

A MIRACLE FOR YOU

Matthew 8:1-34

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There are 12 miracles that Christ performed in Matthew chapters 8 and 9.

Jesus had just delivered His great Sermon on the Mount of the moral ethics of Christianity. Apart from the power of God and a miracle nobody could ever begin to live up to it. When Jesus came down from the mountain with huge crowds following Him He demonstrated His authority over nature and demons and His power to heal the sick.

There was a purpose behind these miracles alongside of Christ's compassion on the sick. It was primarily to prove once and for all His power available to us to live the Christian life. We need strength to live life and we can draw upon Christ's power for whatever we face. Christ has the power to change the most immoral people, showing us the difference from right and wrong.

In chapter 8, the miracles of healing the man with leprosy, the centurion's servant and Peter's wife's mother are the proof of the miracles that God wants to do in us to bring change and deliverance from evil. In Ephesians 1:18-20 we see His power to bring peace in the storm, to bring peace to the demonically oppressed, and peace to a man who was paralyzed.

Matthew 8:16 says that "many who were possessed with demons... He cast out the spirits with His Word and healed all that were sick."

There were many thousands in this crowd. The thousands that were demon-possessed were delivered, the thousands with leprosy were healed and the thousands with all kinds of diseases were healed. All that came to Him were healed. Nobody could doubt the ability of Christ to do the miracles that every person in their desperation needed from God.

We who are really trusting in Christ today in the impossible problems we face can see Christ do the same for us. Our extremity is God's opportunity.

1. The miracle of the healing of the leper

The first miracle was the healing of the leper. This man not only suffered from a terrible disease that took its victim eventually in death, but he suffered even more emotionally and mentally. Jesus was showing grace to an outcast, a leper separated from society.

At the first sign of a sore on his skin, he thought little of it. When it didn't go away he became concerned. It was when it turned red that he became terribly afraid that it might be leprosy.

It was mental anguish of the worst kind. It would mean he would have to say goodbye to his family forever, and be put away from all those he loved and never be around anyone ever again. The disease was highly contagious. He never again would feel the touch of another human being.

Those he loved who used to wrap their arms around him would be but a memory. All that he ever loved and those who loved him were taken away from him.

The Law of Moses required him to go to the priests and show them his sores and to pronounce him either clean or unclean. This man was told he had leprosy.

It was devastating. For the rest of his life, if anyone even came near him he would have to cry out, "unclean, unclean" and people would run from him. He became an "outcast" from society. Leprosy is a disease of the flesh. It infects anybody who comes in contact with the person who has it.

It is an illustration of sin and how it spreads to others and separates people from God and each other. This is man's greatest problem: sin. It makes us moral outcasts. Jesus came to save us from sin and bring us back to God and to restore us back into society.

Most of us, if not all of us, will, in our lifetime, experience terrible suffering that will result in some kind of mental and emotional breakdown. It is then we must take those experiences to Jesus, find comfort in the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, and trust God for a miracle. We need a touch from God to heal us from the flow of our tears.

This man came to Jesus. ⁴ "The leper worshipped Him saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean." He had the faith to believe Jesus could heal him.

He did not command Jesus, but said humbly, “Lord, if it’s your will, please heal me”.
“⁵ And Jesus put forth His hand and touched him saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.”

Jesus, in His great love for this man, knew exactly what he mentally longed for. It was a touch from someone. It had been a long, long time since anybody had touched him.

Mark’s Gospel tells us that Jesus had said “tell no one, but go show yourself to the priest to declare you clean.” This man, in the greatest happiness of his life, couldn’t help telling everyone. He was well, clean, and could go back home to those he loved. I bet that he spent the rest of his life with his arms around his family because Jesus had “touched” him. He was more mentally and emotionally sound and sane than he had ever been in his entire life. Jesus had done a miracle. Jesus brought this outcast back home.

All of us who are here today who are physically and mentally suffering can come to Jesus by faith, trusting fully in the Word of God, and receive a touch from God. He is the answer to our desperation, and will perform a miracle in our life if we will cling to Him in faith and fully trust in the Word of God.

What man needs today more than anything else is to be loved. We need the love of God and the love of others. We need to love God and to love others (I Cor. 13).

We need a miracle for our anguish and suffering, and a touch in our hearts from God. Let us come to Jesus for it. Jesus shows grace to the outcasts when we come to Him for salvation. He restores us.

2. The miracle of the healing of the Centurion’s servant

The Centurion was a Gentile who was despised by the Jews and considered a dog. The Jews would pray, “I thank God I am not a woman and not a Gentile.” Jesus, in His love received this outcast to Himself and, in His grace, did a wonderful thing in his life.

This Centurion came to Jesus in faith, believing that Jesus, being a Jew, would receive him in grace, though he was a Gentile. It is always the will of God for all men to be saved, no matter how far away from God they may be in sin.

When Jesus was in Capernaum ⁵ There came unto Him a Centurion beseeching Him, ⁶ and saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy (paralyzed), grievously tormented ⁷ and Jesus said unto him, I will come and heal him.”

A Centurion was a Roman soldier of great authority. He recognized in Jesus the full extent of authority in addressing Jesus as Lord, and that Jesus could just speak a word and his servant would be healed.

⁸ “The Centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.”

This soldier was looking for grace. He did not command Jesus to heal his servant; he didn't even ask Jesus to come to his house. He knew just a word from Jesus at a distance had the authority to heal his servant. This man had great faith in the power and authority of Jesus Christ.

All any of us here today who are troubled need is to pray in grace that Jesus would just speak a word, and He can help us in anything.

In knowing His own authority, he understood Jesus' authority.

⁹ “for I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.”

This man had great respect for authority. We should learn from this. If we are to receive any grace from God we must have a respect for authority. Only those under authority have the right to exercise authority.

Jesus marveled at this man's great faith. ¹⁰ “He said, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel... ¹³ and Jesus said unto the Centurion, go thy way and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee...”

Two times Jesus marveled, one time at the great faith of this soldier and at another time the unbelief of the Jews at Capernaum.

What would you have Jesus do in your life that requires a miracle that by the grace of God He would do for you?

Do we have the faith to believe that Christ can?

3. The miracle of Jesus healing Peter's wife's mother of a fever

“¹⁴ And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, He saw his wife's mother laid and sick of a fever. ¹⁵ And He touched her hand and the fever left her: and she arose and ministered unto them.”

In what seems like a minor miracle, the results were major.

We know from Mark's Gospel that the whole city gathered at the door of this home that the Lord might meet their needs. (Mark 1:32-34) Blessing in the home ought to bring blessing to the community. The change and healing in one woman's life led to the miracles of many people who came to Christ, Whom she served.

God heals us and strengthens us to serve others.

4. The miracle of bringing peace in the middle of a storm

The next two miracles that Jesus did were to bring peace to those in fear and to those who were severely tormented in their minds by Satan (23-24).

First, the storm: 23-27

“²³ And when He was entered into a ship, His disciples followed Him ²⁴ and behold there arose a great storm in the sea insomuch that the ship was covered with waves, but He was asleep ²⁵ and His disciples came to Him, and awoke Him saying, 'Lord, save us. We perish!'"

This storm which was extremely violent was probably caused by Satan to destroy Jesus and His disciples.

What is touching is that Jesus was so tired from ministry that He slept through the storm. Jesus had real humanity and knows what we are going through in His own experiences.

What is so amazing is Jesus had such perfect peace and confidence in His Heavenly Father that He could sleep through a storm without fear.

We must always remember that when we are facing a serious threat to our survival and we are struck by fear that the Lord does care and will reach into our lives and save us from perishing.

Even when Satan attacks those who would serve Christ and would follow Jesus in ministry and get into the ship with Him, we must keep our faith together. If all of life was just calm, a breeze to get through, and God never allowed the storms of life to hit us, how would we ever experience the peace of God and know the power of God personally?

Jesus “arose, rebuked the winds and the sea and there was a great calm.” (vs. 26)

Rebuked means to muzzle. Jesus put a muzzle on the storm.

He has the power to muzzle the enemy and to bring a great calm around us in our fears, as if nothing ever happened. It can be gone in just a moment. We will have experiences in life that threaten us with great fear when doing the will of God. If we stay the course and stand in the cause and don't run, we will see God drive away the enemy. He will muzzle those who would destroy us.

These men marveled at the power of God “saying, what manner of man is this that even the winds and the sea obey Him?” (vs. 27)

Jesus had asked the disciples “Why are you so fearful, O ye of little faith?” We must remember that “perfect love casteth out all fear”. (I John 4:18)

We must learn to trust God in our fears and to be at peace in our hearts.

We can pray and trust God for a miracle.

“Your Miracle from God With Love.”

5. The miracle of Jesus in His power over demonic spirits (28-34)

Jesus would bring peace to two men tormented in their minds who were demonically possessed.

“²⁸ And when He was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two possessed by demons, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way.”

Jesus had left the crowds on the other side of the sea to bring peace to two men. Don't think Jesus doesn't care about you.

These men were dangerous and driven to violence by Satan. The whole city was affected by these two and in turmoil. Whole cities can be troubled by a few that are under Satanic authority and involved in occultism.

“²⁹ And behold they cried out saying, What have we to do with thee Jesus, thou Son of God? Art thou come here to torment us before the time?”

Notice: that demons pray,
They recognize the deity of Christ,
They fear their judgment to come in the Lake of Fire.

Only in Jesus Christ and the blood of His cross do any of us have deliverance from Satan and our mental freedom from their power.

Jesus commanded them to leave the man and they entered into 2,000 pigs and drove them into the sea.

If these demons could torment these pigs to their violent death then it was no wonder what they could do to a man’s mind.

“³³ and they that kept them fled, and went their ways into the city and told everything, and what was befallen to the possessed of the demons ³⁴ and behold the whole city came out to meet Jesus and when they saw Him, they sought Him that He would depart from their city.”

We know from Mark’s Gospel that one of the men who Jesus freed asked Jesus to be with Him. Jesus told him to go home and tell them the wonderful things God had done for them.

The first people we always tell after we have been saved are our own family and our friends at home.

When they saw the man clothed, and sitting in his right mind they were amazed. Later when Jesus would return to that area the whole city would come out to meet Him and many would believe on Him.

What made the difference? It was a testimony of this man, his changed life, and his sanity.

The miracles that Jesus performed show the very power of God available to us who believe.

“A Miracle For You in Love.”

Submitted by Carol Morse:

God wants to use you to make a difference in His world. He wants to work through you. What matters is not the duration of your life, but the donation of it. Not how long you lived, but how you lived.

If you're not involved in any service or ministry, what excuse have you been using? Abraham was old, Jacob was insecure, Leah was unattractive, Joseph was abused, Moses stuttered, Gideon was poor, Samson was codependent, Rahab was immoral, David had an affair and all kinds of family problems, Elijah was suicidal, Jeremiah was depressed, Jonah was reluctant, Naomi was a widow, John the Baptist was eccentric to say the least, Peter was impulsive and hot-tempered, Martha worried a lot, the Samaritan woman had several failed marriages, Zacchaeus was unpopular, Thomas had doubts, Paul had poor health, and Timothy was timid. That is quite a variety of misfits, but God used each of them in His service. He will use you, too, if you stop making excuses.