

MIRACLES OF JESUS

Int.

1. Aim: To show that Jesus performed many miracles and why He did them.
2. Acts 2:22 "Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:"
 - a. This was Peter speaking on the day of Pentecost¹
 - b. He mentioned miracles under three different names:
 - (1) Mighty works [asv] = the exercise of great powers - without any reference to their meaning.
 - (2) Wonders = indicates the immediate effect of the mighty works on the minds of the spectators - they were amazed, astonished, bewildered - Mk.2:12
 - (3) Signs = this indicates their value. - They had a meaning, a significance. They gave proof of something. They attested the mission, the message and the nature of the person who performed them.
3. Jn. 2:11 "This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee," water to wine at Cana
4. Definition of Miracle
 - a. "It is the extraordinary interposition of the great Lawgiver himself, modifying for the time the regular action of his own ordinary laws." ²
 - b. "An extraordinary event manifesting a supernatural work of God." -- "an event or effect in the physical world deviating from the known laws of nature." -- "A supernatural act, superseding or suspending a natural." ³
 - c. Greek - (4592) [shmeion] say-mi'-on; neut. of a presumed der. of the base of [shmai/nw]; an indication, espec. cer. or supernat.: - miracle, sign, token, wonder

5. Mistaken definitions or descriptions

- a. Sometimes people call the birth of a baby a "miracle". This is incorrect because birth is controlled by natural law. Virgin birth of Jesus is an example of a miracle.
- b. Sometimes when vegetation spring forth, or the leaves change to beautiful colors people call it a "miracle". It is not, it is a work of nature. A miracle would be contrary to nature.
- c. A fund raising letter from a hospital said: "Miracles at this place are part of everyday life. Miracles that come from technology. And miracles that come from human caring. I've seen them happen."
 - i. This is an excellent example of the inaccurate use of the word "miracle" in modern usage.
 - ii. What this man is describing IS a wonderful thing.
 - iii. It's great to see a sick person recover. It is thrilling to view the fruits of recent technological advances in medical care.
 - iv. We are seeing things that folks only a few years ago never imagined. Open-heart procedures, organ transplants, laser surgery and a host of other new medical methodologies have been perfected in rapid succession.
 - v. It is truly amazing - but, it is NOT a miracle!

6. We will study the Miracles of Jesus and why He did them

Discussion

I. CHRIST PERFORMED MANY MIRACLES WHILE ON EARTH

- A. The proof of His miracles - admitted by His disciples and friends
1. This admitted by His enemies - Jn. 11:47-48 - after raising Lazarus
 2. This admitted by neutrals - Nicodemus "The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him." Jn.3:2
 3. Multitudes marveled - Matt. 9:1-8 - healing of the lame man
 4. Jesus performed miracles publicly, before both friend and foe, and on many occasions. Thousands examined His miracles closely and all, friend and enemy alike, admitted that He performed them.
- B. The variety of His miracles
1. He healed people of disease
 - a. Mt. 8:1-4 - man with leprosy was cleansed immediately
 - b. Mt. 9:1-8 - man with palsy - took up his bed
 - c. Mt. 9:20-22 - woman diseased with an issue of blood 12 years - made whole from that hour
 2. He opened the eyes of the blind
 - a. Mt. 9:27-31 - 2 blind men - opened eyes instantly by touching their eyes
 - b. Mt. 20:30-34 - 2 blind men - touched and eyes opened
 - c. Mk. 8:22-26 - blind man, spit and touched he saw clearly

3. He unstopped the deaf ears

- a. Mk. 7:31-37 - deaf and impediment in speech - fingers into his ears, and he spit, and touched his tongue, ears opened and his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain
- b. Mt. 11:5 - v. 2-6 - "...the deaf hear..." v.5

4. He unloosed the dumb tongues

- a. Mk. 7:31-37 -
- b. Mt. 15:30-31 - the dumb could speak

5. He caused the lame to walk

- a. Mt. 11:5 - the lame to walk
- b. Mt. 15:30-31

6. He fed the hungry

- a. Mt. 14:15-21 - 5,000 men besides women and children
 - (1) Five loaves and two fish
 - (2) We can plant wheat seed, harvest it, and prepare enough bread for a multitude. But Jesus provided this bread instantly. That is a miracle.
 - (3) A few fish can multiply and we can catch them and have enough food to feed 5,000 men. But Jesus did it in a miraculous way.
 - (4) With five loaves and two fish he provided enough food for a multitude and had 12 baskets of left-overs. The people ate till they were filled.

- b. Mt. 15:32-39 - 4,000 men beside women and children
 - (1) Seven loaves and a few fish
 - (2) All the people ate
 - (3) They had 7 baskets of left-overs

7. He calmed the storm

- a. Mt. 8:23-27
 - (1) Storm at sea - Jesus was asleep
 - (2) Rebuked the winds and the sea, a great calm
- b. Mk. 4:35-41

8. He cast out devils

- a. Mk. 1:23-27 - man with unclean spirit
- b. Mk. 3:10-12

9. He healed withered hands

- a. Mk. 3:1-5
- b. One hand was withered - restored it whole

10. He caused those stooped to stand erect

- a. Lk. 13:11-17
- b. Woman been sick for 18 years - laid hands on her and she was healed immediately

11. He raised the dead

- a. Mt. 11:5 - "...the dead are raised up..."
- b. Jn. 11:43-44 - Lazarus raised been dead 4 days
- c. Lk. 8:49-56 - Daughter of the Ruler of Synagogue
 - (1) Jesus said: "Maid arise."
 - (2) Arose straightway - Parents astonished
- d. Lk. 7:11-17 - son of the widow of Nain

C. Five categories of miracles:

- 1. Power over disease - lame
- 2. Power over nature - stilled the seas
- 3. Power over the spirit world - unclean spirits
- 4. Power over material things - fed with loaves and fishes
- 5. Power over death - Lazarus

D. If Christ did not perform miracles

- 1. His character and integrity are destroyed
 - a. He is an imposter
 - b. He claimed to perform miracles but didn't
 - c. He is a liar - He said that He performed miracles but did not
- 2. The New Testament is discredited. It repeatedly says that Christ performed miracles. If wrong on this, it is unreliable on all that it teaches.
- 3. We cannot, as the Modernist says, "accept the teachings of Christ" and then deny His miracles for he "taught" miracles.
- 4. Jesus did perform miracles and here is why...

II. THE PURPOSE OF CHRIST'S MIRACLES -- four fold purpose

A. TO PROVE HIS DEITY

1. His miracles were to convince people that he was the Christ the Son of God
 - a. Jn. 20:30-31 - He performed many more miracles
 - b. Written for the express purpose to prove that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. - John 21:25
2. His miracles did convince many people of His deity
 - a. Jn. 2:23 "Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast [day], many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did."
 - b. Jn. 4:46-54 - the second miracle - healing of the nobleman's son
 - c. Jn. 6:14 "Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world."
 - d. John 9:38 Jn. 12:11-19 Jn. 20:8
3. His miracles were...
 - a. Instantaneous - immediate
 - b. Complete
 - (1) No disease was incurable, Nothing was left half done in his Miracles
 - (2) If there had been just one case where a man who was lame and walked away with a limp or wobble, just enough to raise doubt in the minds of the witnesses, the people would have become critics and skeptics.
 - (3) When Jesus performed a miracle it was complete.
 - c. His miracles were permanent - not for just a few hours or days.
4. The miracles helped prove his deity.

B. TO CONFIRM THE WORD OF GOD

1. Jesus combines miracles with His teaching and preaching in order to convince people that what He said came from God.
 - a. Mt. 4:23 "And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people."
 - b. Teaching, preaching, and healing
2. When the apostles went out preaching, they confirmed the word by miracles
 - a. Mk. 16:20 "And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with [them], and confirming the word with signs following. Amen."
 - b. Heb. 2:2-4 "For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?"
3. Why did God's word need confirming?
 - a. The New Testament gospel not yet revealed., It had to be authenticated as true to convince people that it was a divine message from God.
 - b. If we lived in Old Testament days, without 1,900 years of Christian teaching and history behind us; if we, like the Jews of Christ's day, were looking for the Messiah to appear; would we be convinced that a certain person was the Messiah if he had not miracles to prove His deity and confirm his word?

C. TO REVEAL THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST

1. "It is Christ as a worker of miracles who speaks to the heart." - compassion
2. In His miracles, we see the compassion, tenderness, concern, love, sympathy, and consideration for human need that was such a great trait of Christ's life.
3. In His teachings, Christ tells us what He was; in His miracles, He shows us what he was.

D. TO ILLUSTRATE THE POWER OF CHRIST

1. When we see Christ cast out demons, we know He can cast the demon of sin out of our lives.
2. When we see Christ feed the multitudes, we know He can feed our hungry souls with the Bread of Life.
3. When we see Christ open the eyes of the blind, we know he can open our spiritual eyes to the wondrous works of God.
4. When we see Christ heal the sick, we know He is the Great Physician who can heal all the ills of our souls.
5. When we see Christ heal cripples, we know He can cleanse us from the mark of sin, and make us whole again.
6. When we see Christ cleanse lepers, we know He can cleanse us from sin.
7. When we see Christ calm the storm, we know He can calm the storms of our lives and speak peace to our souls.
8. When we see Christ raising the dead, we know He can and will raise us from the grave.

- E. Christ's miracles, to Christians, constitute more than a proof of His deity and power; they are pledges of what He can do in our lives.

Conclusion

1. Jesus performed many miracles while on earth.
 - a. In the N.T. there are 37 scenes in which Jesus of Nazareth appears as a miracle worker. This does not mean that he performed only 37 miracles.
 - b. Jn.20:30-31 tells us that he did so many that even the world could not contain the books that should be written about them.
 - c. John 21:25
2. Jesus was also the center or object of miracles
 - a. Virgin Birth - miraculous conception
 - b. Resurrection - Raised from grave
 - c. Ascension - Went back to heaven
3. Today no one can perform miracles
 - a. The Apostles and early Christians had gifts of the H.S. which enabled them to perform limited miracles
 - b. But those have ceased - they are no longer needed. 1 Cor. 13:8
 - c. We have the Bible - the complete word of God.
 - d. We believe in Christ because of His miracles which are recorded in the New Testament.

Endnotes

1. The Miracles of Jesus by Frank L. Cox p. 4
2. Cox. P. 4
3. Websters Dictionary p. p.540

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Nov. 12, 2006 Sunday Morning
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