

THE WAY – The Book of Mark

Part Three: Invitation into the Miraculous

Text: Mark 4:35-6:6

Main Point: Following the Way of Jesus is an invitation into the miraculous.

I. Introduction - Mark 4:35–41 (NIV)

This week we are going to look at four occasions of miracles that are distinctly greater, progressively revealing who Jesus as the Son of God.

- He calms the storm with a word! (this is new to even the disciples)
- He delivers a man tormented not by one demon, but by many demons
- He heals a woman who has had hemorrhaging of blood for 12 years
- He raises a young girl from death!

II. The Anatomy of a Miracle - *What is a Miracle?*

A. Oxford dictionary:

1. a surprising and welcome event that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is therefore considered to be the work of a divine agency.
2. a highly improbable or extraordinary event, development, or accomplishment that brings very welcome consequences.

B. Three characteristics – Miracles...

1. typically unexplainable by the natural order of things
2. highly extraordinary and demonstrable (us instantaneous results/evidence)
3. always has a message (not random/arbitrary)
 - a) *Jesus has authority over nature (the calming of the storm - Mark 4:35-41)*
 - b) *Jesus has authority over the spirit world (the deliverance from many demons - Mark 5:1-20)*
 - c) *Jesus has authority over incurable disease*
 - d) *Jesus has authority over death itself*

C. **Perspective:** Following the way of Jesus ought to include believing/expecting miracles which would reveal His identity, authority, and mercy.

1. God works within the order of things he has created, but He also can work outside them.

III. The Atmosphere for Miracles - Why and When Do Miracles Take Place?

- A. usually occasioned by a hopeless situation (not getting better, getting worse)
- B. initiated by an act of faith or an authoritative word/command
- C. accompanied by anointing/power/gifts for miracles.
 1. Luke 5:17 (NIV)

One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and Jerusalem. **And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick.**

2. 1 Corinthians 12:7–11 (NIV)

7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8 To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 **to another miraculous powers**, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

D. to reveal God's goodness/power/glory in Jesus.

E. **Perspective:** Miracles do not take place automatically, but in response to an occasion, by faith, activated by God's authority.

IV. The Absence of Miracles - How can we respond when there are no miracles?

A. Mark 6:1–6 (NIV)

Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. ² When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed.

"Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing?" ³ *Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?"* And they took offense at him.

⁴ Jesus said to them, *"A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home."*

⁵ *He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them.* ⁶ *He was amazed at their lack of faith.*

B. **Perspective:** Familiarity with Jesus caused people to take offense and led to collective unbelief which hindered Jesus from doing miracles.

C. How do we respond?

1. Steer clear of attitudes that lead to unbelief: familiarity, offence, assumption

2. Persist in faith in the willingness and authority of Jesus and the purposes of God

3. Trust in the Providence of God (Sovereignty and timing of working all things together for the good)

a) *What God hasn't done through the natural order of things, he can do through a miracle.*

b) *What God hasn't done through a miracle, he can through the natural order of things.*

V. Conclusion

A. Miracle List? Text "miracle" to 604-229-9351 to share the miracle you would like prayer.