

JESUS AND THE USE OF MIRACLES

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **John 20:30,31**. From Roy H. Enoch (12-12-1993).
- B. We have been studying the gospel of John and this passage.
 - 1. John says that Jesus worked miracles.
 - 2. He says that they were witnessed by many.
 - 3. He claims that they prove that He is the Son of God.
- B. We want to study Jesus' use of miracles.
 - 1. We will define what we mean by "miracle."
 - 2. We will study the characteristics of Jesus' miracles.
 - 3. We will notice how Jesus used miracles.
 - 4. We will see the termination of miracles.

I. WE NEED TO DEFINE WHAT WE MEAN BY "MIRACLE."

- A. The word refers to "mighty works," "wonders" and "signs."
 - 1. "Mighty works" refers to the power required to produce the work.
 - 2. "Wonders" refer to the effect produced upon the beholder causing them to marvel.
 - 3. "Signs" refer to the significance of the miracles or the main reason for performing them.
- B. Miracles are not just "a remarkable event or thing."
 - 1. There are many remarkable things in natural law.
 - a. Injuries healing and recovery from sickness.
 - b. Birth of a child is remarkable, but not a miracle.
 - c. Power of nature is remarkable but natural.
 - 2. A miracle is the abridgment of law and natural process.
- C. Neither is a miracle the intervention of God through His providential care.
 - 1. The Lord promises to care for us and help us. Rom. 8:28
 - 2. God provides our daily bread, but we are to work for it.
 - a. It was a miracle when X fed over 5,000 men not counting women and children, with five loaves and two small fish.
 - 3. God calms storms when the wind naturally calms.
 - a. It was a miracle when Jesus said "Peace be still" and the winds and waves calmed instantly.
- D. A miracle is a mighty work of God which is contrary to nature, causes wonder, and signifies that the one who does it is of God.

II. LET US STUDY THE CHARACTERISTICS OF JESUS' MIRACLES.

- A. The miracles of Jesus were of many kinds.
 - 1. He healed "all manner of disease and all manner of sickness. Mt. 14:29
 - 2. He cast out demons. Mt. 8:16
 - 3. He fed multitudes w/ a few loaves and fish.
 - 4. He raised the dead, even after four days. John 11:39-44
- B. These miracles were performed before many witnesses.
 - 1. The first miracle at the wedding feast produced faith in the disciples.
 - 2. The healing of the paralytic was in such a crowd that they had to take up the roof and let him down by ropes.
 - 3. Many miracles involved many people as feeding 5,000 and 4,000 and healing all the sick brought by multitudes.
- C. Many of these wonders were observed by those who knew the situation before and after.
 - 1. Man born blind given sight. John 9
 - 2. Man who had an infirmity for 38 years and could not walk was healed instantly and completely

- (Jn. 5:5-9).
3. Lazarus had been dead for four days and began to decay (Jn. 11).
 - D. Some of the miracles of Jesus would have been disproved by His enemies if they could have done it.
 1. The Pharisees tried to deny healing the blind man (Jn. 9).
 2. When the Pharisees could not deny Jesus' casting the demon out of the man who was blind and dumb, they said that He did it by the power of Beelzebub (Mt. 12:24).
 - E. The effects of His miracles were instantaneous.
 1. People were healed instantly and could walk without rehabilitation.
 2. The wind and waves ceased immediately.
 - F. His miracles were complete.
 1. Healings were complete (Mt. 14:35-36).
 2. When multitudes were fed, there was always baskets of fragments left over.
 - G. These miracles were observed by witnesses who built their entire lives on the belief that they were genuine.
 1. His disciples endured hardship and persecution.
 2. They were willing to die for the gospel message.
 - H. The wonders that Jesus performed are not duplicated today by those who claim to have the same power.
 1. Jesus performed miracles of healing that could be seen.
 - a. A withered hand was restored like the other.
 - b. One lame from birth could walk.
 - c. One born blind was given sight.
 2. Today the claim of healing is in the realm of headache, stomach ache, or heart attack that is healed in six months.

III. WE NEED TO SEE WHAT APPLICATION DID JESUS MAKE OF HIS MIRACLES.

- A. He used the miracles to establish His identity.
 1. One use was to prove that He was the Son of God or deity.
 - a. Concerning the turning water into wine (Jn. 2:11).
 - b. John described all of the miracles doing this (Jn. 20:31).
 2. They proved that He was the Messiah.
 - a. When John the Baptist sent disciples to ask Jesus if He was "the One" or should they look for another (Mt. 11:4-5)?
 3. The effect of feeding the 5,000 is described in John 6:14.
 4. By the miracles, Jesus showed that He was from God (John 3:2).
- B. Another use that Jesus made of the miracles was to uphold his authority.
 1. In Capernaum (Mk. 1:22).
 2. His mighty works proved that he had authority for His practice, as healing on the Sabbath.
 3. The miracles proved His power to forgive sins (Mk. 2:5-12).
- C. Still another use of miracles was to confirm His mission.
 1. He came to bless humanity (Ac. 10:38).
 2. His mission was to save mankind (Lk. 19:10).
 - a. He had to send out others to proclaim that salvation.
 - b. His miracles convinced the apostles He was the X.
- D. The written description of the miracles still produce faith for men to be saved (Jn. 20:31).

IV. THE MIRACLES WERE TO CEASE.

- A. This is proven by observation: These miracles are not being performed today.
 - 1. Who is walking on water? Who is calming great storms? Who is raising the dead? or giving sight to those born blind?
 - 2. The apostles said that they would cease.
- B. There is no reason for them to exist today.
 - 1. John said faith comes from the written accounts, and that he had given enough to believe.
 - 2. Miracles confirmed that the writings of the apostles were from God.
- C. There is no means by which men are empowered to work miracles today.
 - 1. Men worked the miracles by the power of the HS.
 - 2. Jesus gave the power to the apostles by bringing the Spirit upon them for inspiration.
 - 3. The inspiration is complete and no longer needed.
 - 4. The apostles gave the miraculous power of the Spirit by the laying on of their hands (Ac. 8:18).
- D. Paul taught that the gifts would cease (1Cor. 13:8-10).
 - 1. Paul described his power “faith to move mountains” and “prophecy” as “in part” that would be done away when “that which is perfect has come.”
 - 2. James calls the gospel, “the perfect law of liberty.”
 - 3. Paul said that “all scripture inspired of God,” “makes the man of God complete, furnished for every good work.

CONCLUSION.

- A. We need to study the subject of miracles in light of what the NT says about them.
- B. We should believe what the Scriptures say about the “mighty works.”
- C. If we doubt the miracles that prove that Jesus is the Son of God, we have no basis for teaching that He is the Christ.
- D. Let us not show unbelief by asking for more miracles when we have enough to believe.