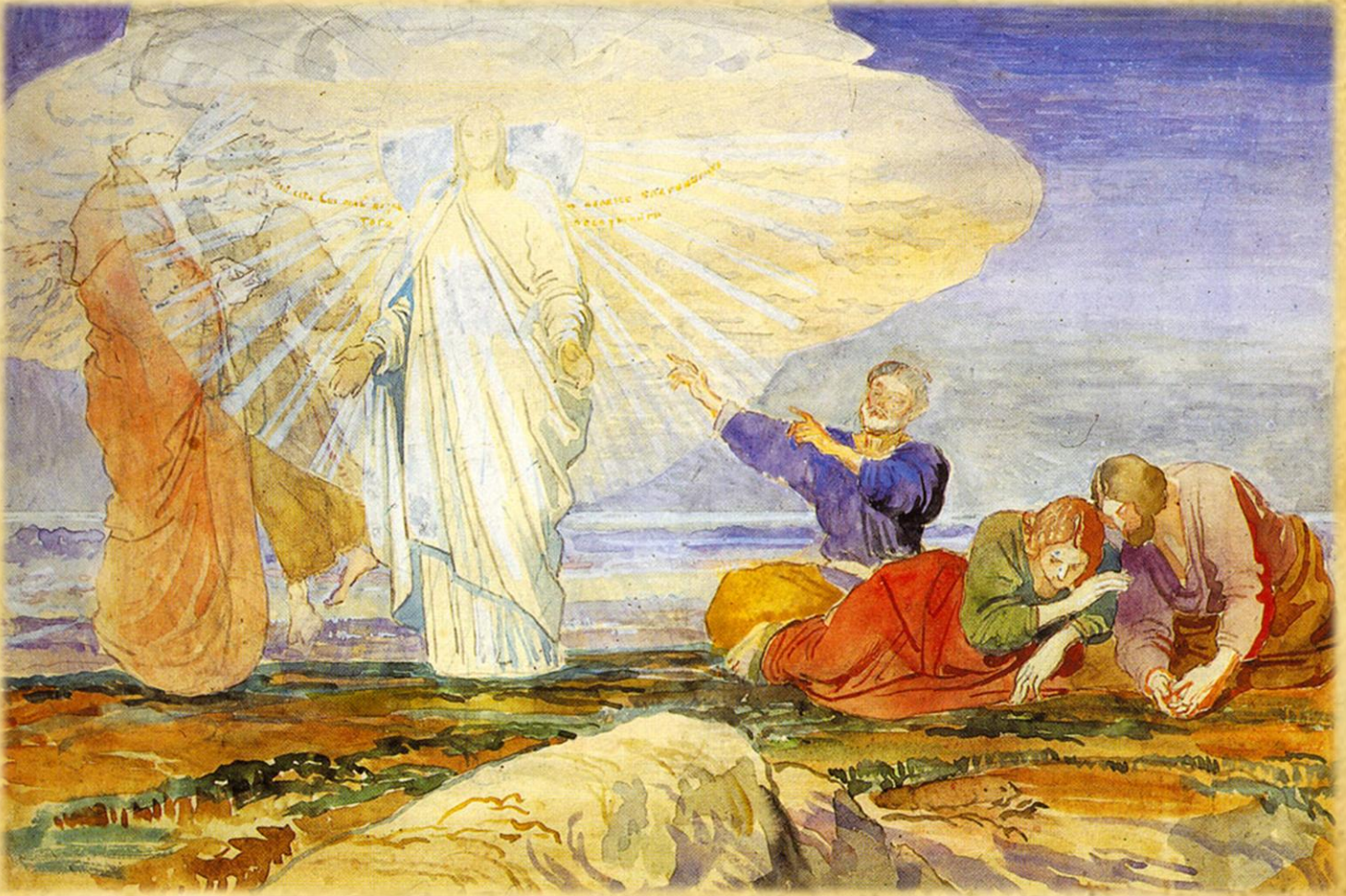
First, Jesus would have heard "The Death Wail" of those mourning the passing of Lazarus from a long distance away because of it being a sharp, shrill, ear-piercing shriek. (As described in the book called "Manners & Customs of Bible Lands" by Fred H. Wight.) This custom, announcing the death to the entire neighborhood, according to Wight, began back in Egypt after the first-born lives were taken at the time of the plagues. This would take place until the burial was completed; a process that was done quickly. As a show of grief, some people tore their garments and wore sack-cloth, as well. Although there are differences of opinions, some scholars have written that people believed the spirit of the deceased would linger around the burial site for three days. This point also has been stressed because Jesus purposely waited four days to arrive, knowing he was being summoned to save Lazarus. Even if they believed the spirit lingered three days, the fact that the people gathered were about to witness a resurrection miracle, was dramatic, to say the least. Other scholars tie the three day period of belief directly to the length of time Jesus would remain in the tomb after crucifixion. However, as resurrection people, not only did the raising of Lazarus hold significance to those present, but to all of us as well.

In addition, it is important to recall the close friendship between Jesus and Lazarus' family members; their home being a sanctuary for him throughout his ministry. Thus, when he saw both Mary and Martha displaying such intense sorrow, Scripture reads that "Jesus wept." There are also scholars that feel Jesus may have shed tears, not only due to his friends' sorrow, but also because of the reality of dying; especially since at creation, death was not a part of God's plan. Regardless, our Lord demonstrated his great compassion through shedding salty tears and becoming extremely troubled. Even with the knowledge that Lazarus would live, he still felt enormous compassion for his children; a point that should bless every heart.

Result: Jesus passed the ultimate test of faith, proving he was the Messiah, thanked the Father for something not yet accomplished, and triumphed over the grave. This miracle certainly was a prelude of his personal victory over the grave that was yet to come after being crucified; an act that would impact every Believer throughout all generations. A notable difference between our future resurrection and the one Lazarus experienced is the promise from God that we will all be given new, perfect bodies, free of pain and suffering for all eternity. In this miracle, although Jesus restored Lazarus' deteriorating body back to life, it would have been the earthly one everyone recognized; not eternal, but one that would eventually have to face death again. Since God never breaks his promise, does the smile you are wearing match mine?

PLEASE LOOK CLOSELY AT THE PAINTING AND NOTE THE EXPRESSIONS OF THOSE GATHERED AROUND THE GRAVE SITE OF LAZARUS.

MIRACLE # 9 THE TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS



Transfiguration by [Alexandr Ivanov](#), 1824

Matthew 17:1-9 (English Standard Version (ESV))

The Transfiguration

17 And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. **2** And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. **3** And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. **4** And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." **5** He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son,^[a] with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." **6** When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. **7** But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." **8** And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

9 And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead."

The Transfiguration, the most marvelous of all miracles that served as a prelude to the Resurrection of Jesus, transpired on “a high mountain apart”, in the presence of only his most trusted disciples; Peter, James and John. Can you imagine their surprise and shock to see not only the Master dazzling radiantly, but also joined by Moses and Elijah; two historical figures that, as Jews, they had been taught about since birth? (Moses representing the Law (Torah) and Elijah, the Prophets; two principal divisions of Hebrew Scriptures in Jesus’ day) One significant point regarding their presence was based around the promise of redemption in the Hebrew Bible. Then, when God spoke to them in a cloud, it would have been reminiscent of the same happening at Jesus’ baptism. Additionally, another incident in Scripture relating to God’s voice coming from a cloud can be tied directly to a request by Moses of God found in Exodus 33: 18-20, when God was asked by Moses to show him his glory. God’s response was to clearly let Moses know that no person could see the Father’s face and live. As human beings, we simply are not equipped to comprehend the fullness of God because we are finite while our Father is infinite. This fact alone lets us know why Jesus told his three disciples to tell no one about the Transfiguration. They simply would not understand until after he had been resurrected from the dead. *(The Jewish people also expect a new Moses in the promised new covenant and kept asking Jesus if he was the new Moses. Yes, Jesus can be described as the new Moses in the Second Covenant for which they hoped.)*

Result: The mysterious, yet marvelous Transfiguration of Jesus allows us to clearly understand that Christ is the bridge between humanity and God. Please note that this is the only miracle where the focus is on Jesus; unlike all the others where human lives were touched in some way. It is also described by some as being a pivotal moment; a time where human nature meets God; the meeting place for the temporal and the eternal. In addition, since Elijah and Moses were present, it gave authority to Jesus’ words that he indeed was the Messiah. Also, as a Christian, the fact that Moses and Elijah reappeared after death, offers concrete evidence that the promise of God regarding our eternal life exists as a basic truism. Even though we think of Moses and Elijah as extraordinary, they, like all of us, were simply mere ordinary humans through displaying faith, trust, and humility were blessed by God.

TIME FOR CONTEMPLATION:

After focusing on these wonderful miracles of Jesus, isn’t it astounding how much God desires to have us know him? Hopefully, these wonderful acts have been an inspiration and have served as a divine revelation that has touched your heart to the core. Certainly it should be clear that their main purpose was for God to reveal himself to all mankind through his One and Only Son. Not only did Jesus show his divinity and connection to his Father, but also made apparent that his mission on earth was to deliver the good news of the kingdom as the long anticipated Messiah of the Jewish people. Ladies and gentlemen, this is only a glimpse of the magnitude and mighty power of God. As **John 21: 25** stated, “**Jesus did many other**

things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.” *(Life Application Study Bible, NIV)*

In closing, as we arise each day and feast our eyes on the beautiful display in nature that our creator has made with the touch of his mighty hands, let us all be mindful that it is not enough to just realize there is a God. Certainly, the miracles Jesus performed while being both human and divine during his earthly sojourn, should prompt each of us to raise our voice each day saying, **“THOU ART MY GOD.”** (Psalm 63)

SOURCES:

“MIRACLES OF JESUS” Richard S. Ascough

“MANNERS & CUSTOMS OF BIBLE LANDS” Fred H. Wight

“COMPLETE JEWISH BIBLE” David H. Stern

“THE MIRACLES OF OUR LORD” Charles Caldwell Ryrie



GROWING IN THE WORD



1) Before you begin this lesson, please go to devotionalembbers.com and open the hymnal that contains an array of beautiful well loved hymns played on the organ by Bradley Jent and choose one prior to reading or discussion. Not only will this ready your mind for receiving God’s word, offer a feeling of peace, but also serve as a way of promoting mental clarity.

2) Which miracle touched your heart the most? Perhaps it was one you chose from the list that was not focused on in the collection.

3) Do you feel God still performs miracles today? Make a list together of miracles.

4) Describe a miracle that occurred in your life or someone with whom you are acquainted.

(One elderly man in a residential care facility, when asked to tell about a miracle, vividly revisited his life as a medic in the military during World War II when he treated a critically ill German soldier. When the man, classified as “the enemy”, was taking his final breath, the medic and the soldier bonded with the realization they both were God’s children. He was asked at that moment in time by God to pray for his enemy. And....he did! During the winter season of his life when he revisited the story, he sobbed uncontrollably. (This was a miracle that remained fresh in his mind for all time.)

5) Closing Prayer (Please say a prayer of your own or use the one below at the conclusion of this collection on miracles.

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord,

Thank you for loving us so much that you chose to dwell among us as Jesus, your One and Only Son. The wonderful miracles you performed revealed who you are to every one of us. You taught us how to have courage in the face of the most challenging circumstances and that all your children are loved dearly by you. You tenderly touched the downtrodden and were patient with their lack of understanding. Clearly, dear Father, all creation belongs to you. Throughout the Bible, your silver thread can be followed from the beginning to your return. Nothing on earth is surprising to you; a thought that will offer comfort to your children living in a world where everything seems to be spinning out of control. Through accepting you as Savior and repenting of our sins, you have promised that a miraculous new and perfect body awaits us in eternity. As the Great Promise Keeper, we believe! Amen!