

MIRACLES JESUS DIDN'T WORK

Text: Matthew 12:38-40

INTRO: As we see from our text, Jesus did not work every miracle it would have been possible for Him to work. In this lesson, we will consider the nature & purpose of His miracles, as well as consider miracles Jesus didn't work.

- I. THE NATURE OF MIRACLES. The word means different things to different people. We are interested in what the word means as it is used in Scripture. Gr scholar W.E. Vine tells us that in the N.T. a miracle is a “work of a supernatural origin & character, such as could not be produced by natural agents & means.”
 - A. This is the definition we will use for the word. It is more than something unusual, more than something difficult to explain. It is something that could not be produced by natural agents & means.
 - B. The modernist denies the validity of Bible miracles. Note how reasonable it is that miracles did occur. If there is a God, He must have power to bring about that which is miraculous. If He cannot work miracles, He is not supreme.
- II. JESUS WORKED MANY MIRACLES. He healed the sick, raised the dead, gave sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, multiplied food to the hungry, calmed the storms, walked on water, cast out demons, etc. John 20:30-31.
- III. THESE MIRACLES WERE WORKED FOR A PURPOSE.
 - A. Not ever for His own personal benefit.
 - B. Not primarily a matter of compassion, tho that was often involved.
 1. He had compassion on some for whom He worked no miracles.

Mark 6:34, And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things.

2. Tho He healed those brot to Him, He made no attempt to search out & find all the sick & work miracles for them. After Jesus' ministry was finished there were still some in Jerusalem who were lame, Acts 3:1-10.

- C. The basic purpose for Jesus' miracles was to prove His identity as the Son of God & His message as the word of God.

Matt 9:6, But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"--then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, & go to your house

John 9:3, Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.

Mark 16:20, And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.

Heb 2:3-4, How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

John 3:2; 20:30-31

IV. SOME MIRACLES JESUS REFUSED TO WORK.

- A. Command this stone to become bread, LK 4:3

1. Note that Satan knew miracles were Jesus' credentials. Here was His chance to prove His

identity--& at the same time, satisfy His hunger.

2. Why didn't Jesus do it?
 - a. He never worked miracles for His own personal benefit.
 - b. More important, Satan already knew He was God's Son, MT 8:29; James 2:19.
- B. Our text, Matt 12:38-42. They had just witnessed His healing of a deaf mute, vs. 22-23. They could not deny the miracle, but impugned its source, vs. 24. Then they had the gall to ask Him for a sign. It could have served no purpose.
- C. Matt 16:1-4. A case similar to our text. Here again, the Jewish religious leaders had just seen some of Jesus' grandest miracles. In 15:30-31, He had healed great multitudes who had been blind, lame, mute, maimed, etc. Then in vs. 32-36, He fed the 4,000 miraculously. The Pharisees & Sadducees were aware of these & similar miracles & refused to believe in Jesus. Further signs would likewise be meaningless.
- D. Mark 14:65; Matt. 26:68. His enemies blindfolded Him, then challenged Him to identify who was striking Him. To have done so would serve no useful purpose. It would not have produced faith in hearts so hardened against Him.
- E. A similar challenge, Matt. 27:39-44. Jesus' composure during the crucifixion was sufficient to convince one of the robbers, LK 23:39-43. The others were too hardened to have been convinced. Also, to have come down from the cross before the crucifixion was over would have been to renounce the obligation He had undertaken to die as a sacrifice for sins. "For this purpose I came to this hour..." (JN 12:27).

CONCLUSION: Miracles were not worked for frivolous reasons, nor merely to accommodate the miracle workers or to keep them from being inconvenienced. Tho compassion was often involved, it was NOT the major consideration. Miracles were meant to PROVE the identity of the Son of God & the Divine source of His message. Miracles were not worked for those who had already been given abundant evidence. Once the gospel message was confirmed by miraculous signs, it became sufficient to produce saving faith—just as the O.T. was sufficient for those who lived under its jurisdiction, LK 16:29-31. We need no miracles today. We need to believe & obey the gospel.

La Porte, TX, December 25, 1983

Exton, PA, July 7, 1985

Exton, PA, September 2, 1990

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, February 9, 1992

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, October 3, 2004