

**“The Miracles of Jesus”**  
**(Recorded by John)**  
**Part 2**

**INTRODUCTION**

- I. In our previous lesson, we began our study by acknowledging that John states more clearly - than any other gospel writer - the exact purpose for writing the account in **chapter 20:30-31**:
  - a. As we noted earlier, three words stand out with significance in this passage: 1) *signs*, 2) *believe*, and 3) *life*. This text sets forth the meaning and purpose of the miracles of Christ!
- II. John (in his gospel account) records a total of seven miracles that we are looking at: changing water into wine (**2:1-11**); healing the nobleman’s son (**4:46-54**); healing the lame man (**5:1-18**); feeding the five thousand (**6:1-14**); walking on the water (**6:16-21**); healing the blind man (**9:1-12**); and raising Lazarus from the dead (**11:1-46**).
  - a. Now, these 7 miracles were preformed prior to His crucifixion. His resurrection would be eight, the great catch of fish nine. Those miracles were performed AFTER Jesus death. That does not mean that they were any less miraculous – or that He wasn’t alive; We are simply focusing on a particular theme for this series... And that is why we are focusing on the 7 before Jesus’ crucifixion.
  - b. Previously, we examined the first 2 miracles that were recorded by John; and with this lesson we will examine two more as the basis for building and growing our faith in Jesus – the Son of God, and that believing, we may have life in His name!
  - c. Now, I’m mindful of the fact that there are many mature Christians here. And many of you have heard *similar* lessons to these already in your lifetime. Nevertheless, what I have learned since I’ve begun preaching, is that more often than not... The work I am to do often involves... Not telling Christians something new (as in revealing to them something they’ve never heard) but rather “REMINDING THEM” of things that they already know... so as to ensure they remain steadfast in their service to the Lord (**2 Timothy 2:14**).
  - d. Remember the theme of the meeting, “Lord I believe, Help ME with MY unbelief”.

**BODY**

- I. **Turning our attention to the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter of John, let’s read together A Man was Healed at the Pool of Bethesda (5:1-18)**
  - a. **Read Verses 1-15**
    - i. Notice that there were crowds of people here at the pool of Bethesda who wanted to be healed, but Jesus ignored them. That’s reason enough for us to infer that He did not come into the world for the purpose of healing all *physical infirmities*.... Instead, His miracles were performed for specific reasons. Jesus WAS (*and IS*) very compassionate... But being “moved with compassion” was not the motivation behind, nor the purpose - of His performing *this* miracle.
      1. At *this* time, it seems as though Jesus intentionally chose someone to heal who would have a makeshift bed to pick up and carry - so that He could have an opportunity to talk to the Jews about their error with regard to the Sabbath law.

- ii. That said, let us now turn our attention to (and appreciate) the Divine Power that Jesus displays with this sign. With the performing of this miracle, ***Jesus demonstrated His POWER over time.***
  - 1. Now we can see that clearly by looking to **verse 5**; and then comparing that verse with **verses 8 and 9**. (Expound and contrast w/so-called miracles of today/ Example of folks on TV, also DEAN's experience)
  - 2. Sometimes, when we pray... we need to be reminded that (*through the power of prayer*) the Lord makes all things beautiful - in *His time*.
  - 3. We sing, "*Lord, please show me ev'ry day, As You're teaching me Your way, That You do just what You say, in Your time.*"
    - a. It stands to reason we sing that song, to acknowledge the fact that God *always* hears the prayers of the faithful! Now... His answer to our petitions at times may be Yes - it is as you've requested. His answer may be No, because that's NOT His will... Or, His answer may be simply – very well, but not yet. *But – He does* hear our prayers... He hears (and answers) the fervent prayers of those who truly seek to do His will.
    - b. Consider the element of *time*, and *how quickly* God responded to Daniel when he was pleading with Him. (Expound briefly Daniel's circumstances) In **Daniel 9**, we read that Daniel made confession for himself, and his people... He said in, **Verse 4-6, 8, 9, 10... Look at verses 20-23.**
      - i. The angel said - At the beginning of your supplications -the command went out... WOW!
  - 4. According to the apostle John, Jesus (the Son of God) has demonstrated the fact that He has Power - *over time*...
    - a. The Lesson? - Let us not grow weary in seeking the Lord's deliverance and/or guidance because "the end" just seems as though it *must be* far off... way out into the future. Time means nothing to Jesus. He can provide for our needs... right now. Right now. (Differentiate physical vs. spiritual)Real change can happen for us in our lives... right now!!!

**II. Getting back to the gospel account the John provides, let's turn to chapter six and consider the Feeding of the Five Thousand together (6:1-15)**

**a. READ Verses 1-15**

- i. Talk about how this # (5000 men) isn't just an arbitrary number (***Mark 6:40/100s & 50s, Luke 9:14/50s***)
- ii. At the time of this miracle... the crowds had been flocking to Jesus for months. They have seen His miracles of healing many times. Now, they see that He can provide their *physical needs* miraculously. What a person to have as ruler! They thought they were praising Him when they determined to make Him their king. But... He knows that they didn't understand His mission, nor did they *really know* who He is.

- iii. Now, although Jesus did prove His ability to take care physical needs here, what we find from our text following is that He uses this miracle to make a specific point – *(and that lesson to be learned isn't that the young lad shared his lunch... So you should share too)*
  - 1. Moving forward, we see that Jesus uses this miracle as an opportunity to prove that *He holds the power* to provide for our spiritual needs!
  - 2. **Verses 22-40** speak of what happened the following day as the throng of people sought after Him... But Jesus points to their false motives – **READ Verses 25-40 (Expound)**
- iv. Jesus' popularity was at its peak here, but He knew from the beginning that one of the biggest problems He would face - would be that *most* people would seek after Him for healing... and for other instant benefits. (Physical needs being met) He knew many would seek after such, rather than for the truth He taught... and for the redemption from sin which He offered. Jesus had to deal with this problem here - at this time, and it cost Him a large part of His following.
- v. We see the same from many folks today... Folks turning to Jesus with the hope of instant gratification concerning the physical...
- vi. **READ Verses 57-66**
- vii. Jesus not only proves that He has the ability provide for physical needs... But He declared His power to provide for our spiritual needs!
  - 1. We see that sadly, many today respond to the message of the cross the same way in our generation (as those within the text)... If people do not see that the Lord will provide for them a "sign" ... Or if their immediate physical needs aren't met... many will cease in their efforts to seek and follow Christ. That's a very sad thing...
    - a. So we need to ask the question of ourselves folks... What is *our spiritual* appetite? Do we *even have* a spiritual appetite? I sure hope so! I really do.

## CONCLUSION

- I. We've considered the first four of our seven miracles that Jesus Christ performed -in which the apostle John records for us.
  - a. The reason for this series can be summed up by reading ***John 20:30-31***
- II. Considering the Man who was healed at the Pool of Bethesda, we learned that Christ has power over time. The healing of that man took place instantaneously... and He can provide for your needs now.
  - a. Jesus told the man at the Pool of Bethesda to "Rise, take up your bed and walk."
  - b. Will you arise this day to walk with Jesus just as Saul was told to do? (***Acts 22:16***)
- III. We've considered tonight as well the fact that Jesus came to provide for our spiritual needs, first and foremost.
  - a. With the feeding of the 5000, Jesus used that feeding to illustrate what His true mission was for... providing spiritual food that will lead to life eternal. He provides for us spiritual redemption... in which *we all* need, "*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*" - ***Romans 3:23 (NKJV)***.

b. The Holy Spirit inspired the apostle Paul to inform us that “...*the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*” -**Romans 6:23 (NKJV)**

IV. There is much that we can learn while considering the miracles in which John wrote about, but ultimate the purpose of our study is to reinforce faith, “... *that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.*”

a. Jesus is the Lord of Lords... and if you would like to become a subject of the Lord’s Kingdom – His church- then you must be willing to render obedience to the King.