

What Is A Miracle?

Psalms 77:14, Mark 16:1-8
St. Joseph Island Free Methodist Church - May 7, 2023

Big Picture Question

What is a miracle? A miracle is something God does that usually cannot be done so that we can know He is all-powerful.

Memory Verse

"You are the God who works wonders;
you revealed your strength among the peoples." - Psalm 77:14

3 Marks of a Real Miracle

1. There is the " _____ " v. 1-3
2. There is the " _____ " v. 4-6
3. There is the " _____ " v. 7-8

3 Things About Miracles To Remember

1. Sometimes real miracles may not be perceived as _____
2. What about when you _____ for a miracle but don't get one?
3. It is possible (and honoured) to _____ without seeing miracles

Further Biblical "Stone / Salvation / Story" Miracles For Further Study

- Crossing of the Red Sea (Exodus 14)
- Feeding of the Five Thousand (Mark 6:35-44)
- Incarnation of Jesus (Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-56)
- Lazarus Raised From The Dead (John 11)
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 3)
- Woman with Issue of Blood (Luke 8:43-48)
- And many more you will find as you look!

The Theology of Rest

Mark 4:35-41, Excerpted from *The Place of Help* by Oswald Chambers, During WW 1

"Come unto Me, ... and I will give you rest," i.e., build you up into a stable life in which there is neither weariness nor cessation from activities. The Bible never glorifies our natural conception of things; it does not use the words "rest" and "joy" and "peace" as we use them, and our common-sense interpretation of words must be keyed up to the way God uses them, otherwise we lose the "humour" of God.

The incident recorded in Mark 4:35-41 is not an incident in the life of a man, but in the life of God as Man. This Man asleep in the boat is God Incarnate. Jesus had said to the disciples, "Let us go over unto the other side" (RV), but when the storm arose, instead of relying upon Him, they failed Him. The actual circumstances were so crushing that their common sense was up in alarm, their panic carried them off their feet, and in terror they awoke Him. When we are in fear, we can do nothing less than pray to God, but our Lord has the right to expect of those who name His Name and have His nature in them an understanding confidence in Him. Instead of that, when we are at our wits' end we go back to the elementary prayers of those who do not know Him, and prove that we have not the slightest atom of confidence in Him and in His government of the world: He is asleep—the tiller is not in His hand, and we sit down in nervous dread. God expects His children to be so confident in Him that in a crisis they are the ones upon whom He can rely. A great point is reached spiritually when we stop worrying God over personal matters or over any matter: God expects of us the one thing that glorifies Him—and that is to remain absolutely confident in Him, remembering what He has said beforehand, and sure that His purposes will be fulfilled.

Always beware of the thing that shuts you up but does not convince you—common sense will do that. What is common sense worth in such a crisis as is symbolized here? It simply disturbs God. In this incident our Lord answered the disciples' cry, but He rebuked them for their lack of faith, "Why are ye fearful? Have ye not yet faith?" (RV). What a pang must have shot through their hearts—"Missed it again!" And what a pang will come through our hearts when we realize we have done the same thing, when we might have produced downright joy in the heart of Jesus by remaining absolutely confident in Him, no matter what was ahead. The joy that a believer can give to God is the purest pleasure God ever allows a saint, and it is very humiliating to realize how little joy we do give Him. We put our trust in God up to a certain point, then we say, "Now I must do my best." There are times when there is no human best to be done, when the Divine best must be left to work, and God expects those of us who know Him to be confident in His ability and power. We have to learn what these fishermen learned, that the Carpenter of Nazareth knew better than they did how to manage the boat. Is Jesus Christ a Carpenter, or is He, God to me? If He is only man, why let Him take the tiller of the boat? Why pray to Him? But if He be God, then be heroic enough to go to the breaking-point and not break in your confidence in Him.

If we have faith at all it must be faith in Almighty God; when He has said a thing, He will perform it; we have to remain steadfastly obedient to Him. Are we learning to be silent unto God, or are we worrying Him with needless prayers? In this terrific crisis of war many of us have lost our wits, we see only breakers ahead, with nothing for us to do but watch the whole thing go to ruin; and yet He said—"Let us go over unto the other side" (RV). Just as a general looks for the man who keeps his head in the fight, so the Lord looks for the man who will keep his faith in Him. "When the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8). There is no more glorious opportunity than the day in which we live for proving in personal life and in every way that we are confident in God.

The stars do their work without fuss; God does His work without fuss, and saints do their work without fuss. The people who are always desperately active are a nuisance; it is through the saints who are one with Him that God is doing things all the time. The broken and the jaded and the twisted are being ministered to by God through the saints who are not overcome by their own panic, who because of their oneness with Him are absolutely at rest, consequently He can work through them. A sanctified saint remains perfectly confident in God, because sanctification is not something the Lord gives me, sanctification is *Himself in me*. There is only one holiness, the holiness of God, and only one sanctification, the sanctification that has its origin in Jesus Christ. "But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, Who was made unto us...sanctification" (1 Corinthians 1:30 RV). A sanctified saint is at leisure from himself and his own affairs, confident that God is bringing all things out well. Spiritual realities can always be counterfeited. "Rest in the LORD" can be turned into pious "rust" in sentiment. What is all our talk about sanctification going to amount to? It should amount to that rest in God which means a oneness with Him such as Jesus had—not only blameless in God's sight, but a deep joy to Him. God grant we may be.