

He had compassion and healed them. When we think of miracles we most likely think of healing. There is a long list of Jesus healing the blind, deaf, injured, sick, infirmed and demon-possessed.

There are several words in Greek translated into English as “heal”. In addition to meaning “cure” sometimes the Greek indicates “the make whole”. Jesus was interested in making us whole, and that includes not only physical but spiritual health.

*5 Is it easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up and walk'? 6 So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!" - Matthew 9:5-6 NLT*

The greatest miracle of all is that our sins can be forgiven, and we have eternal life in Christ. But Jesus proved his authority to forgive sins as He healed the sick. Jesus may choose to heal our bodies miraculously or not. But our ultimate healing is not what is seen temporarily on earth, but eternally in heaven. Let's not hesitate to pray for miracles on earth, but even more so, for the miracle of salvation. *Take time now to pray for Jesus' miracles in the lives of those who need provision, healing, deliverance, or salvation.*

### **WRAP-UP**

*Jesus has authority and power over the natural and the spiritual world. As we see Him move, our faith is increased. Jesus used His disciples to distribute food, and he gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases and sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. If we are His disciples, then we have been called to do the same.*

### **MEMORY VERSE**

*30 The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. 31 But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.*  
- John 20:30-31 NLT

*Challenge – Dare to pray for Jesus to more in miraculous ways this week- both naturally through faith-producing provision and healing, and spiritually for salvation of those who don't know Him.*

## **The Miracles of Jesus**

Guest Speaker – Pastor Billy Graham Paulose

### **INTRODUCTION**

In our western culture we tend to keep Jesus confined to safe places of Bible stories. This weekend we heard of Jesus doing work in India that can only be defined as supernatural. Although we may read and believe that Jesus did miracles when He walked the earth, it stretches our faith to believe He still moves through the supernatural today. But let's take some time to reflect on the authority Jesus demonstrated through the miracles He did and dare to believe we can still see that authority in our world today.

### **Ice Breaker**

Have you witnessed something that could not be explained apart from being a miracle?

### **Key Passage**

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***- John 20:30-31 NLT***

### **STUDY QUESTIONS**

#### **1. Jesus' Authority over the Natural World**

When we believe in the power of God we believe in the supernatural; that is in a power beyond scientific understanding or the laws of nature. Embracing that fact can be challenging in our culture. But Jesus clearly demonstrated that He had power beyond the laws of nature.

9 When the master of ceremonies tasted the water that was now wine, not knowing where it had come from (though, of course, the servants knew), he called the bridegroom over. 10 "A host always serves the best wine first," he said. "Then, when everyone has had a lot to drink, he brings out the less expensive wine. But you have kept the best until now!" 11 This miraculous sign at Cana in Galilee was the first time Jesus revealed his glory. And his disciples believed in him. - John 2:9-11 NLT

*The first miracle of Jesus that was recorded happened in Cana. How did Jesus demonstrate authority over natural elements? What was the result of this miracle (v. 11)?*

26 Jesus responded, "Why are you afraid? You have so little faith!" Then he got up and rebuked the wind and waves, and suddenly there was a great calm. 27 The disciples were amazed. "Who is this man?" they asked. "Even the winds and waves obey him!" - Matthew 8:26-27 NLT

*Based on Jesus' statement in v. 26 and the disciples' response in v. 27, what was the result of this miracle?*

20 The disciples were amazed when they saw this and asked, "How did the fig tree wither so quickly?" 21 Then Jesus told them, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith and don't doubt, you can do things like this and much more. You can even say to this mountain, 'May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and it will happen. 22 You can pray for anything, and if you have faith, you will receive it." - Matthew 21:20-22 NLT

*In the passage above Jesus cursed the fig tree and the disciples saw it withered. The timing of this miracle is important because Jesus had just cleared the Temple of the money changers and the religious leaders were indignant. Israel can be viewed as the fig tree which failed to bear fruit. Did the disciples get that analogy, maybe and maybe not. But once again Jesus demonstrating His authority over nature was used to increase the disciples' faith. What do you think it means to have "faith"? What is the purpose of our faith? Is it for our benefit? If so, then asking for anything might include asking for whatever we wanted for our own purposes. But if having faith means putting our trust in Jesus as the ultimate authority in our*

*lives, then we will be seeking His purposes in what we ask, not our own.*

## **2. Jesus as Our Provider**

4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish." 5 "Master," Simon replied, "we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. But if you say so, I'll let the nets down again." 6 And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! ... 10 His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed. Jesus replied to Simon, "Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!" 11 And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus. - Luke 5:4-6, 10-11 NLT

As Jesus called His first disciples, He demonstrated that He would be the provider of all their needs. This was seen when Simon said they worked all night and had nothing to show for it, but when He obeyed Jesus and dropped his net in an unlikely place, he found an abundance of provision. Both provision of food and income, and of purpose.

19 Then he told the people to sit down on the grass. Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he gave the bread to the disciples, who distributed it to the people. 20 They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers. 21 About 5,000 men were fed that day, in addition to all the women and children! - Matthew 14:19-21 NLT

*One of Jesus' best-known miracles was feeding the 5,000. Then again soon after he fed 4,000. But it was not Jesus himself who distributed the food. How did the people receive this miracle? How has Jesus provided for your needs? Has God ever called you to be the one distributing His provision to others in need?*

## **3. Jesus the Healer**

It is interesting to note that before Jesus fed the 5,000 and the 4,000.