

Bible Study – January 15, 2020 The Miracles of Jesus

Miracle: A divine act by which God reveals himself to people.

The presence of the miraculous is evident through the entire bible, however in the New Testament it has occurred it differs, in that it is transcended by the presence of the very Son of God, who himself is the greatest miracle of all. God now has not only acted in history; he has entered history and has turned it to himself. John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The NT uses the idiom, “signs and wonders,” (cf. Mt 24:24; Mk 13:22; Jn 4:48; Acts 2:43). It signifies the mighty act itself by which God is revealed in Christ. Another term is “work,” which along with sign is preferred in the Gospel of John. This term is used in John to show that in Jesus the work of the Father is revealed.

Mark, the first of the four Gospels to be written, has often been called the “action Gospel” because of its emphasis on Jesus’ deeds rather than his teaching. This is also true regarding Jesus’ miracles, for Mark contains more proportionately than any of the others. R. H. Fuller in his *Interpreting the Miracles* has noted five groups in Mark.

The first centers on Jesus’ authority over demons (1:21–39). The second concerns Jesus’ authority over the Law and conflict with his opponents (1:40–3:6). They result in fame but occasion his refusal to allow his true identity as Son of God to be known. The third group (3:7–30) contains exorcisms and the Beelzebub controversy, centering on his power over Satan. The fourth group (4:35–5:43) contains especially powerful miracles (stilling the storm, the Gadarene demoniac, the raising of Jairus’ daughter) and probably center on the disciples, as Jesus thereby reveals to them the meaning of the kingdom and seeks to overcome their own spiritual dullness. The fifth and final group (6:30–8:26) continues the theme of the disciples’ misunderstanding and prepares the way for the passion, with the message regarding the bread, blindness, and the judgment of God.

WHY ARE MIRACLES IMPORTANTS:

- 1) They _____ Jesus as The _____ Son of _____ - John 1:1
- 2) They _____ Unbelief - John 10:37-38; John 20:30-31
- 3) They _____ our Faith - Mark 9:24; Hebrews 11:6
- 4) They _____ His _____ Power - Ephesians 3:19

