

Greater Works

Int.

1. Aim: To show how we can do even greater works than Christ or the Apostles did with their miracles.
2. John 14:12 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater [works] than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father."
 - a. Not a reference to more, or of an extraordinary kind.
 - b. These things will be in a spiritual realm and are far greater than an interference with the laws of nature.
3. Christ and the apostles did many mighty works
 - a. Christ
 - (1) Matt. 8:23-27 - calmed the sea [rebuked] = ELEMENTS
 - (2) Matt. 9:1-8 - man with palsy healed = BODY
 - (3) Matt. 9:18-27 - Jarius' daughter raised = DEATH
 - b. Apostles
 - (1) Acts 3:1-11 - Peter and John healed lame man - from birth
 - (2) Acts 9:32-35 - Peter healed Aeneas of Palsy - 8 years
 - (3) Acts 9:36-42 - Tabitha was raised from the dead
4. How can we do greater works than these?
 - a. He does not mean greater miracles.
 - b. Some have suggested that it means the discoveries in medicine that man would make later would be greater than these miracles of Jesus. That would be impossible! He raised the dead!

5. But we can do things more worthwhile than these miracles!

Discussion

I. JESUS OPENED THE EYES OF THE BLIND

A. John 9:1-12

1. Man blind from birth
2. Above 40 years of age
3. Eyes were opened by Christ -- clay, anointed eyes, washed in pool of Siloam

B. We can do GREATER

1. We can open the eyes of people to the truth
 - a. Mt. 13:16-17 "But blessed [are] your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. 17. For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous [men] have desired to see [those things] which ye see, and have not seen [them]; and to hear [those things] which ye hear, and have not heard [them]."
 - (1) Desired to See
 - (2) Now we can see and know
 - (3) We can open the eyes of others to the truth
- b. Acts 8:30-31 - Eunuch " So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet I saiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" 31 And he said, "How can I , unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him.."

2. We are doing something that is more profitable and more valuable than opening the eyes of the blind. We are teaching them the truth!
 - a. They are blinded by the darkness of sin
 - b. Jn. 8:12 "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."
 - c. II Cor. 4:3-4, 6-7
 - d. Eph. 5:8, 13
- C. In this way we are doing a greater work!

II. JESUS OPENED THE EARS OF THE DEAF

- A. Mark 7:32-37
 1. Deaf and had impediment in his speech
 2. "And straightway his ears were opened, and the string of his tongue was loosed, and he spoke plain." Mark 7:35
- B. We can do a greater work
 1. We can help people to hear and understand the gospel
 - a. Matt. 15:10 Jesus told the multitude "...hear and understand."
 - b. Berea - Acts 17:11-12 "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. 12. Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few."

- c. Acts 8:30-31 - Eunuch
 - (1) Guide
 - (2) Lead, guide, conduct - "instruct me"
 - d. Rom. 10:13-17
 - e. Isa. 52:7 " How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"
2. "Let these sayings sink down into your ears..." Luke 9:44
- a. We can teach the word of God to those who are lost
 - b. If they have an honest heart, they can understand and learn what to do to be saved!
 - c. Matt. 13:14-17 "And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: 15. For this people's heart is waxed gross, and [their] ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with [their] eyes and hear with [their] ears, and should understand with [their] heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. 16. But blessed [are] your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. 17. For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous [men] have desired to see [those things] which ye see, and have not seen [them]; and to hear [those things] which ye hear, and have not heard [them]."
3. In doing this we are able to do a greater work than Jesus did!

III. JESUS HEALED SICK BODIES

A. Christ

1. Matt. 8:1-3 man had leprosy
2. Matt. 9:20-22 Woman had an issue of blood for 12 years

B. We can do greater works

1. We can heal the sin sick soul with the gospel
 - a. Eunuch "Went on his way rejoicing" - Acts 8:39
 - b. Eph. 4:22-24 "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 23. And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; 24. And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."
 - (1) Put off the old man = corrupt
 - (2) Put on new man = righteousness
 - (3) Lying replaced with truth
 - (4) Honesty instead of dishonesty
 - (5) Pure speech not corrupt communication
 - (6) Kindness in the place of bitterness and wrath and anger
 - c. A new convert will say "I never felt this good before." Why? Their soul that was sick in sin is now healed.
2. The gospel is the power of God that can change a sinner into a Christian
3. This is a greater work than healing the body!

IV. JESUS CAST OUT DEMONS

- A. Matt. 17:14-20
1. Boy with evil spirit or demon
 2. "And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour." Matt. 17:18
- B. We can do a greater work
1. We can free people from the possession of sin
 - a. John 8:32-34 "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. 33. They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? 34. Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin."
 - b. Rom. 6:16-18 "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? 17. But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. 18. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness."
 2. This is a greater work
 3. The gospel can help people cast the devil out of their lives.
- C. This is a greater work than expelling demons from the body.

V. JESUS FED THE MULTITUDES

- A. Matt. 14:15-21 Fed 5,000 on 5 loaves and 2 fishes
- B. We can do even greater works
 - 1. We can feed the souls of men with food that will last forever
 - a. Heb. 5:12,14 - milk, meat
 - b. Matt. 4:4 not by bread alone "But He answered and said, 'It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"
 - c. John 6:35 - I am the bread of life
 - d. I Peter 2:2 "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:"
 - 2. Matt. 5:6 "Blessed [are] they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."
- C. Feeding the souls of men is a greater work than feeding the bodies.

VI. JESUS RAISED THE DEAD

- A. Jesus raised Lazarus - John 11 - in grave 4 days, "Lazarus Come Forth"
- B. We can do a greater work
 - 1. We can raise people who are dead in sin to walk in newness of life
 - a. Col. 3:1-3 "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God."

- b. Rom. 6:4-7 "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: 6. Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 7. For he that is dead is freed from sin."
- c. John 3:3-7 - Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born again
- d. II Cor. 5:17 = he is a new creature
2. By teaching the gospel to those who are dead in sin we can do a greater work than Jesus or the apostles!

CONCLUSION

1. Jesus promised that we could do greater works than he did. - Jn.14:12
 - a. Those that he fed became hungry again
 - b. Those that he healed became sick again with other diseases.
 - c. Those Jesus raised from the dead, died again!
2. We can do a greater work:
 - a. We can feed people on the bread of life and they need never be hungry again.
 - b. We can teach people the way of the gospel which heals them from their sin and if they walk in the light can be continually cleansed and healed. - I Jn. 1:7
 - c. We can teach people to obey the gospel by being buried with him in Baptism and they are resurrected to a new life and they need never die again. They shall not be hurt by the second death, the death of the soul.

3. This work of teaching the gospel to a lost and dying world is a great work. We can do greater things than the miracles which Christ and the apostles performed.
4. Let us never loose sight of the importance of the work we have before us of teaching the lost.
5. Jn. 4:35-36 "Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! 36 "And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together."
 - a. The fields are white unto harvest
 - b. We can gather fruit unto eternal life.
 - c. Are you doing a greater work?

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Morning March 15, 2009
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