

The Life of Christ – Part 5

Today we continue with our study on the life of Christ. We'll be looking in just a few moments at the miracles of Christ. This is lesson number five.

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Today, we're going to look at the miracles of Christ. Let me remind you, we will not be going into real depth on these subjects, but this will give us an overview as to what the Bible has to say about the life of Christ.

The last time, we looked at study number four and we asked the question who is Jesus. Well, who is Jesus? In Matthew 16:15, the Bible says the Lord asked His disciples the most

important question: *But whom say ye that I am?*

And people's eternal destiny depends on how the question, "Whom say ye that I am?" is answered, and there are only three honest answers and only one true answer that can be given as to who Jesus really is. Either Jesus was a liar, a lunatic, or He is Lord. Was Jesus a liar, lunatic, or Lord? What was Thomas' conclusion in John 20:28? He said, "My Lord and my God."

And then we see Peter's conclusion in Matthew 16:16 and Acts 2:36. He said, "Christ, both Lord and Christ." And then we see Paul's conclusion in Titus 2:13 and Romans 9:5. He said this about Christ: "God is God and Savior." John's conclusion was this in I John 5:20, that Christ is the true God. The writer of Hebrews concluded in Hebrews 1:8 that Christ is the Son of God. The Son of God is God. Hebrews 1:8 says: *But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.*

Who do you say Jesus really is? If you say that He's the Son of God, that He's God, very God, and you've never asked Him into your heart, you're very close to Him; you may know about Him, but you need to have Him in your heart. You need to ask Him to save you today so you can go to Heaven. Just knowing about Him is not enough. Just having the head knowledge will not take you to Heaven. You need Him in your heart. Be willing to turn from your sin. "Lord, I repent and turn from my sin. Come into my heart. I receive You as my Savior." If you'll do that, faith believing, He'll save you so you can go to Heaven.

Today, our study number five is the miracles of Christ. In Matthew 11:1-5, it says:

¹And it came to pass, when Jesus had made an end of commanding his twelve disciples...

Remember, we studied about those twelve disciples... *he departed thence to teach and to preach in their cities.*

²Now when John had heard in the prison...

This is John the Baptist... *the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples,*

³And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?

*⁴Jesus answered and said unto them, **Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see:***

⁵The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

First of all, we see that there was an abundance of miracles in the life of Christ. Sometimes people think that the Bible is filled with accounts of miracles on every page from Genesis to Revelation. There are many people who are familiar with the four Gospels, but they are not acquainted with the rest of the Bible, especially the Old Testament. And, of course, the pages of the Gospels are filled with numerous examples of miracles and people could wrongly conclude that the same thing is true of the rest of the Bible.

In fact, miracles in the Bible are relatively rare. There are many godly men throughout the pages of the Bible in history who never performed miracles. God is free to perform miracles at any time, according to His sovereign will and purposes.

God protected Daniel as we look at the life of Daniel. He protected Daniel from the man-eating lions in Daniel 6:16, 22, and 24. But I want you to notice this. As far as we know, Daniel himself never performed any miracles.

The Bible indicates that there have been only three major periods of miracles in history. That is time when God gave certain men remarkable powers to perform amazing, undeniable mysteries.

The first major period is this. It was during the time of Moses in Exodus and Joshua in the book of Joshua. We see that Moses performed miracles and so did Joshua.

The second period was during the time of Elijah and Elisha, I Kings and II Kings.

And then the third is during the time of Christ, John 3:1-2, and He also gave the ability to perform these miracles to the seventy in John 10:1-20 and also to the apostles, Luke 9:1-2. You can also look up Matthew 10:1 and 8.

Apart from these three unique periods of supernatural activity, miracles were the exception rather than the norm. And one of these exceptional outbreaks of miracles took place during the earthly ministry of our Lord.

Why did Jesus perform miracles? He showed that He could do the miracles and it would seem that He's asking what miracle is easiest. You need to consider the account of a paralytic man, found in Luke 5:17-26, Mark 2:1-12, and Matthew 9:6. The Lord actually tells us exactly why He healed this man in Matthew 9:6. The first part of that verse says, ***But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins.*** That's the reason Christ performed miracles. It's so that people could see on Earth the Son of Man had the power to forgive sin.

Jesus made the amazing claim that He could forgive sin, according to Luke 5:20. It says, ***And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven.***

Mark 2:5 says, *When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, **Son, thy sins be forgiven.***

And then we look in Matthew 9:1-8. You can look at all these verses later, but I call to your attention verses 4 and 5. It says, *And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, **⁴Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? ⁵For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk? ⁶But that he may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins.***

The Jews did not believe that Jesus was able to forgive sin, according to Mark 2:6-7. These Jews could not look into the man's heart. They could not see that something had taken place there that transformed him from death unto life. They could not see his heart and see whether his sins had really been forgiven.

Jesus asked a puzzling question. What is easier to say? Thy sins are forgiven or to say arise, take up your bed, and walk? Is it easier to forgive his sins or to heal his body? Mark 2:9 talks about this.

How would you have answered the Lord's question? How would you have answered? What's easier? Is it easier to forgive his sins? Is it easier to heal his body? Or is it impossible for man to do either? Well, the right answer is it is easier to heal the body than to forgive sin.

How could Christ prove that He had the authority and power to forgive sins? How could he demonstrate His authority to the invisible spiritual realm? In Mark 2:10, the Lord tells us the primary reason why He healed this man. Mark 2:10-11 says, **¹⁰But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins...** That's the reason He did it... *(he saith to the sick of the palsy,)* **¹¹I say unto thee,**

Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house.

Jesus proved His authority that He had the authority in the invisible spiritual realm by performing a fantastic miracle in the visible physical realm which no one could deny. If Christ had the power to perform the miracle of healing, then this would prove that He also had the power to perform the miracle of forgiveness.

Well, what authenticates Christ as the Messiah? We see the Carpenter. We see the Carpenter claimed to be Christ, the Messiah, John 4:25-26. The Carpenter had no formal education, according to the Jews, John 7:15, but yet, the Carpenter taught the people that He was sent from God with a heavenly message, John 7:16, 28-29. Jesus backed up His claim to be able to forgive sins by performing many miracles, and we see many of these miracles. The miracle of the wine in John 2:6-9 and verse 11; the miracles of healing, the paralytic man in Luke Chapter 5; the feeding of the multitudes and the five thousand men plus women and children, Matthew 14:16-20.

On and on the miracles go, how that Christ performed these miracles. Why? To show people that He could be the One who forgave them of sin. He was also seen raising the dead in John 12:1, 9, and 17.

Notice the acceptance of Jesus as God by a ruler of the Jews because of miracles. In John 3:1, it says, **¹There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: ²The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.**

And notice, those who opposed Jesus knew and acknowledged that Jesus did many miracles, John 11:47. *Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles.*

What did the miracles of Jesus prove? According to the Old Testament prophets, when Messiah would come to Earth, He would set people free, physically and spiritually, Isaiah 35:5-6, 61:1.

Do you know Him today as your Savior? Have you trusted Him? Ask him to come into your heart right now. If you do know Him, live for Him today. Let Him lead you and guide you.

And remember, Jesus is coming soon. Our redemption draweth nigh.

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Until next time, this is Doug Anderson reminding you it's a good life living for the Lord. May the Lord bless you richly is our prayer.