



Life of Christ II

International Alpha Bible Course
by Ralph Vincent Reynolds

LIFE OF CHRIST PART II

CONTENTS

Lesson One	MINISTRY OF MIRACLES
Lesson Two	JESUS, THE MIRACLE WORKER
Lesson Three	MIRACLES OF SUPPLY – Part I
Lesson Four	MIRACLES OF SUPPLY – Part II
Lesson Five	MIRACLES OF DELIVERANCE
Lesson Six	MIRACLES OF HEALING – Part I
Lesson Seven	MIRACLES OF HEALING – Part II
Lesson Eight	MIRACLES OF HEALING – Part III
Lesson Nine	MIRACLES OF HEALING – Part IV
Lesson Ten	MIRACLES OF RESURRECTION
Lesson Eleven	MIRACLES OF JUDGMENT
Lesson Twelve	JESUS, THE CREATOR

INTERNATIONAL ALPHA BIBLE COURSE

RALPH VINCENT REYNOLDS

Writer

All Rights Reserved

Copyright © 1984, 2009

Foreign Missions Division

United Pentecostal Church International

Hazelwood, Missouri, USA

www.foreignmissions.com

An OVERSEAS MINISTRIES Publication

Rv 200908

Lesson One

MINISTRY OF MIRACLES

A. WHAT IS A MIRACLE?

Scriptural References:

“By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of the holy child Jesus” (Acts 4:30).

“And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues” (I Corinthians 12:28).

There are three words in the Scriptures which have a similar meaning: *signs*, *wonders*, and *miracles*. These refer to supernatural phenomena that are seen and observed but which cannot be explained by man’s knowledge. They are affected by the direct operation of God’s power.

What is a miracle?

It has been defined that a miracle is an act that is a “violation of nature.” However, this is not quite true. It would be more accurate to say that, “A miracle is a phenomenon that is contrary to what we know as nature.” Actually, there is no such thing as a miracle with God, because everything is not only possible with Him, but everything is understood by Him. Only to man does a strange phenomenon become a miracle.

God can work contrary to the natural laws which He Himself established in the act of creation, and He can also work on a higher natural level which would overcome the simple laws of nature known to man. In either case, it becomes a miracle to man but not to God.

To illustrate this, let us think of the law of gravity. We may look at a large jet plane weighing several hundred tons. The law of gravity holds the plane to the ground, and it would certainly seem impossible for this heavy plane to lift off the ground. When it eventually travels down the runway and takes off, it seems a miracle. Actually, the pull of gravity is still there, but another power has taken over, and the plane has yielded to a law higher than that of gravity.

Today we are surrounded by modern inventions which certainly would seem miraculous one hundred years ago. The radio and television are miracles of modern science.

When God performs an act of supernatural power, He may be simply working on a higher level of natural laws. On the other hand, He can suspend all natural laws and reverse everything. This He can do because He is the Creator.

We might, therefore, attempt a simple definition by saying that: "A miracle is a supernatural event which may be seen and observed by man, but is beyond the understanding of man."

B. THE GOD OF CREATION IS THE GOD OF MIRACLES

To believe in the Creator is to believe in the God of miracles. It is impossible to believe in one without believing in the other.

The two greatest of all miracles are Creation and the Redemption of Man. All other miracles are secondary in significance compared with these two wondrous acts of God.

God, in sovereign power and wisdom, brought the universe into being and now continues to sustain and guide it. Nature has an order, but God is not helplessly bound by that which He brought into being. Nature is plastic in the hands of its sovereign Creator.

Faith in the "God of miracles" is a very important element here. Many times faith is built and inspired by the witnessing of miracles. On the other hand, faith is the element that moves the hand of God in the performance of the miraculous. Unbelief can hinder God in the performance of miracles. Jesus was unable to perform many miracles in His home town of Nazareth because of unbelief.

"And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief" (Matthew 13:58).

C. THE PURPOSE OF MIRACLES

Why did God perform miracles? Why does He continue to perform miracles? Does God perform miracles just to entertain Himself or to entertain man? Does He perform miracles just to prove that He can do these things? Are they acts of whim or mood? Does He perform miracles for the same reason that a magician would pull a rabbit out of a hat?

Certainly not.

Miracles do not just happen. There is a divine purpose behind every act of God. Almost without exception, they take place in order to minister to the needs of man. God is continually calling man unto Himself, and this is one of the means that He uses. By His mighty miracles, God shows His infinite love to man. By them His mercy and compassion are revealed. Even His miracles of judgment many times are acts of mercy. In Egypt His miracles of judgment against Pharaoh proved His power to His own people and strengthened their faith.

D. IS THE AGE OF MIRACLES PAST?

Agnostics and unbelievers often assert that the age of miracles is past. However, this is only an empty argument of those who do not believe the Bible. Nowhere does the Bible even hint that such a thing is true. On the contrary, the Bible gives plenty of proof that the age of miracles is not past—that God is still performing miracles on behalf of His people.

We are still in the Church Dispensation. The church age began in the upper room on the Day of Pentecost and will not close until Jesus comes to catch away His Bride unto Himself. This church age began with many miracles and, since we are still in this dispensation, we can still expect miracles.

There is only one body, and Jesus has placed within that body the “working of miracles.”

“To another the working of miracles” (I Corinthians 12:10).

“After that miracles” (I Corinthians 12:28).

“Are all workers of miracles?” (I Corinthians 12:29).

Certainly if the working of miracles has been placed in the body, we have every right to expect to witness miracles today.

In the Great Commission, Jesus commissioned His disciples to perform miracles as a fruit of the gospel ministry. “In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents . . . and they shall recover” (Mark 16:17-18).

The argument is sometimes brought forth that in Bible days miracles were

needed to build faith and defeat demon powers. If we are honest, we have to admit that our faith is under greater attack than at any time during history and demon power is stronger. If there ever were a day when we need to witness God's power in demonstration performing miracles, it is today.

Thank God, the day of miracles is still here.

Possibly the strongest proof of this fact is the unchangeable Christ, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8).

Lesson Two

JESUS, THE MIRACLE WORKER

A. JESUS, THE MIRACLE WORKER

Scriptural References:

“And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written” (John 21:25).

“The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach” (Acts 1:1).

The earthly ministry of Jesus was filled with one miraculous act after another. The record of His ministry contains one continuous list of miracles.

In this unit of study, we shall be studying thirty-six miracles which are given in the four Gospels. It is to be understood that the Bible gives us only a partial list of the miracles performed by our Lord. The inference is that there were countless numbers of them which were not recorded.

The apostle John made this fact very clear when he wrote that the world itself could not contain all the books if a complete record were written. In Acts 1:1, we read that the Gospel of St. Luke only gave the record of what Jesus began to do and teach. In other words, what we shall be studying are only the miracles which he began to do.

B. JESUS, A MIRACULOUS BEING

Scriptural Reference:

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us” (John 1:14).

Jesus Christ was and is the God-man. “God was manifest in the flesh” (I Timothy 3:16). Everything about Jesus Christ is miraculous: His birth, His ministry, His resurrection, and His ascension.

His birth was a miracle. If a miracle had not taken place, He could never have been born of a virgin. This was one of the greatest miracles of all times.

Someone has written concerning Jesus, "It would have been a miracle if Jesus had not performed miracles!" Jesus is such a miraculous being Himself that we are not surprised that He exerted His power over diseases, demons, death, and nature.

C. MIRACLES PROVED THE TRUE IDENTITY OF JESUS

Scriptural Reference:

"And in that same hour he cured many of their infirmities and plagues, and of evil spirits; and unto many that were blind he gave sight. Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached" (Luke 7:21-22).

John the Baptist sent two disciples to Jesus with the question, "Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?" (Luke 7:19). Apparently John had allowed some doubts to enter his mind concerning Jesus. He had announced Jesus at Jordan, "Behold the Lamb of God" (John 1:29), but now he was in doubt.

Instead of Jesus sending back just a simple answer, He demonstrated His power before these disciples. They saw the blind given sight; they witnessed men delivered from infirmities, plagues, and evil spirits. They were now able to return to John with positive proof, for they had actually seen the power of God in demonstration.

There can be no greater proof than that of miracles which bear evidence of the power of God. The miracles gave proof of the true identity of our Lord.

Someone has said that the miracles performed by our Lord were His credentials. They were signs revealing His true nature and

mission. We can see the personality and nature of Jesus Himself in each of His miracles. For example:

1. The miracle of feeding the multitude reveals Him as the Bread of Life.
2. The miracle of healing the blind man reveals Him as the Light of the world.
3. The miracle of raising Lazarus reveals Him as the Resurrection and the Life.

D. MIRACLES PROVED THE TRUE MINISTRY OF JESUS

Scriptural References:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me . . . recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised . . . This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears” (Luke 4:18-21).

“Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28).

One thing we must always keep in mind is that Jesus came not into the world to minister to Himself. He came to minister to others. The miracles of our Lord prove this fact conclusively. He came to meet the needs of others.

Not once was there a miracle performed to minister to Himself. He was human, and as such was often weary and hungry, but never did Jesus perform a miracle to minister to His own needs.

Two examples to prove this are:

1. Jesus refused to turn stones into bread even when He was hungry (Matthew 4:3-4).
2. Jesus refused to call for twelve legions of angels when He was betrayed and arrested in Gethsemane (Matthew 26:53).

Never did Jesus perform miracles in order to make a display of His power or to entertain people. He was no magician performing miracles to receive the applause of people, nor did He perform healings for a price. His entire ministry bore witness to the fact that He lived and died to minister to the needs of men and women.

E. JESUS GAVE POWER TO HIS MINISTERS TO PERFORM MIRACLES

Scriptural References:

“Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases” (Luke 9:1).

“And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name” (Luke 10: 17).

“Greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father” (John 14:12).

Jesus made it very clear that miracles were to follow the preaching of the gospel. In Mark 16:17, Jesus stated that “these signs shall follow them that believe.” In I Corinthians 12:10, we read that the “working of miracles” is one of the gifts of the Spirit.

Jesus authorized and commissioned the twelve disciples and the seventy to perform miracles.

However, we must always keep clearly in mind that no man apart from Jesus has the power to work miracles. If miracles follow a man’s ministry, it is always in the “name of Jesus” and through the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 10:17; Acts 3:16).

Never can man take any glory for what he sees accomplished, but the glory always will belong to Jesus.

Lesson Three

MIRACLES OF SUPPLY Part I

In this lesson we shall be studying six miracles performed by our Lord. These miracles prove Jesus to be the great Provider for the needs of man. We see Him in this lesson as the *Jehovah-Jireh*.

A. JESUS TURNED WATER INTO WINE

1. Scriptural Reference: John 2:1-11

2. Circumstances

This miracle was the first that Jesus performed in His ministry. It took place in Cana, a village about four miles northeast of Nazareth, on the third day following the conversation of our Lord with Nathanael.

The occasion for this miracle was a marriage feast. It is quite possible that Mary was a close relative or friend of the bride, for she seemed to have some responsibility concerning the wedding. Jesus and His disciples had been invited to the wedding.

We conclude that Joseph had died some time before this, for (a) there is no mention of him being present at the wedding and (b) in the time of need, Mary turned to Jesus. If Joseph had been deceased before this, Jesus, the eldest son, would have been the head of the home, and Mary would have been accustomed to turning to Him.

3. Need

The supply of wine ran out. There may have been more guests than had been planned for, and it is possible that the family was poor and had an inadequate supply. At any rate, it would have been a great shame and disgrace to the family.

4. How Was the Miracle Performed?

The miracle was performed through an act of obedience. Mary had instructed the servant to do whatever Jesus told him. The servant was told to fill six water pots with water, draw out, and give to the governor of the feast. This the servant did and the miracle was performed. Complete and explicit obedience took place, for the pots were filled to the brim.

A firkin is about nine gallons, and it has been estimated that about one hundred

twenty gallons of wine were created.

The quality of the wine was excellent, which was testified to by the governor of the feast.

5. Results and Lesson Taught

It was fitting that Jesus should begin His ministry with a miracle of this nature. This miracle ministered to the crowd gathered at the marriage, but it also manifested forth His own glory. This drew the attention of His disciples to His true identity, and their faith was increased in Him.

“We beheld his glory, the glory as of the only, begotten of the Father” (John 1:14).

The miracle revealed Jesus as the Creator. Someone has written, “The water saw the face of its Creator and blushed.”

B. THE DRAUGHT OF FISHES

1. Scriptural Reference: Luke 5:1-11

2. Circumstances

Peter, James, and John were already disciples of the Lord. They had begun to follow Jesus after the scene that took place at the River Jordan. They had been present at the first miracle in Cana. However, they had not yet made the dedication of forsaking the occupation of fishing to follow Jesus in full-time ministry.

As Jesus was ministering on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, He saw His disciples washing their nets after they had been fishing all night. Very likely, they were very tired and discouraged. Jesus was aware of this and knew that this was an opportunity to bring the need of full dedication to them.

He sat down in Peter’s boat and taught the people. He then told Peter, “Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets.”

3. Need

There was the need to supply these fishermen with fish, for they had toiled all night and were greatly discouraged. However, the greatest need was to convince Peter that Jesus would supply his every need if he were to forsake all to follow the Lord.

4. How Was the Miracle Performed?

The miracle was performed by the act of complete *obedience*. Peter thought it

was wholly in vain, but yet he had sufficient confidence in Jesus that he was willing to obey. Certainly, he would never have done so for anyone else. He obeyed because Jesus asked him. "Nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net" (verse 5). Peter was called upon to do two things:

- a. Launch out into the deep
- b. Let down his nets

In spite of the fact that he was weary, had washed his nets, and was about to hang them up to dry, he obeyed.

5. Results and Lesson Taught

The draught of fishes was so miraculous that Peter called James and John to help him. Both boats could not hold all the fish that had been caught. Peter was smitten with the realization of his sinfulness, and cried out, "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man." Peter was convicted and astonished.

Jesus now called them to forsake their occupation and to give full time to their ministry. Peter was told to "Fear not." There would be no reason for uneasiness or fear. Instead of fearing, he should trust. Through the ministry of this miracle, they were able to have sufficient faith to forsake all to become "fishers of men."

C. FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND

1. Scriptural References: Matthew 14:15-21; John 6:5-14

2. Circumstances

A great multitude of people had followed Jesus into the desert. Jesus looked upon them and was moved with compassion. His disciples wanted Him to send them away that they might go into the villages and buy food.

3. Need

Besides women and children, five thousand men were gathered. They were hungry. The only food available was a little boy's lunch of five loaves and two fish.

4. How Was the Miracle Performed?

The little boy gave what he had to Jesus. Jesus looked up to Heaven, blessed the food, broke it, and gave to His disciples. The disciples were then instructed to minister to the crowd. The food multiplied to meet the need as the crowd ate. They all ate and were filled.

This miracle took place by a boy bringing what he had to Jesus, which was

blessed by the Lord. Again, it called for obedience upon the part of the disciples.

5. Results and Lesson Taught

Everyone was fed with twelve baskets of fragments left. This lesson points to Jesus, who is the Bread of Life.

Secondary lessons are taught:

- a. Bring our all to Jesus.
- b. Our food should be blessed.
- c. There should be no waste.

Lesson Four

MIRACLES OF SUPPLY Part II

A. JESUS PROVIDES TRIBUTE MONEY FOR PETER

1. Scriptural Reference: Matthew 17:24-27

2. Circumstances

Peter had been approached by one collecting tribute for tax money for the expenses of the Temple. This tribute money was a half shekel. Very likely Peter was being accused of not meeting his religious obligations. It is possible that he also was accused of belonging to some political party which refused paying tribute.

The accusation was also laid against Jesus. "Doth not your master pay tribute?"

Peter did not want this accusation brought against them, so he answered, "Yes," without consulting with Jesus.

This tax had been placed upon the Jews by the Sanhedrin, and it actually placed each Jew in the position of a stranger or Gentile. Jesus was opposed to the tax, and He allowed His opposition to be known.

3. Need

The need was simply for Peter to pay the tribute money so that they would not be a stumbling block.

4. How Was the Miracle Performed?

Jesus used a fish to provide the tribute money. Peter might have been tempted here to go back to his old occupation and catch sufficient fish to sell and pay the tribute. Very likely this was the reason

that Jesus had Peter catch one fish, and that the need would be provided through a miracle.

5. Results and Lesson Taught

Through this miracle Jesus taught Peter two lessons:

- a. Although Jesus did not agree with the raising of the tribute money, yet He paid it rather than be a stumbling block;

- b. Peter did not have to turn back to his old occupation to have this need met, for through obedience and faith Jesus would provide.

The miracle reveals some of the attributes of deity:

- a. Omniscience – knowing all things
- b. Foreknowledge of God

B. FEEDING THE FOUR THOUSAND

1. Scriptural Reference: Matthew 15:32-39

2. Circumstances

This miracle is very similar in meaning and significance to that of feeding the five thousand. However, this was altogether a different miracle. The differences between this and the miracle of feeding the five thousand may be noted: the feeding of the five thousand took place in the north near Bethsaida and the crowd was made up of mainly Jews. This second miracle took place in the south in the territory of Decapolis and the crowd was mainly Gentiles.

3. Need

A large crowd had sought out Jesus in the wilderness, bringing many of their sick and suffering. Jesus poured out His love in healing on them and they were astonished as they beheld the miracles. They refused to leave until many of them had been there three days. Jesus had compassion upon them and refused to send them away until they ate and were nourished.

4. How Was the Miracle Performed?

The disciples brought seven loaves and a few fishes to Jesus. He gave thanks, broke the bread and fish, and gave the food to his disciples. The disciples now went through the crowd, and the food kept multiplying. After everyone had eaten, seven baskets of fragments were left.

5. Results and Lessons Taught

This miracle taught the same truths as the miracle of the five thousand, showing that Jesus is the Bread of Life. However, there are these additional truths:

- a. This miracle showed that Jesus would do the same for Gentiles as He would for Jews. Undoubtedly, the disciples somewhat questioned this at the beginning, for they certainly had not forgotten the first miracle;
- b. This miracle proves that Jesus can and will do the same thing over and over. If the need is there, Jesus will meet that need no matter how often it

may occur.

C. SECOND DRAUGHT OF FISHES

1. Scriptural Reference: John 21:3-19

2. Circumstances

This miracle took place on the shore of the Sea of Galilee in the early morning. The disciples had been fishing all night but yet had caught nothing. This scene took place following the death and resurrection of our Lord. It was one of the moments of greatest discouragement and depression. It seemed to them that their three years of following Jesus had all been in vain. Their sacrifice and dedication had been useless.

Peter decided that he was going to return to fishing. He said, "I go a fishing." The other disciples immediately gave their assent, "We also go with thee." Thus they signified that their public ministry had come to an end. It all was a failure and blunder, and they were turning back to their secular occupation of fishing.

Now they had fished all night, and this also was a failure.

3. Need

The need was twofold: spiritual and physical. They were weary and tired and hungry. They also needed encouragement and to see that this was not the end, but rather the beginning.

4. How Was the Miracle Performed?

Before Jesus performed the miracle, He started a fire on the shore and prepared a breakfast for His disciples. He then asked them, "Have ye any meat?" When they replied in the negative, He instructed them to cast the net on the right side of the ship. Immediately they caught a multitude of fish (153 large fish—John 21:11) and the net did not break, which was another miracle. The disciples had to obey Him and the net had to be on the right side of the boat.

5. Results and Lessons Taught

Briefly let us mention some of the lessons taught here:

- a. Without Jesus everything is in vain and quite hopeless.
- b. Everything is in vain if the net is on the wrong side of the boat.
- c. Obedience was necessary upon the part of the disciples.

- d. Jesus knew that hungry, discouraged men must be fed.
- e. Jesus revealed Himself to the disciples with a miracle similar to a previous one.

Lesson Five

MIRACLES OF DELIVERANCE

Jesus is the great Deliverer, the mighty Emancipator. He breaks every fetter and sets His children free.

“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed” (John 8:36).

There is no type of bondage greater than that of demon possession. Demons are spiritual beings, at enmity with God, having power to afflict man. They have not only power to afflict man with disease, but they are often spoken of as being “unclean” and therefore able to afflict man with spiritual pollution. Demons may possess men, and they may also oppress men. It should be noted that a Spirit-filled child of God cannot be possessed with demon power as long as the Holy Spirit abides in his heart.

Demons “believe” the power of God and “tremble” (James 2:19). They acknowledge the power of the name of Jesus.

In this lesson, we shall study some miracles of deliverance from demon power.

A. THE DEMONIAK IN THE SYNAGOGUE

1. **Scriptural References:** Mark 1:21-28; Luke 4:31-37

2. **Circumstances**

This miracle took place early in our Lord’s ministry. He was teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum when He met a man who was possessed with an unclean demon.

It should be noted that the demon was able to speak through this man. It also should be noted that the demon immediately knew Jesus. He cried out, “Let us alone . . . art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God” (Luke 4:34).

3. **Need**

Here was a man who was possessed and needed deliverance. Jesus saw the need.

4. How Was the Miracle Performed?

Jesus did two things:

- a. He rebuked the demon;
- b. He commanded him to come out.

The demon had no choice but to obey. The man was thrown to the ground, and the demon came out of the man with a loud cry.

5. Results and Lessons Taught

We learn from this miracle that:

- a. Demons recognize Jesus and are afraid.
- b. Jesus simply speaks to them and they must obey.
- c. Demons are able to speak through a man and may cry out when they come out of a man.

B. A LEGION OF DEMONS CAST OUT

1. Scriptural References: Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39

2. Circumstances

Jesus and His disciples crossed over the Sea of Galilee to the country of the Gadarenes. On the way over they encountered a terrible storm which Jesus stilled. However, the storm on the sea seemed a small thing to the storm that they encountered as soon as they reached the other shore. Here were two wild, demon possessed men who lived in the tombs. Our lesson will mainly be concerned with one of these poor men bound and tormented by demon power.

3. Need

Here was a man who could not be bound with chains, but was bound with demon powers. He tore off his clothes and roamed through the tombs night and day, crying and cutting himself upon the rocks.

The demons said that they were "Legion," that is six thousand in number.

4. How Was the Miracle Performed?

The demons recognized Jesus and cried out that He would not torment them. Jesus asked them their name, and then He commanded them to come out.

The man was delivered simply at the command of our Lord. When the demons asked to be allowed to enter a herd of two thousand swine, Jesus gave His permission.

5. Results and Lesson Taught

- a. Again we see that demons know and fear Jesus Christ.
- b. They are cast out simply at the command of our Lord.
- c. We see the potential of a man to contain evil—one man was able to contain more demon power than 2,000 pigs.
- d. The man tore his clothes off when he was devil possessed, but as soon as he was delivered, he clothed himself.
- e. The men who lived there were more concerned about the loss of the swine than the fact that a man had been delivered. They begged Jesus to leave. Many men today would rather have the swine and the demons than to see the power of God manifested to deliver the bound and tormented.

C. TWO DEMONIACS DELIVERED

1. Scriptural References: Matthew 9:27-34; Matthew 12:22-23; Luke 11:14

2. Circumstances

Here are two miracles which are similar in nature.

3. Need

Both men were demon possessed. One man was dumb; the other man was both blind and dumb. The need in both cases was quite apparent.

4. How Was the Miracle Performed?

Very little is told us about the method that Jesus used in these two cases. It is presumed that He spoke to the demon and commanded him to come out, even as He did the others.

5. Results and Lessons Taught

These two miracles were performed in the presence of the Pharisees. The people who witnessed these miracles were astonished, but the Pharisees immediately began to find fault. They accused Jesus of casting out devils by the power of the devil. This resulted in some teaching that showed just how wrong the Pharisees were: "If Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?" (Matthew 12:26).

Another result of these miracles was the teaching concerning the unpardonable sin (Matthew 12:31-32).

D. DEMONIAK CHILD HEALED

1. **Scriptural References:** Matthew 17:14-21; Mark 9:14-29; Luke 9:37-43

2. **Circumstances**

Here was a demon possessed boy who would fall into the fire and into the water. His father took him to the disciples, but the disciples were unable to cast out the demon and deliver the boy. Finally the father came to Jesus. He knelt down and besought the Lord to have mercy upon his boy.

3. **Need**

The father made the need very clear to Jesus. The boy was in a desperate condition and needed deliverance. The disciples were unable to help.

4. **How Was the Miracle Performed?**

Jesus did two things here:

- a. He rebuked His disciples for their unbelief.
- b. He rebuked the devil, and the child was immediately delivered.

5. **Results and Lessons Taught**

The child was completely delivered and the disciples then inquired concerning their failure to deliver the boy. Jesus gave them a statement concerning the unlimited power of faith. He also stated that there are two things needed here:

- a. Prayer
- b. Fasting

In this case, we learn that faith to cast out the devil would not be there without prayer and fasting. Only the twin weapons of prayer and fasting can defeat the devil in difficult cases.

Lesson Six

MIRACLES OF HEALING Part I

A. THE NOBLEMAN'S SON HEALED

1. Scriptural Reference: John 4:46-54

2. Circumstances

Jesus had just returned from Jerusalem and went to Cana. A certain nobleman who lived at Capernaum had a son, very ill and at the point of death. When the nobleman heard that Jesus was at Cana, he traveled from Capernaum to Cana. He begged Jesus to come and heal the boy.

3. Need

A boy was very ill, at the point of death, at Capernaum, and a concerned father had traveled many miles to seek healing from the Lord.

4. How Was the Miracle Performed?

Jesus refused to go down to Capernaum. He was not there to work local cures at the beck and call of anyone. He might have been more willing to have gone for a poor man than for this nobleman. He rebuked the man for not believing without seeing signs and wonders. However, the man was desperate and still plead with Jesus. "Sir, come down ere my child die" (verse 49).

Jesus simply spoke the word, "Thy son liveth" (verse 50).

The man believed the word spoken by Jesus. He showed his faith by ceasing to implore for healing for his son. He returned to Capernaum and found that the boy had started to get better exactly the same time as Jesus had spoken the word.

5. Results and Lesson Taught

The healing was not complete immediately. The boy began to get better and became convalescent. The nobleman and his entire family believed. There are some important lessons taught here:

- a. Healing need not be instantaneous. Although the process of getting well

- may be gradual, yet the moment of victory is always instantaneous.
- b. Faith is not dependent upon signs and wonders which may be seen, but is built upon the simple word of Jesus.
 - c. Prayers may be answered from a distance. Miles have little to do with the power of faith. It was more than twenty miles from Capernaum to Cana.

B. THE HEALING OF PETER'S MOTHER-IN-LAW

1. Scriptural References: Mark 1:29-39; Luke 4:38-44

2. Circumstances

Jesus had just come from the synagogue where He had cast out a demon. He and His disciples entered into the home of Simon Peter. Here He found Peter's mother-in-law very sick with a fever.

3. Need

Peter's wife's mother lay in bed very ill with a fever.

4. How Was the Miracle Performed?

Jesus rebuked the fever (Luke 4:39). This implies that there must have been some agent that was causing the fever. Jesus then took her by the hand and lifted her up. This meant a personal touch and contact of the Lord. However, there also had to be her obedience shown by her receiving His extended hand and rising.

She was instantly healed. She immediately began to minister to the disciples.

5. Results and Lessons Taught

Peter's mother-in-law was instantly healed and at once began to use her strength to minister to others. This is the way it always should be.

This healing took place by a rebuke and a reaching out of Christ's hand. The lesson that we should learn here is that when Christ reaches out His hand, we should be quick to respond and stretch out our hand to grasp the hand of the Lord.

C. THE LEPER CLEANSED

1. Scriptural Reference: Mark 1:40-45

2. Circumstances

Leprosy was a terrible disease, believed among the Jews to be a punishment for special sin. It began with specks on the eyelids and palms, gradually spreading over the entire body and rotting the whole body.

Complete segregation was applied in the treatment of the leper. This, undoubtedly, was the reason no lepers had been healed prior to this, for there would be no lepers in a crowd. The leper was obliged to warn everyone by crying out "Unclean."

The leper came to Jesus and worshiped (Matthew 8:2). He then asserted his faith in Christ's power to heal him, but questioned His willingness.

3. Need

The need was great, for here was a man slowly dying from the loathsome disease of leprosy.

4. How Was the Miracle Performed?

Jesus was moved with love and compassion. He put forth His hand and touched the leper. In doing this, Jesus violated current tradition and ignored the popular conception of the danger of infection and being segregated from the crowd. He declared His

willingness to heal the leper, and said, "I will; be thou clean" (Mark 1:41). The leprosy left the man immediately, and he was cleansed.

Jesus now instructed him to obey the law and show himself to the priest. This was a wise thing, for only the priest could declare a leper cleansed, and the leper could not go home until this was done. Jesus requested secrecy, but the leper did not obey him. He published the news everywhere. He was just too excited about being healed to keep it quiet.

5. Results and Lessons Taught

This miracle proves that Jesus has compassion upon everyone. It also shows that in order to minister to a needy soul, the Lord will ignore tradition and custom.

Another lesson taught here is that we should never question the ability or the

willingness of Jesus to make us whole. He is both able and willing.

D. THE WOMAN WITH THE ISSUE OF BLOOD HEALED

1. Scriptural Reference: Mark 5:25-34

2. Circumstances

A woman had been sick for twelve long years. She had an “issue of blood,” undoubtedly cancer. She had spent all her money upon the physicians but only grew worse. She knew that her case was hopeless and that she was a dying woman.

3. Need

Although we cannot prove it, yet we believe that this woman was dying from cancer. Very likely she was very weak and frail.

4. How Was the Miracle Performed?

The woman did three things:

- a. She believed that she would be healed.
- b. She came to Jesus and touched Him.
- c. She consciously received her healing.

Immediately her blood was stanching and she felt that she was healed. She did not feel first and then believe, but she believed and then she felt.

Hundreds were thronging the Master, but there was only one who touched Him and drew from Him healing virtue.

5. Results and Lessons Taught

Blessings must be confessed and healings must be acknowledged. The woman fell down before Him and confessed everything in the presence of the crowd.

It is possible to reach out and touch Jesus with a touch of faith and receive from Him healing virtue. Another lesson to be learned here is that man's extremity is God's opportunity. No case is too difficult for Jesus.

There are two ways of touching Jesus: one of the crowd who jostled Him or like the woman who touched Him with faith.

Whatever we receive from Him must be confessed and acknowledged.

E. TWO BLIND MEN HEALED

1. Scriptural Reference: Matthew 9:27-31

2. Circumstances

Two blind men followed Jesus crying, "Have mercy on us."

3. Need

There were two blind men who needed sight.

4. How Was the Miracle Performed?

Jesus asked them if they believed. He then touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith be it unto you." Their eyes were immediately opened and Jesus admonished them to keep it quiet.

5. Results and Lessons Taught

Just merely following Jesus and crying out is not sufficient. They had to believe. They followed Jesus right into the house which was an evidence of their faith. "According to your faith be it unto you."

Lesson Seven

MIRACLES OF HEALING Part II

A. THE PARALYTIC HEALED

1. Scriptural Reference: Mark 2:1-12

2. Circumstances

When Jesus returned to Capernaum, He entered into a house which very likely was Peter's since He had been there shortly before on the previous visit to Capernaum. The news of His presence spread unto a crowd gathered that packed out the house and the yard. The house was so packed that there was no access to the door. There were many who were there to satisfy their curiosity, but there were others who were there to find fault.

Suddenly four men approached carrying a stretcher. Upon the stretcher lay a man sick of the palsy, a paralytic, unable to move. Not only was he very ill, but he was greatly distressed about the sinful life that he had lived. He knew that he was not ready to die and he was suffering under a great load of sin and guilt.

Unable to enter the door, the four men were determined to find another way. They carried the sick man to the roof and lifted the tiles of the roof. They then lowered the paralytic to the feet of Jesus.

3. Need

The man needed both physical and spiritual healing. His greatest need was that of having his sins forgiven.

4. How Was the Miracle Performed?

This man was so sick that he could do nothing for himself. He could not even cry out for help.

Jesus saw two things:

- a. The spiritual and physical need of this man
- b. The faith of the four men (Mark 2:5)

Jesus began with the more urgent need, that of forgiving the

man's sins. His sickness might have been the result of living in dissipation and sin. Jesus forgave his sins: "Son, thy sins be forgiven thee." Immediately Jesus was accused of blasphemy for exercising a divine prerogative. He knew this and asked them the question, "Whether is it easier to say, Thy sins be forgiven . . . or . . . take up thy bed and walk?" He now addressed the paralytic with a command, "Arise, and take up thy bed."

Immediately the man was healed and obeyed. He rolled up his bed and walked out. His critics were silenced, and the crowd glorified the Lord.

5. Results and Lesson Taught

Let us first look at the four men who brought the man to Jesus. They had:

- a. vision
- b. cooperation
- c. determination
- d. faith

It took all four to get healing and salvation for this poor man.

Jesus showed which was more important by forgiving the man first. He also showed just how a miracle can still opposition and criticism.

The paralytic had also his part. He had to exercise bold, obedient faith. He was not healed lying prostrate. He had to rise, take up his bed, and walk. This called for faith and obedience.

B. THE IMPOTENT MAN HEALED

1. Scriptural Reference: John 5:1-16

2. Circumstances

The name *Bethesda* means "House of Mercy." It was the name of a pool which had five porches. The pool bubbled regularly from some volcanic force, and the popular belief was that some angel troubled the water. A great multitude of sick people surrounded the pool, waiting for the troubling of the water.

Jesus deliberately went to Bethesda on the Sabbath Day, for He was under attack concerning the Sabbath. Here Jesus found among the crowd a man who had been afflicted for thirty-eight years.

3. Need

Here was a helpless cripple who had suffered for thirty-eight years.

4. How Was the Miracle Performed?

Jesus wanted this man to express his desire for healing. "Wilt thou be made whole?" To this question the man answered that he had no man to put him into the pool. This was a confession of his own lack of faith. He was looking for the help of others. Like thousands of others, he was looking for "means" and to some other person's faith and prayers.

Jesus gave him the simple command, "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk." The man immediately was healed, took up his bed, and walked.

5. Results and Lesson Taught

We must not look to others for help in receiving healing. First of all, there must be the will to be healed. We must believe and obey the command of God.

Healing comes that we might live for the Lord. "Sin no more lest a worse thing come unto thee" (John 5:14). The lesson here is simply that if a person is healed and goes back into a life of sin, there is the possibility of a worse sickness coming upon him.

C. THE MAN WITH THE WITHERED HAND

1. Scriptural References: Matthew 12:6-13; Luke 6:6-11

2. Circumstances

This miracle took place on the Sabbath Day. Jesus was under criticism because His disciples had plucked corn and ate on the Sabbath Day. Here He made two very important statements: "In this place is one greater than the temple" and "The Son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath Day."

3. Need

A man had a hand that was deformed and crippled, either hurt from an accident, crippled from disease, or he may have been born this way. In any case, his hand was completely helpless.

4. How Was the Miracle Performed?

Jesus was facing strong opposition, but He did not hesitate. The man had been sitting on the floor like the rest of the congregation. Jesus said, "Rise up and stand forth in the midst!" The man stood up. "Stretch forth your hand." Immediately the man stretched forth his hand, and it was made completely whole.

The miracle was performed by a command of Jesus and an act of obedience upon the part of the man.

5. Results and Lessons Taught

We might state the lessons taught here as:

- a. Jesus was greater than the Temple, and He was greater than the infirmity of this man.
- b. The miracle took place at the command of Jesus.
- c. To stretch forth a withered hand was an impossible thing for this man to do, but nothing is impossible with the Lord.
- d. We always can do what Jesus tells us; the will of God is always possible.

D. THE CENTURION'S SERVANT HEALED

1. Scriptural References: Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10

2. Circumstances

A centurion lived at Capernaum. A centurion is an officer in the Roman army over one hundred soldiers. Very likely he would be a Roman in nationality.

This centurion had been kind to the Jewish people and had built a synagogue for them. He had a servant who was very ill, at the point of death.

When Jesus entered Capernaum, some of the elders of the Jews met Him and requested that He heal the servant. Jesus started to go towards the centurion's home when the centurion met Him. He said that he was unworthy for Jesus to come into his home and that Jesus needed only to speak the word.

3. Need

A servant was sick and at the point of death.

4. How Was the Miracle Performed?

Jesus marveled at the faith of this Gentile and granted his request. "Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee."

The centurion said that he was a man who gave orders and was obeyed, and that Jesus need only do likewise. The Lord accepted this and did exactly as the man requested. The servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

5. Results and Lessons Taught

This Gentile had very little spiritual light, but He believed that Jesus had absolute authority over the forces of the universe, even as he had over his disciplined soldiers. With this faith, he had beautiful humility. He felt that he was standing before One greater than his emperor.

We who have more light and knowledge than this Roman soldier should have greater faith and have greater humility. At the same time we can bid Jesus to enter not only our homes, but our very hearts. If we have this type of faith and humility, Jesus certainly will answer our prayers.

Lesson Eight

MIRACLES OF HEALING Part III

A. THE DAUGHTER OF THE SYROPHOENICIAN WOMAN HEALED

1. **Scriptural References:** Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30

2. Circumstances

This story takes place in Phoenicia. Apart from when Jesus was taken as a baby into Egypt, this is the only time in His life that He left Palestine.

Jesus did not go to Phoenicia for the purpose to start a public ministry. It would seem that He desired to withdraw to a quiet place with His disciples to teach them. There was no place in Galilee where He could find seclusion. Opposition had been increasing, and the hostility of the Pharisees was strong. Herod had beheaded John the Baptist, and it is possible that Jesus wanted to withdraw from the realm of Herod's government for the purpose of rest and to teach the disciples without interruption.

However, He was too well known to be anywhere without being interrupted. There came a Gentile woman crying out to Him that He might heal her daughter.

3. Need

The daughter of this Gentile woman was demon possessed. Apparently it was a very serious case.

4. How Was the Miracle Performed?

Jesus tried to find rest and seclusion in Phoenicia, but "He could not be hid" (Mark 7:24). A certain Syrophenician woman found Him and began to cry out on behalf of her daughter. Jesus entered into a house and possibly sat down at a table, but the woman followed Him right into the house and never ceased begging and crying out.

The disciples wearied of the woman's begging and requested that the Lord would send her off. Jesus made a statement defining His mission, "I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel." While in Galilee, He freely ministered to Gentiles, but now that He was in Gentile country, it was necessary to clearly state His

ministry.

This statement would have been sufficient to have discouraged most people, but not this Gentile woman. She came, worshiped, and cried out, "Lord, help me."

The reply of our Lord's is somewhat difficult to explain. It seems almost contrary to His nature and character to rebuke and insult a person which is in such desperate need. We do believe that there was a reason for Jesus speaking thus: "It is not meet to take the children's bread, and cast it to dogs." He wanted her faith to develop fully and to be able to surmount all obstacles.

To have our prayers denied sometimes strengthens and develops our faith and makes it strong. This apparent insult of being called a "dog" did not destroy her faith, but rather brought her true humility and real faith into the open to be seen by all. Some might have been angry and immediately departed, but this woman saw her opportunity to claim deliverance for her daughter.

In the words of this woman, as recorded in Mark 7:28, we can hear the woman saying, "True, Lord, I am only a dog, and I am not asking for the children's bread. I am begging just for the crumbs. Just a crumb is sufficient to heal my girl, and the dogs under the table have a right to the crumbs."

How could the Lord deny such persistent faith? He could not and immediately healed the daughter. In doing so, He commended this woman for her great faith.

5. Results and Lessons Taught

This woman surmounted tremendous obstacles in having her prayer answered. There were four steps that she took and we should note carefully exactly what she did.

- a. Importunity: She persisted and continued in her pleading in spite of discouragement of opposition.
- b. Worship: Many times when our prayers are not being answered, if we begin to worship, the victory comes.
- c. Humility: Pride separates a man from God, but true humility causes the presence of God to draw near.
- d. Faith: Her great faith was manifested throughout her pleading and importuning.

If we put these four things into practice, we too can overcome great odds and press through to victory and deliverance.

B. THE DEAF AND DUMB HEALED

1. Scriptural Reference: Mark 7:31-37

2. Circumstances

After healing the daughter of the Syrophenician woman, crowds undoubtedly gathered, and Jesus had to seek elsewhere for retirement and seclusion. He did not go directly south into Galilee, but went east into Decapolis, which is the area east of the Jordan River.

Here the people brought a man, deaf and partly dumb, to Him, and asked Him to lay His hands upon the deaf man.

3. Need

This man was completely deaf and had an impediment in his speech.

4. How Was the Miracle Performed?

It is only necessary for Jesus to speak the word in order to heal a man, but for some unknown reason, Jesus did a few things which could be seen. He did the following:

- a. Jesus took him to one side away from the multitude.
- b. He put His fingers into the man's ears.
- c. He touched the man's tongue with His own saliva.
- d. He looked up toward Heaven.
- e. He sighed.
- f. He said to the man, "Ephphatha," which is Aramaic and means, "Be thou unbarred."

5. Results and Lessons Taught

Although Jesus took steps in leading up to the miracle, the miracle was instantaneous.

We cannot explain the purpose of what Jesus did here unless it was to inspire faith in the heart of this man. Sometimes the Holy Spirit might direct us to do something that can be seen outwardly to lift and inspire faith.

C. BLIND MAN AT BETHSAIDA HEALED

1. Scriptural References: Mark 8:22-26

2. Circumstances

This event took place at Bethsaida. A blind man was brought to Jesus, and the people asked Jesus to touch him.

3. Need

This man was blind, but we are not told just how long he had been blind.

4. How Was the Miracle Performed?

Again Jesus used a gradual method here. Jesus took him by the hand and led him out of the village. He then anointed the man's eyes with spittle. He placed His hands upon him and asked him if he saw anything. Only partial vision came, and Jesus put His hands upon his eyes for the second time and made him look up. When the man did this, perfect sight came to him.

5. Results and Lessons Taught

Sometimes before we may receive healing, we must give Jesus our hand and learn to walk with Him in the darkness. Sometimes only partial healing comes, but when we look up and see Jesus, then we can have complete deliverance. It is possible to never look up to see Jesus and because of this, only receive partial healing.

D. THE MAN BORN BLIND HEALED

1. Scriptural Reference: John 9:1-41

2. Circumstances

In this instance, Jesus healed a blind beggar who had been born blind. Two great religious discussions arose out of this miracle. The question of sin in connection with sickness and also whether it was right to heal on the Sabbath.

The disciples asked Jesus the question, "Who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?" The problem of hereditary sin was difficult for the disciples to understand. Their mind was upon this religious problem, whereas Jesus saw the need of the man and had compassion upon him.

3. Need

Here was a poor beggar who had been blind all his life. Certainly he had a tremendous need.

4. How Was the Miracle Performed?

Again Jesus used some simple signs which were symbolic in nature. He anointed the man's eyes with spittle and clay. He then told him to wash in the pool of Siloam. *Siloam* was the same as *Shiloh* and meant the "Sent One." This was a type of Jesus Christ, and the water itself, a type of the Holy Spirit. Certainly there was no healing virtue in the clay, only as it was the symbol of the touch of the Lord.

The healed man testified gloriously of what had transpired and because of this, the Pharisees cast him out. However, Jesus came to him, and he became a true disciple of our Lord.

5. Results and Lessons Taught

There are many truths brought out in this wonderful chapter. One of the most outstanding of these is that ministering to a man in his need is more important than solving some deep theological problem. A second truth explains why we anoint with oil when praying for the sick. The symbol has been given to point us to the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Lesson Nine

MIRACLES OF HEALING Part IV

A. INFIRM WOMAN RESTORED

1. **Scriptural Reference:** Luke 13:11-17
2. **Circumstances**

This miracle took place in the synagogue upon the Sabbath Day. Along with the other healings upon the Sabbath Day, it created much opposition to Jesus. In this case, it made the ruler of the synagogue very angry.

This woman may have been an elderly woman. We do not know her exact age, but she had been bowed over and bound by a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years. She was unable to straighten up, but had to walk and move about in this fashion. It was a chronic case of deformity, and it certainly was a difficult case.

3. **Need**

A woman bowed over helplessly for eighteen years needed deliverance.

4. **How Was the Miracle Performed?**

We should carefully study the steps that Jesus took here.

- a. He called the woman to Him. This required effort, faith, and obedience on her part.
- b. Apparently she never asked for healing, but anyway, the Lord spoke the word, "Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity."
- c. Jesus laid His hands upon her. This was done after He pronounced the fact of her healing.
- d. Immediately she straightened up and was healed.
- e. She glorified God.

5. **Results and Lessons Taught**

There are three main lessons taught here:

- a. This deformity was due to a spirit of infirmity. She had been bound by

Satan for eighteen years. This shows that her affliction was definitely due to spiritual causes. She was bound by a demon.

- b. The Lord calls her a “daughter of Abraham.” This meant more than that she was of the Jewish nation. He actually was calling her a “child of faith.” This can apply to any of us.
- c. She had to obey and go to Jesus first. This called for painful effort and exertion, but it was necessary.

B. TEN LEPERS CLEANSED

1. Scriptural Reference: Luke 17:11-19

2. Circumstances

This miracle of healing ten lepers took place outside a village near the border of Samaria. Nine of these lepers were probably Jews with only one Gentile among them. The common misery of their suffering had broken down the racial barrier.

According to custom, they had to stand afar off and cry, “Unclean!” Their condition was hopeless, but no situation is hopeless when Jesus comes upon the scene. They had undoubtedly heard about the healing of the leper which had taken place early in the ministry of our Lord. At least they had heard about Jesus, for they called Him by name. They cried out in one common chorus, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.”

3. Need

There were ten lepers who needed to be healed.

4. How Was the Miracle Performed?

Jesus simply told them to go and show themselves to the priests. This meant that each would go to the priest nearest his own home and the Samaritan to the temple on Gerizim.

They immediately obeyed, and as they traveled, they were healed. The dry scales fell from them, the white spots disappeared, healthy color returned to their flesh, and all disfigured members were made whole. They were thrilled and excited, and hurried on their way. However, the Samaritan quickly returned to Jesus and fell at the feet of Jesus, giving Him thanks.

Jesus commanded the Samaritan and condemned the others by the question,

“Where are the nine?”

5. Results and Lessons Taught

God is very pleased with thanksgiving. We should never forget to thank Him for His blessings. Thanksgiving is closely connected with a healthy faith. When Jesus commended the Samaritan, Jesus said that it was his faith that made him whole, not his thanksgiving.

C. BLIND BARTIMAEUS HEALED

1. Scriptural References: Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43

2. Circumstances

This miracle took place as Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem for the last time. As Jesus left Jericho, a large crowd was following Him.

Beside the road there sat a blind beggar called Bartimaeus. When he heard that Jesus was passing by, he immediately began to cry out, “Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me.” The people told him to keep quiet, but he cried out the more.

3. Need

A blind man needed to have his eyes opened and to be given sight.

4. How Was the Miracle Performed?

Jesus stood still and commanded the people to bring the blind man to Him. When Bartimaeus heard this, he threw away his outer garment and hurried to the Master. Jesus wanted him to express his need, so He asked, “What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee?” The blind man quickly responded, “Lord, that my eyes may be opened.”

Jesus simply spoke the word, “Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee.” Immediately Bartimaeus was able to see clearly, the beautiful scenery around him, the men around him and the face of Jesus. He sent up a shout of praise and followed the Lord.

5. Results and Lessons Taught

One of the wonderful things to note is that this man knew who Jesus was. He

called Him, "The Son of David." That was a truth that most men with sight did not know. He refused to be quieted, but persisted crying out in desperation. He knew that it was now or never. So it should be with us. We should cry out in desperation, for an opportunity of healing and blessing may never return.

D. DROPSY CURED

1. Scriptural Reference: Luke 14:2-4

2. Circumstances

This miracle took place in the home of one of the chief Pharisees. Jesus used this miracle to teach some very important truths. It was another miracle which was done on the Sabbath.

3. Need

A man with dropsy needed to be healed.

4. How Was the Miracle Performed?

Very little detail is given. The record simply states, "He took him, and healed him, and let him go."

5. Results and Lessons Taught

Many truths may be taught using healing as a foundation from which to build these truths.

E. EAR OF THE HIGH PRIEST'S SERVANT HEALED

Scriptural References: Matthew 26:47-56; Mark 14:43-52; Luke 22:47-53; John 18:2-12

This miracle will be studied in Life of Christ, Part IV.

Lesson Ten

MIRACLES OF RESURRECTION

A. JESUS IS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

Scriptural References:

“In him was life; and the life was the light of men” (John 1:4).

“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life” (John 11:25).

“And he is before all things, and by him all things consist” (Colossians 1:17).

In this lesson we study three miracles that prove that Jesus is the resurrection and the life. In fact, He is the source of all life. It was He who breathed into man the breath of life. It is in Him we live and move and have our being.

Not only do the following miracles prove this great truth but also there are many Scriptures which clearly state this fact.

B. THE RAISING OF THE DAUGHTER OF JAIRUS

1. **Scriptural References:** Matthew 9:18-26; Mark 5:21-43; Luke 8:40-56

2. Circumstances

This miracle took place at Capernaum. A large crowd had gathered around Jesus. While Jesus was speaking to the crowd, the chief ruler of the synagogue came hurriedly with the news that his only child, a twelve-year-old daughter, lay ill at the point of death. This man’s name was Jairus. He prostrated himself at the feet of Jesus, imploring that Jesus would go with him, and lay hands upon her that she might be made whole.

Jesus went with Jairus, but they had not gone very far when word was brought of the child’s death.

3. Need

Here was a twelve year old girl who was dead.

4. How Was the Miracle Performed?

When they reached the house, they found the house filled with the hired mourners making a bedlam with much wailing. Jesus asked them, "What are you making all this noise for? The child did not die, but is only sleeping." This was met with scorn and ridicule.

Jesus put everyone out except the father and the mother, and three of His disciples: Peter, James, and John. They entered the room where the girl was lying. Jesus took the girl by the hand and said, "Maiden, arise!" Immediately, her spirit returned into her, and she rose up and walked around. Jesus then commanded them to give the girl food.

5. Results and Lessons Taught

The first lesson taught here is the truth that Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Otherwise, He never could have performed this miracle.

Secondly, when Jesus said that the child was sleeping, it shows that to Jesus Christ physical death is but a sleep.

The third lesson taught here is that sometimes we must get away from the crowd and take only two or three that we can depend upon if we want to see the miraculous power of God.

C. THE RAISING OF THE WIDOW'S SON AT NAIN

1. Scriptural Reference: Luke 7:11-17

2. Circumstances

This miracle took place just outside the gate of Nain. Nain was a walled town about twenty-five miles southwest from Capernaum.

About a mile to the east of the town is an ancient burial ground which is still in use.

Towards evening, Jesus was approaching Nain with a great crowd of followers rejoicing in the many miracles which they had witnessed and expecting to see many more. As they approached the town, they met another crowd of an altogether different nature. Leading this procession was a bereaved widow and mother who had lost her only son. Behind her came a crowd of women loudly

lamenting.

Then there came a bier carried by men. This was a wicker-basket coffin in which lay the body of the young man with face exposed. The widow was brokenhearted, for all her hope of the future was centered in this son. Now he was dead and she was left alone in her sorrow and loneliness. Here was dark grief for which there seemed to be no consolation.

3. Need

A young man had died, and his body was being carried to the burial ground.

4. How Was the Miracle Performed?

It was not just a coincidence that the two processions met here on the road outside of Nain. Jesus had timed it exactly at the right moment. If He had been a little later, the funeral would have been over.

Jesus had compassion for the sorrowing mother and told her to not weep. He stopped the funeral procession, approached the bier, and touched it. This was pollution of the worst type, and everyone was horrified. Jesus paid no attention to the superstitious fear that fell over the people.

Suddenly His voice rang out, "Young man, I say unto you, Arise!" Immediately the young man arose and was restored to a joyful and happy mother. The young man began to speak, and we can imagine what he said.

5. Results and Lessons Taught

This is another miracle which proves that Jesus is the resurrection and the life. It also says that Jesus could not be polluted with sorrow and death.

A lesson that we should learn from this is our compassion and sympathy should always be active. We should be quick to find ways to minister to the sorrowing.

D. THE RAISING OF LAZARUS

1. Scriptural Reference: John 11:1-54

2. Circumstances

This was one of the most outstanding of our Lord's miracles. It probably was the final miracle in the public ministry of Jesus before the events leading up to Calvary. It was one of the last, at least.

Bethany was a village located about two miles southeast of Jerusalem. Here lived three very dear friends of our Lord, Lazarus and his two sisters, Martha and Mary. Jesus had often been a guest here, and He loved them dearly, for John 11:5 states, "Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus." Certainly this verse has a special significance here.

Jesus and His disciples were down near the River Jordan, about twenty miles from Bethany, when word was brought to Him that Lazarus was very ill. Jesus said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God." He then stayed where He was for another two days. When Jesus spoke about returning to Bethany, His disciples tried to hinder because of the danger. They knew that the life of Jesus was threatened. Jesus then spoke of death as being only sleep, but He knew that Lazarus was dead.

When Jesus reached Bethany, Lazarus had been dead for four days. He very likely had been buried the same day, but mourning would continue for several days. The house was full of people.

Martha went out to meet Jesus, but Mary sat still in the house. Martha reproved Jesus for not coming. "Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died."

3. Need

Lazarus had been dead for four days. His body had already begun to decompose.

4. How Was the Miracle Performed?

The compassion and love of Jesus were seen in two words, "Jesus wept."

Very likely the body of Lazarus lay in a near-by family tomb. His body was bound with grave clothes, and his body would have been anointed.

Jesus approached the tomb, and groaned in the spirit. Jesus groaned within Himself and was greatly burdened. He commanded the stone to be rolled back. He then looked up and prayed. He then cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" The one who had died came out of the tomb bound with the grave clothes. Jesus now commanded, "Loose him, and let him go his way."

5. Results and Lesson Taught

Lazarus was received back alive and well to the great joy of everyone. When news of this miracle reached the Sanhedrin, they immediately took steps to have Jesus arrested and put to death.

One of the most precious lessons taught here is the reason Jesus tarried two days before going to Bethany. He did far more for His loved ones by making them wait and have their faith tested. Sometimes as we have to wait, the Lord does far more for us.

The "I AM" of Jesus is very significant here. Martha knew that He could have healed her brother four days ago. Her faith was in a miracle working God of the past, but Jesus answered I AM." The need was a present need, and Jesus was quite sufficient, even though it meant raising the dead.

We should note that in this miracle Jesus prayed. We see clearly the dual nature, deity and humanity, contrasted. As a man, He wept, was sorrowful, groaned, and prayed; as God He commanded the dead to rise and was obeyed.

Lesson Eleven

MIRACLES OF JUDGMENT

A. JESUS IS THE GREAT JUDGE

Scriptural References:

“For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son” (John 5:22).

“It is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead” (Acts 10:42).

“He will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained” (Acts 17:31).

“Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom” (II Timothy 4:1).

The two miracles studied in this lesson show that Jesus is the great judge of mankind. There are many Scriptures that also clearly state this.

B. JESUS CURSED THE BARREN FIG TREE

1. **Scriptural References:** Matthew 21:17-19; Mark 11:12-14, 20-26

2. Circumstances

After the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, Jesus and His disciples retired to Bethany for the night. Early the next morning, they started out for Jerusalem. As Jesus traveled along, He grew hungry. Beside the road before them stood a fig tree, conspicuous because of its abundant foliage. The fig season was later, but this tree gave promise of premature fruit. With the fig tree, the fruit appears before the foliage, and therefore, there should have been fruit.

Jesus came to the tree, but found nothing but leaves. Jesus cursed the tree and pronounced judgment. “Let no man eat fruit from thee.”

They went into Jerusalem for the day, but again retired in the evening to Bethany. The next morning as they entered the city, they found the fig tree withered up from the roots.

3. Need

The need here was for fruit. There was promise of fruit, but only the promise. The tree was barren.

4. How Was the Miracle Performed?

The miracle of judgment took place simply at a statement of Jesus.

There was no immediate effect, for the judgment took place at the roots. The disciples may have looked for something to have happened immediately. The next morning they were astonished when they saw the withered fig tree.

5. Results and Lessons Taught

The fig tree is a type of the nation of Israel, and also the lesson may apply to the church.

There must be foliage which stands for religious profession. However, the Lord is not satisfied with just a profession—there must be fruit. Any nation or church which has no fruit but only a profession only will eventually dry up at the roots.

The roots are the first to wither. This speaks of our prayer life. This is where one begins to dry up first.

C. JESUS CLEANSED THE TEMPLE

1. Scriptural References: Matthew 21:12-13; Mark 11:15-17; Luke 19:45-46; John 2:13-25

2. Circumstances

Jesus cleansed the Temple on two different occasions, one at the very beginning of His ministry, and again at the close of His ministry right after the triumphant entry.

We classify these incidents with His miracles for, it never could have taken place without a miracle. Otherwise, the money changers would never have permitted it.

The court of the Gentiles had become a market of oxen, sheep and doves which the worshippers needed for sacrificing. Money changers exchanged foreign money for the shekel, which was the only currency accepted in the Temple. It was a very noisy place with the bargaining of the merchants and the noise from the animals. The priests tolerated this, for they derived revenue from this commercialism.

The righteous indignation of our Lord was aroused, and He declared that the house of God had become a “den of thieves.”

3. Need

The Temple had been polluted and desecrated with commercialism. The whole place was corrupt.

4. How Was the Miracle Performed?

Jesus took a whip and, followed by His disciples, drove out the animals through the Temple door, overturning the money tables at the same time. The priests were very unpopular and knew that it was better not to interfere.

Jesus then declared, “My house shall be called the house of prayer.”

5. Results and Lesson Taught

This act of judgment teaches that the house of God should always be kept sanctified and holy.

It also teaches that there is a righteous indignation which is proper when it rises against wrong. This is not a carnal anger.

Lesson Twelve

JESUS, THE CREATOR

A. JESUS IS THE MIGHTY CREATOR

Scriptural References:

“All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made” (John 1:3).

“He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not” (John 1:10).

“For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible . . . all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist” (Colossians 1:16-17).

“Thus saith the Lord, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the Lord that maketh all things” (Isaiah 44:24).

“For thy Maker is thine husband; the Lord of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel” (Isaiah 54:5).

Only God can create. This divine prerogative of being able to create is exclusively reserved for the one, true, almighty God. On many occasions, Jesus showed that He possessed this prerogative, and thus proved His deity. The miracles of turning water into wine and multiplying the loaves and fishes were miracles that only the Creator could do. The two miracles studied in this lesson also prove that Jesus is the mighty Creator. Apart from the miracles, there are many Scriptures that clearly state that Jesus is the Creator.

B. JESUS STILLS A STORM

1. **Scriptural References:** Matthew 8:18, 23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25

2. **Circumstances**

In this miracle we see the dual nature of Jesus brought out very clearly. His humanity is revealed by His weariness and exhaustion; His deity is revealed as the great Creator stilling the stormy sea.

Jesus had spent a strenuous day teaching the multitudes. Many healings had taken place and Jesus was physically exhausted. It was impossible to get away from the crowds, so Jesus suggested, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." This would be a trip by boat of some seven miles. They got into the boat without any preparation and without taking any provisions. Jesus got into the boat "just as He was" and immediately lay down in the stern of the boat and went to sleep. This is the only time we read about the sleep of Jesus. His physical being was completely overcome by exhaustion and weariness.

Everything went well until they were in the middle of the lake. Suddenly, the heavens grew dark and a wild wind swept down the Jordan gorge. The disciples sought to weather the gale, but every moment the storm grew worse. Their condition seemed hopeless, and everything they did seem to be in vain.

In the face of death, they grew very fearful. They rushed and shook Jesus who had been sleeping through it all. "Master, carest thou not that we perish?" Jesus stood up in the midst of the roaring waves and howling storm and rebuked the storm. He commanded the wind and the waves as if they were human beings or animals.

3. Need

The disciples were fearful that they were going to drown in the midst of a howling storm. Certainly the danger was great.

4. How Was the Miracle Performed?

This miracle was performed simply at the command of the Lord. He spoke, and the elements obeyed Him.

Jesus then turned and rebuked His disciples for their unbelief.

5. Results and Lessons Taught

We are reminded of creation when God spoke and everything was created simply by His word. It was the very same One speaking from the stern of the boat in the middle of the Sea of Galilee.

The disciples were fearful, but they did not have faith. This lesson teaches that faith and fear cannot be in your heart at the same time. If a person believes God, he will not be afraid.

Jesus was Master even when He was asleep. With Jesus in the boat, it was impossible for the boat to sink. The other little boats that crossed over too could have sunk, but definitely not the one in which Jesus was asleep.

C. JESUS WALKS ON THE WATER

1. Scriptural References: Matthew 14:22-36; Mark 6:45-56; John 6:15-21

2. Circumstances

Jesus had sent His disciples across the Sea of Galilee in the evening while He remained behind to pray. It was night, and while they were crossing, a terrible storm arose. This time Jesus was not with them to quiet the wind and waves. They had to struggle against the adverse wind, but in spite of their hard rowing, they made little headway.

Jesus spent the night in prayer, but He knew the struggle His disciples were having. While they were struggling with the waves, He was struggling in prayer. Finally in the fourth watch, between three and six o'clock in the morning, Jesus went to them walking on the water.

3. Need

The disciples were worn out from struggling with the storm and needed to be encouraged.

4. How Was the Miracle Performed?

Jesus went to His disciples' aid in the hour of their desperate need. He came to them with peace and reassurance. He said to them, "Be of good cheer. It is I, be not afraid."

Very likely desiring to be the first to reach Jesus, Peter cried out, "Lord, if it is really you, order me to come to you." Jesus simply said, "Come." Peter immediately stepped out on the water. As long as he kept his eyes on Jesus, he was able to walk on the water. When he took his eyes off Jesus and began to look at the waves, he began to sink. When he cried out for help, Jesus took hold of him and pulled him up. At the same time, Jesus rebuked Peter for his little faith.

5. Results and Lessons Taught

Sometimes Jesus allows us to struggle against overwhelming odds until we come almost to the breaking point before He comes to us. This strengthens and develops our faith. Jesus never fails and always He comes to us before we come to that breaking point. Many times Jesus appears to us in some miraculous manner.

The fact that Jesus was able to walk upon the water is another proof that Jesus is the mighty Creator.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Self Help Test: Life of Christ II

Lesson Two

1. How do we know that we have only a partial list of the miracles performed by Jesus Christ?

2. Write a paragraph beginning with this sentence: It would have been a miracle if Jesus had not performed miracles.

3. Give two examples of where Jesus refused to perform a miracle to minister to Himself.

a.

b.

4. Write out three Scriptures, with references, to prove that Jesus gave His ministers power to perform miracles.

a.

b.

c.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Self Help Test: Life of Christ II

Lesson Four

1. State clearly the lessons taught in the following miracles:
 - a. Feeding the four thousand:

 - b. Coin in the mouth of a fish:

2. What was meant by Peter's statement, "I go fishing."

3. Write a paragraph describing the miracle of the second draught of fishes.

4. What was the attitude of Jesus towards paying tribute money?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Self Help Test: Life of Christ II

Lesson Eight

1. Name the five steps the Syrophenician woman took in having her prayer answered:

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.

2. List the six things Jesus did in healing the deaf and dumb:

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.
- f.

3. What was the purpose of Jesus anointing the blind man's eyes with spittle and clay?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Self Help Test: Life of Christ II

Lesson Ten

1. Give three Scriptures with references to show that Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

a.

b.

c.

2. Show how Martha's faith was in a miracle of the past or future but not of the present.

3. Who was in the room with Jesus when He raised the daughter of Jairus?

4. Why did Jesus tarry for two days after He heard of the illness of Lazarus?

