

Miracles: Experiencing the Supernatural in Our Discipleship Journey

JANUARY 31, 2021

WORSHIP

Great Things,
Today,
Hosanna

WELCOME

What is your favorite miracle story from the Bible? In what ways can you relate to it in your life?

WORD

JOHN 2:1-12

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; ² and both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus ^{*}said to Him, "They have no wine." ⁴ And Jesus ^{*}said to her, "What business do you have with Me, woman? My hour has not yet come." ⁵ His mother ^{*}said to the servants, "Whatever He tells you, do it." ⁶ Now there were six stone waterpots standing there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing two or three measures each. ⁷ Jesus ^{*}said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." So they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ And He ^{*}said to them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." And they took it to him. ⁹ Now when the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter ^{*}called the groom, ¹⁰ and ^{*}said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first, and when the guests are drunk, then he serves the poorer wine; but you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹ This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and revealed His glory; and His disciples believed in Him. ¹² After this He went down to Capernaum, He and His mother, and His brothers and His disciples; and they stayed there a few days.

Miracles are not something that is often spoken about, but should actually be a natural part of us because we follow and worship a supernatural God. He is the Waymaker, the Miracle Worker, the Light in our Darkness! Many people today in our 21st postmodern world reject miracles simply because they break natural laws.

A miracle is an extraordinary event with a positive outcome that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and attributed to God. It is a "paradox with a Divine Cause"; a paradox being two conflicting truths that exist at the same time.

Science is full of such paradoxes: space-time reality where we experience space in three dimensions with time flowing through it. But then Einstein showed us that we live in a four-dimensional realm; light exists both as a particle and as a wave, the Uncertainty Principle in quantum physics, matter which is 21% dark matter and 75% dark energy that we know almost nothing about, co-existing with 4% visible matter, etc.; in fact, scientists who discovered such paradoxes are Nobel Peace Prize awardees.

Spiritual truth is filled with paradoxes as well—God is Three yet One; Jesus is both God and man; the Bible was written by man but divinely inspired by God, etc. The truth is, God can break through natural laws when miracles take place in our lives. God is not just "pie in the sky in the by and by"; He is actively involved in our lives through divine interventions in the here and now. From supernaturally fixing broken car brakes, to healing broken bones, there is nothing too small or too big for our God even today. As we enter into a new normal discipleship in 2021, we can believe that we will experience miraculous breakthroughs because of God's divine interventions in our lives!

Here are four key postures for us to experience God's supernatural work in our discipleship journey, that we discover from Jesus' first-ever miracle that occurred at a wedding in Cana, Galilee (**John 2:1-12**) where Mary was probably an aunt of one of the bride or groom, so that when the wine ran out, the servants came to her about the matter and where she in turn, went to Jesus for His divine intervention in the situation:

LOOK TO JESUS FIRST

Look with your spiritual heart, not with your physical eyes or just your rational mind. Mary looked to Jesus first when she learned that the wine had run out (**v.3**). The natural thing to do when you run out of wine is to go to the village wine merchants, when we run out of money for our business, we go to the bank first, when we are sick, we look for a doctor first. But when we want to see a miracle, look to Jesus first; look with your heart. Friends, every time we go through challenges in our lives, whatever it is that you are going through in your life right now, look to Jesus first; look with your heart.

LOOK BEYOND GOD'S NON-RESPONSE

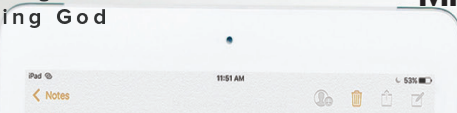
When Mary went to Jesus, she must have expected Jesus to say "no" or "yes" to her request. However, the answer He gave was neither of that, but an apparent non-response (**v.4**). Maybe you are praying for healing, but instead of receiving an answer, you run into problem after problem and you wonder what God is doing. This is what Jesus tells us in **Mark 11:24**: "**Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them**", so do not let God's apparent non-response discourage you; pray and believe that you will receive an answer. The miracle you are praying for is not centered on any human being or any law or doctrine but on the compassionate, ever-loving, Almighty, living Son of God.

LOOK TO DO WHATEVER HE ASKS YOU TO DO

Mary instructed the servants to do whatever Jesus asked them to do and they did exactly as Jesus told them (**v.; 5-8**). Do you want miracle breakthroughs in your life? Because we worship a supernatural God, miracles are part and parcel of what God wants us to inherit in our discipleship journey; He is a miracle worker even as we journey with Jesus.

LOOK TO STEP IN FAITH AND RECEIVE

When Jesus told the servants to fill the six stone jars with water, it was not easy to do so as each stone jar held 30 gallons of



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water. They had no running water in those days so they probably had to go down to the well with small pots of water, transfer the water to the stone jars, and had to do this until all 180 gallons of water were in the jars. There were lots of servants with lots of work to accomplish what Jesus told them to do. We sometimes have to go through tough times to obey what God is saying in the midst of that. Sometimes it is out of our comfort zone, but step out in faith. Jesus told the servants to take the water to the master of the feast, and somewhere in the process of taking that water to the master, a change took place, turning water into the finest wine (v.9-10)! We need to step out in faith, out of our comfort zone and in obedience to what Jesus wants us to do and we will see miracles take place in our lives.

WHAT DO MIRACLES LOOK LIKE WHEN THEY HAPPEN?

If miracles take place even today, why do we hear so little of that? It's not posted on social media, and we don't hear about it in the news. Here are some of the reasons why:

1. They are SPECTACULAR but SILENT.

When Jesus turned Water (H₂O) into wine (C₂H₅OH) at that wedding in Cana; carbon molecules were created from the hydrogen atoms to create wine. This was an amazing miracle because you cannot convert hydrogen into carbon on planet earth! Do you know where hydrogen is converted into carbon? It's in the core of the sun at 15 million degrees Celsius—it is spectacular, yet silent. When Jesus stilled the storm (Matt. 8:23-27), the only ones who saw the storm were the 12 twelve disciples; not everyone else on land. This is one reason why we do not hear of amazing miracles that take place today—they are spectacular, but silent.

2. They are PUBLIC but PERSONAL

When Bartimaeus was healed outside of Jericho City, he had been there begging all his life. When Jesus healed him, everybody saw it. But as far as the crowd was concerned, it was great for Bartimaeus but it was just a sideshow. It was just one of those miracles that Jesus did before going into the city where He encountered Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10) then went on to the next miracle. It was just one of the many incidents as far as the public was concerned, but for Bartimaeus, it was everything—it was life-changing. Just like the woman who had bleeding for many years (Luke 8:43-48). As far as the people around her were concerned, she was just a nuisance contaminating everyone because she was unclean. She was healed instantly in their midst, but as far as the public was concerned, it was on to the next "event", Jairus' daughter (Luke 8:49-55). But for the woman who was healed, it was everything. The miracle was public but very, very, personal.

3. They are ABUNDANT yet ABIDING

When Jesus turned water into wine, the equivalent of the six water jars amounted to about 6,000 bottles of wine. It was enough for up to 5,000 wedding guests even in a royal wedding, let alone for a wedding in a village! The household had enough wine to last for a very long time. When God does something, it is not just abundant, it is abiding. We worship the God of the "more than"—He will do more than what we ask or even think (Ephesians 3:20-21).

As God shapes our character, as we step out of our comfort zone and share the gospel, make disciples of nations, part and parcel of what God wants to give us in this new normal in discipling in 2021 will include breakthroughs and miracles in our lives. We will go through challenges and we will see the hand of God come through for our lives.

How do we receive the miraculous in our lives? Look with your heart, believe God's Word, understand the Word of God. By faith, believe with your heart, look to Him first, look beyond His non-response, look to hear what He says to you, and step out of your comfort zone by faith and you will see God's miracles take place. They are often spectacular, but silent; maybe they will happen in public but to you, it is going to be very personal; abundant yet abiding.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Self-Check.

When facing problems, do you turn to Jesus first? Why or why not?

2. Setting It Right

How can you learn to look beyond God's apparent non-response to your prayers?

3. Living It Out

What step is God telling you to take beyond your comfort zone by faith?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for your friends, family and others in your sphere of influence to see God's miracles in your own life and among His people. Pray that as they witness God's amazing, supernatural work in and through you, they too would want to know Jesus as Savior and Lord. Show care by praying for their need for breakthroughs and miracles this 2021. Step out of your comfort zone by faith and share the gospel to others so that they can experience the greatest miracle of all—new life in Jesus!

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

Upright and moral governance of Public Servants
A God-centered Philippines
Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

Worship and Training Center
Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

Deeper intimate relationship with God
Righteous living
Salvation of family and friends



24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them

Mark 11:24