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God's Good News Story

The Miracles of Jesus

In our year long series 'God's Good News Story' we have traced the work of God to bring mankind into a right relationship with Him. It has been a story of obedience and disobedience of light and darkness.

For the past several weeks we have been looking at the life and ministry of Jesus through His parables and ministry. Today we focus on a unique aspect of Jesus' ministry... His Miracles!

What Are Miracles?

"According to the Cambridge Dictionary, a miracle is defined as "an unusual and mysterious event that is thought to have been caused by a god because it does not follow the usual laws of nature." Essentially, a miracle is something so extraordinary and impossible that it could only have been performed by God.

Webster's defines the word "miracle" as "a wonder" or "a marvel". It is an act that only God can perform and if He doesn't the problem will not be fixed.

"One biblical definition of a miracle would be something like this: *"an event that involves the direct and powerful action of God, transcending the ordinary laws of nature and defying common expectations of behavior."* Miracles are extraordinary occurrences that can only be attributed

to the supernatural work of God and demonstrate His involvement in human history. God employs miracles in the Bible to reveal Himself, His character, and His purposes to humans through phenomena that are not otherwise explainable (Exodus 3:1–6). Miracles provide evidence of God's presence and power in the world and demonstrate His authority on behalf of His servants. A miracle may be performed directly by God or through a human agent. Other words used to describe miracles in the Bible are *signs and wonders* (typically used together), *powers*, and *mighty works*.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/definition-miracle.html>

In the Hebrew Old Testament two words are used for miracles:

<04159> mopheth - a wonder, sign, portent

Usage: marvel(1), marvels(3), miracle(1), miracles(1), sign(8), symbol(1), token(1), wonder(4), wonders(17).

<06381> pala (810c) to be surpassing or extraordinary

Usage: bring extraordinary, deal marvelously, difficult, fulfill a special, made his wonderful, made marvelous(1), makes a show your power(1).

“Mophet” and “pala” are both Hebrew words, but they have different meanings. “Mophet” (מוֹפֶת) is a noun that means “a wonder, sign, or portent”. It is used to describe miraculous or supernatural events in the Bible. For example, the ten plagues of Egypt were called “mophetim”.

In the Greek New Testament

<1411> δύναμις *dunamis*

Meaning: (miraculous) *power, might, strength*

Usage: ability(4), meaning(1), mightily(1), mighty(1), miracle(2), miracles(17), miraculous powers(3), power(83), powers(6), strength(2), wealth(1).

<4592> σημεῖον *semeion*

Origin: from the same as 4591

Usage: distinguishing mark(1), miracle(2), sign(35), signs(39).

Miracles are one of the most challenging aspects of the Bible for many people. A large percentage of people in the world just seem to have a hard time accepting miracles. Though the reasons may be numerous, but the fact is that miracles, as most people define them are far and few between in the world today and even in the past.

According to Herbert Lockyer and his book “All the Miracles of the Bible” he states...

“Old Testament miracles established the supremacy of *YAHWEH as the One True GOD* over all the false gods of the local nations. The miracles of Christ established His claims to deity and Messiahship. Apostolic miracles established the Church as a divine institution, and once firmly established was mainly left to ordinary providence.” (p. 19)

In the centuries following the ending of the Apostolic Age (last of the original Apostles death), there have been ongoing various opinions on whether miracles are still

necessary or not, and do they still happen. I am not going to take the time to try and convince you either way in the short time I have today. Just suffice it to say that I believe in a Miracle Working God, and He has every right to perform any miracles that He decides or not to perform any at all. I don't think miracles are necessary today to “prove” anything, as there is no longer any need to affirm or prove God's power. God alone determines when and if a miracle will happen. We just need to trust Him and call on Him for His power and help.

With that in mind let's look at what is recorded for us in the New Testament about Jesus and His Miracle Ministry. According to most scholars there are 37-42 miracles associated with Jesus.

Let's look at the general categories or types of miracles that Jesus did.

- 1. Jesus providing for people's physical needs.**
(*Turning water into wine, feeding the 5,000 & the 4,000*)
- 2. Jesus exercising authority over Satan/Demons.**
(*Casting out demons, which in some cases had caused physical or mental ailments*)
- 3. Jesus affirming His power over sickness and disease.**
(*Around 18 separate instances of physical healing*)

4. Jesus confirming His power of the elements of nature.

(Casting net for fish, fish in coins mouth, calming the seas, walking on water,

5. Jesus showing His power over death and sin.

(His raising of the dead of the son of the widow of Nain, Jairus' daughter, Lazarus, various saints revived after Jesus' resurrection, and of course Jesus' own resurrection and victory over death.

➤ Jesus providing for people's physical needs

Matthew 14:14-21...And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food." But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." He said, "Bring them here to Me." Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. Now those who had eaten

were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

➤ Jesus exercising authority over Satan/Demons.

Mark 5:1-13... They came to the other side of the sea, into the region of the Gerasenes. ² When He got out of the boat, immediately a man from the tombs with an unclean spirit met Him. ³ He lived among the tombs; and no one was able to bind him anymore, not even with a chain, ⁴ because he had often been bound with shackles and chains, and the chains had been torn apart by him and the shackles broken in pieces; and no one was strong enough to subdue him. ⁵ Constantly, night and day, he was screaming among the tombs and in the mountains, and cutting himself with stones. ⁶ Seeing Jesus from a distance, he ran up and bowed down before Him; ⁷ and shouting with a loud voice, he said, "What business do You have with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God, do not torment me!" ⁸ For He had already been saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" ⁹ And He was asking him, "What is your name?" And he said to Him, "My name is Legion, for we are many." ¹⁰ And he begged Him earnestly not to send them out of the region. ¹¹ Now there was a large herd of pigs feeding nearby on the mountain. ¹² And the demons begged Him, saying, "Send us into the pigs so that we may enter them." ¹³ Jesus gave them permission. And coming out, the unclean spirits entered the pigs; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, about two thousand of them; and they were drowned in the sea.

➤ **Jesus affirming His power over sickness and disease.**

Mark 5:25-36...Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well." Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction. And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My clothes?" But His disciples said to Him, "You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'" And He looked around to see her who had done this thing. But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction." While He was still speaking, some came from the ruler of the synagogue's house who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not be afraid; only believe."

➤ **Jesus confirming His power of the elements of nature.**

Matthew 14:25-32...Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.' And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So, He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, 'O you of little faith, why did you doubt?' And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

➤ **Jesus showing His power over death and sin.**

John 11:1-46...Now a certain man was sick: Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² And it was the Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. ³ So the sisters sent word to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick." ⁴ But when Jesus heard this, He said, "This sickness is not meant for death, but is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it." ⁵ (Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister, and

Lazarus.) ⁶ So when He heard that he was sick, He then stayed two days longer in the place where He was....
⁷ Then after this He said to the disciples, "Let's go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to Him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone You, and yet You are going there again?" ⁹ Jesus replied, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks during the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. ¹⁰ But if anyone walks during the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." ¹¹ This He said, and after this He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going so that I may awaken him from sleep." ¹² The disciples then said to Him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will come out of it." ¹³ Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about actual sleep. ¹⁴ So Jesus then said to them plainly, "Lazarus died, ¹⁵ and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe; but let's go to him." ¹⁶ Therefore Thomas, who was called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, "Let's also go, so that we may die with Him!"
¹⁷ So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about fifteen stadia away; ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary, to console them about their brother. ²⁰ So then Martha, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet Him, but Mary stayed in the house. ²¹ Martha then said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your

brother will rise from the dead." ²⁴ Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; the one who believes in Me will live, even if he dies, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to Him, "Yes, Lord; I have come to believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, and He who comes into the world." ²⁸ When she had said this, she left and called Mary her sister, saying secretly, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard this, she got up quickly and came to Him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still at the place where Martha met Him. ³¹ Then the Jews who were with her in the house and were consoling her, when they saw that Mary had gotten up quickly and left, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² So when Mary came to the place where Jesus was, she saw Him and fell at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ Therefore when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and was 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 were saying, "See how He loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could this man, who opened the eyes of the man who was blind, not have also kept this man from dying?" ³⁸ So Jesus, again being deeply moved within, came to the tomb. Now it was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Remove the

stone.” Martha, the sister of the deceased, said to Him, “Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been dead four days.” ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?” ⁴¹ So they removed the stone. And Jesus raised His eyes, and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. ⁴² But I knew that You always hear Me; nevertheless, because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me.” ⁴³ And when He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ Out came the man who had died, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.” ⁴⁵ Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what He had done, believed in Him. ⁴⁶ But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them the things which Jesus had done.

Main Take-Away from the Miracles of Jesus:

John 20:30-31... ³⁰ Jesus performed many other miracles that His disciples saw. Those miracles are not written in this book. ³¹ But these miracles have been written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and so that you will have life by believing in Him.

Jesus is Who HE said HE was...The Messiah.

He has the power that He said He had.

We can trust Him with our lives.

We can live with assurance and confidence that Jesus is in control.

Now, let’s share the Good News of Salvation with that same assurance and confidence!