MIRACLES OF JESUS

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LESSON #1: COMING TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF "JESUS" AND "MIRACLES"

<u>Note to Students</u>: You may find this first lesson difficult, especially if you are a beginner in the study of the Bible. Don't become discouraged. Answer the questions as best you can and then be prepared to make further notations during class discussion. Other lessons will be less difficult.

- 1. State briefly the difference between the Bible use of the word "miracle" and the common use of that word today.
- 2. Consider John 20:30-31. What was the primary purpose of Jesus' miracles?
- 3. Jesus is referred to in the Bible as "God" He was God in the flesh. State the expression in each of the following verses that refers to Him as God.

Isaiah 9:6 -

Matthew 1:22-23 -

John 1:1-3 -

John 20:27-28 -

Colossians 2:9 -

Can you think of other scriptures that refer to Him as God?

4. While Jesus is referred to as "God," He is not the same being as the Father. Consider Matthew 3:16-17. Show from this passage that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are three distinct beings.

What other proof would you give of this?

5. Consider Genesis 1:26. What in this verse proves that the Godhead is made up of more than one being?

- 6. Our Lord is eternal with the Father; He has always been and will always be. Consider Micah 5:2 and John 8:58. What expressions in these verses teach His eternal being?
- 7. The miracles of Jesus confirm these facts about Him. As we study these miracles over the coming weeks we will be pointing out evidences that they actually occurred. Meanwhile, consider John 19:32-37 and John 20:24-28. What is said in these verses that indicates that John and Thomas were fully qualified as His witnesses?

LESSON #2: DIVERSITY OF MIRACLES PERFORMED BY JESUS

In support of His claim that He was the Son of God, Jesus performed miracles of varying types. It is the purpose of this study to point out the diversity of His miracles.

- 1. He overcame gravity.
 - a. Consider Matthew 14:22-33. What did Jesus do on this occasion demonstrating His power over gravity?
 - b. What mistake did Peter make?
 - c. What conclusion did His disciples come to, according to verse 33?
- 2. He overcame distance.
 - a. Consider John 4:46-54. In what way did Jesus show His power over distance?
 - b. In what way was the nobleman's faith severely tested?
 - c. At what point was the son healed?
- 3. He overcame quantity.
 - a. Consider Matthew 14:15-21 and Matthew 15:32-38. What two miracles confirmed Jesus' power to multiply material things?
 - b. Consider Hebrews 11:3. Why would these two miracles have been of so little difficulty to Jesus?
 - c. Consider Matthew 16:6-12. In what way did Jesus' disciples demonstrate their forgetfulness?
- 4. He overcame wind and sea.
 - a. Consider Mark 4:35-41. What miracle confirmed Jesus' power over wind and sea?
 - b. How did the disciples react to this miracle?

- 5. He demonstrated supernatural knowledge.
 - a. Consider Luke 6:6-12. How did Jesus demonstrate supernatural knowledge on this occasion?
 - b. Observe similar action in Luke 5:21-22.
 - c. Consider John 1:45-49. How did Jesus demonstrate supernatural knowledge on this occasion? How did Nathanael react?
 - d. What is said of Jesus in John 2:24-25?
- 6. He demonstrated power to change substances.
 - a. Consider John 2:1-11. What miracle was performed on this occasion demonstrating Jesus' power to change substances?
 - b. What is said of the <u>quality</u> of the changed substance?

In future lessons we will also be observing Jesus' power over demons, disease, and death.

LESSON #3: MIRACLES IN CONFIRMATION OF JESUS' DEITY

While all of Jesus' miracles confirmed His deity, some were more directly related to His deity than others. We will study two of these in this lesson.

The Healing of the Paralytic Let Down through the Roof - Luke 5:17-26

- 1. According to verse 17, who is specifically mentioned as being present on this occasion?
- 2. Why was it necessary to let the paralytic (palsied man) down through the roof?
- 3. Were the scribes and Pharisees correct in saying that only God could forgive sins?
- 4. According to verse 24, what did Jesus prove concerning Himself when He healed the paralytic?
- 5. According to the earlier statement made by the scribes and Pharisees, if Jesus could forgive sins, Jesus was/is _____.
- 6. What three expressions are used in verse 26 to describe the reaction of the people to the miracle?
- 7. What other attribute of deity can be seen in Jesus in this passage?

The Transfiguration - Luke 9:28-36

- 8. What three men were specially chosen to view this miracle?
- 9. Who appeared with Jesus?
- 10. What did the three apostles see when they awoke?

What do you think is meant by the expression "His glory"?

- 11. Why was Peter's suggestion a bad mistake on his part?
- 12. What was the message that came from the voice from the cloud?
- 13. Why do you think it was necessary that this not be told until after Jesus' resurrection?
- 14. Consider 2 Peter 1:16-18. What assurance did Peter give his readers, based upon the transfiguration?

LESSON #4: MIRACLES IN CONFIRMATION OF SPECIFIC MESSAGES

Jesus on several occasions performed miracles that were directly related to specific messages He was proclaiming. Consider the following.

The Miracle of John, chapter 6

1. What claim did Jesus make of Himself in verse 35?

What do you think He meant by this?

- 2. What miracle, recorded in verses 5-13, did Jesus perform in support of this claim?
- 3. According to verses 14-15, how did the people react to the miracle?
- 4. Consider Mark's account of this miracle (Mark 6:35-44). Give evidence that the number fed was not exaggerated.

The Miracle of John. Chapter 9

5. What claim did Jesus make of Himself in verse 5?

What do you think He meant by this?

- 6. What miracle, recorded in this chapter, did Jesus perform in support of this claim?
- 7. Who were the truly blind people of this chapter?

Why were they blind?

The Miracle of John, chapter 11

- 8. What claim did Jesus make of Himself in verse 25?
- 9. What miracle, recorded in this chapter, did Jesus perform in support of this claim?

10. What great event, yet to come, does this miracle foreshadow?

The Miracle of Luke 5:1-11

- 11. What miracle was performed on this occasion?
- 12. What results had the fishermen realized through their own skills and experience?

What resulted through the power of the Lord?

- 13. How did Peter's faith contribute to the results?
- 14. What would Jesus enable Peter to do, according to verse 10?

LESSON #5: MIRACLES AMONG THE GENTILES

As we shall see in this lesson, Jesus' primary work during His personal ministry was among "the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Occasionally, however, He stepped outside this group to wield an influence among the Gentiles. In this lesson we will study two notable miracles performed in behalf of Gentiles.

The Healing of the Centurion's Servant - Luke 7:1-10

- 1. How is the seriousness of the servant's illness described?
- 2. On what basis did the Jews conclude that the centurion was worthy of Jesus' help?
- 3. In what ways did the centurion demonstrate his sense of unworthiness?
- 4. Over what did the centurion have authority?

What commands could he give with full expectations that they would be carried out?

- 5. <u>**Thought Question:**</u> What was the centurion implying concerning Jesus' authority in relation to his servant's illness?
- 6. What was Jesus' conclusion concerning the centurion's faith?

The Healing of the Syro-Phoenician's Daughter - Matthew 15:21-28

- 7. Where did this miracle take place?
- 8. What was the condition of this woman's daughter?
- 9. What was Jesus' answer to her, according to verse 23?
- 10. To whom are the words of verse 24 spoken?

Give the reason for your answer.

11. In what way did Jesus test the woman's faith, according to verse 26?

What do you think is meant by this?

- 12. What was her reply?
- 13. What was Jesus' conclusion concerning the woman's faith?
- 14. **Special Challenge:** Find as many occasions as you can when Jesus rebuked His own followers for their little faith.

15. <u>Special Challenge:</u> Make a list of other contacts that Jesus had with Gentiles.

LESSON #6: SUPERIORITY OVER THE DEMON WORLD

In casting out demons Jesus demonstrated His superiority over the demon world. Answer these questions concerning the following miracles.

The Gadarene Demon-possessed - Mark 5:1-20

- 1. Describe the difference in this man before the demons were cast out and after they were cast out.
- 2. What are some things we can learn concerning demon-possession from this passage?
- 3. Where did the demons go when they were cast out of the man?
- 4. Why do you think the people would not want Jesus in their midst?
- 5. What did Jesus tell the man to do?

Casting Out Demons in the Synagogue - Luke 4:33-36

6. Who spoke to Jesus on this occasion?

What was spoken?

7. What amazed the people, according to verse 36?

The Blind and Mute Demon-possessed - Matthew 12:22-26

- 8. What statement emphasizes that this man was completely healed?
- 9. Contrast the reaction of the multitudes with that of the Pharisees.

- 10. How did Jesus reply to the Pharisees?
- 11. <u>Research Question:</u> Consider Mark 5:1-20; Matt. 12:22-26; and Matt. 17:14-21. List the varying infirmities described in these passages resulting from demon-possession.
- 12. <u>Research Question</u>: Find evidence in the scriptures that demons not only recognized Jesus, but they recognized Jesus' true disciples.

LESSON #7: POWER OVER DEATH

Jesus and His apostles had power to raise the dead. Consider the following occasions when Jesus did so.

General Thoughts Concerning Death

- 1. Consider Eccl. 12:7 and James 2:26. What occurs at death?
- 2. Considering this, what would happen if one was made alive from death?
- 3. Consider John 11:17,39. How long had Lazarus been dead at the time Jesus raised him?

Raising of a Widow's Son - Luke 7:11-17

- 4. Consider verses 11-12. What two large crowds converged, becoming witnesses to this great miracle?
- 5. Why was this an especially sad situation?
- 6. Describe Jesus' actions in raising the young man.
- 7. What was the reaction of the people?

Raising of the Daughter of Jairus - Mark 5.22-43

- 8. What position did Jairus occupy among the Jews, according to verse 22?
- 9. What was his request?
- 10. How long had the woman with the issue of blood suffered from her affliction?

Before coming to Jesus, what had she done in seeking a cure?

- 11. In what way did she demonstrate remarkable faith?
- 12. **Think!** What are some reasons why Jesus would let her know and the crowd know that He was aware of what had occurred?
- 13. What message came from Jairus' house?

What was the messengers' advice?

- 14. What was the reaction of the mourners to Jesus' statement that the child was sleeping?
- 15. Who witnessed the miracle?
- 16. What was the reaction to the miracle?
- 17. <u>Research Question</u>: List other instances from both Old and New Testaments when the dead were raised.
- 18. <u>Thought Question:</u> We are given no information concerning what these who were raised from the dead experienced at the time of death or in the realm beyond death. What can we conclude from this?
- 19. <u>Thought Question:</u> Why would Jesus on some occasions encourage people to tell of His miracles (Luke 8:39) and on other occasions charge them not to tell (Mark 1:43-44; Mark 5:43)?

LESSON #8: MIRACLES RESULTING IN INCREASED OPPOSITION

The miracles of Jesus, especially those performed on the Sabbath, resulted in increased opposition on the part of His enemies and ultimately in their putting Him to death. Consider the following.

Healing of the Infirm Man at the Pool of Bethesda - John 5:1-18

- 1. Where did the miracle of this passage take place?
- 2. How long had the man suffered from his infirmity?
- 3. Why was the man rebuked by the Jews?
- 4. <u>Thought Question</u>: Would Jesus have encouraged this man to violate the Sabbath? Under what circumstances would the carrying of a bed be a violation of the Sabbath?
- 5. For what two reasons did the Jews seek to kill Jesus?

Healing of the Man with the Withered Hand - Matthew 12:9-14

6. According to this passage, who raised the question concerning the lawfulness of healing on the Sabbath, Jesus or His opponents?

Why was the question raised?

7. What did Jesus actually do by way of work in healing this man?

In contrast, what would His opponents have done for a sheep that needed help?

8. How did His opponents react to the miracle?

Healing of the Man Born Blind - John 9

9. According to John 9:14-16, what problem arose over the healing of the man born blind?

10. According to John 10:31, what did the Jews do in reaction to Jesus' discussion that followed this miracle?

Healing of an Infirm Woman - Luke 13:10-21

- 11. Describe the woman who was healed?
- 12. Why was the ruler of the synagogue indignant?

What order did he give?

What confession is implied in his order?

13. What was the reaction to Jesus, according to verse 17?

Opposition Resulting from the Raising of Lazarus - John 11:45-54

14. Tell of different reactions to the raising of Lazarus, according to verses 45-46.

- 15. What fear was expressed within the council?
- 16. What prophesy came from the lips of Caiaphas, the high priest?
- 17. What did the Jews determine to do from that day?
- 18. Where did Jesus go with His disciples to remain until the Passover?

LESSON #9: MIRACLES ON THE WAY TO THE CROSS

After the raising of Lazarus, Jesus left Judea, staying away from His enemies until Passover. The miracles studied in this lesson were performed on His final approach to Jerusalem and during His last week there before His death.

The Cleansing of Ten Lepers - Luke 17:11-19

1. What request did these lepers make?

Where were they standing at the time?

- 2. What instructions from Jesus required faith on their part?
- 3. Describe the actions of the one who returned?
- 4. What disappointed Jesus?
- 5. What practical lessons can be learned from this miracle?

The Healing of Blind Bartimaeus - Mark 10:46-52

- 6. Where did this miracle take place?
- 7. In what ways did Bartimaeus demonstrate his faith?
- 8. What did he do after receiving his sight?
- 9. Consider Matthew's account of this miracle (Matt. 20:29-34). Was Bartimaeus alone?

Withering a Fig Tree - Mark 11:12-14, 20-21

10. How soon did the fig tree wither?

To what extent?

11. **Thought Question:** Was this miracle performed in a fit of anger?

What object lesson was to be learned from the withering of the fig tree?

12. <u>Thought Question:</u> When Jesus was hungry, did He perform a miracle to provide food for Himself?

Can you think of any miracle that He performed for solely selfish reasons?

Healing the Ear of Malchus - Luke 22:47-51

- 13. On what occasion was this miracle performed?
- 14. <u>Thought Question:</u> How did this miracle help to demonstrate just how hardened the enemies of Jesus really were?

LESSON #10: THE RESURRECTION

- 1. Consider John 10:17-18. Twice in these verses Jesus uses the expression, "Take it again." What do you think Jesus means by this expression?
- 2. Combining information from Matthew 27:59-66 and John 19:40-42, describe the tomb.

Describe efforts made to see that the tomb was secure.

- 3. To whom did Jesus appear first, according to Mark 16:9?
- Consider the account of the two men on the road to Emmaus, recorded in Luke 24:13-43.
 - a. What did the two men say of the women who had gone to the tomb, according to verses 22-24?
 - b. What did Jesus discuss with them, according to verse 27?
 - c. At what point did they recognize Jesus?
 - d. Why had they not recognized Him before?
 - e. Where did the two men go immediately?
 - f. When Jesus appeared to this group, what proof did He give that He was flesh and bone rather than a spirit?
- 5. Consider John 20:24-29. What convinced Thomas that Jesus was indeed raised from the dead?

- 6. Answer the following questions from 1 Cor. 15:3-8.
 - a. What had Paul preached in Corinth?
 - b. Give the list of those mentioned in this passage who saw Jesus after His resurrection.
- 7. Consider John 21:1-11. What miracle, performed after Jesus' resurrection, is recorded in this passage?
- 8. <u>Research Question</u>: Find the passage that tells of a similar miracle performed earlier in Jesus' life.
- 9. <u>Special Challenge</u>: State briefly some reasons why you believe in the resurrection of Jesus.