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The Miracles of Jesus Christ: Miracles 6-10

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THE MIRACLES OF JESUS CHRIST

Miracles #6-10:

6. Healing Peter's mother-in-law
7. Cleansing a leper
8. Healing a paralytic
9. Healing a man with a shriveled hand
10. Healing a centurion's servant

SIX: Healing Peter's Mother-in-law (Mt. 8:14-15; Mk. 1:29-31; Lk. 4:38-39)

SURVEY

Upon hearing that she was suffering from a high fever, Jesus visits the home of Peter's mother-in-law and raised her from the bed of affliction. The grateful woman then began to wait upon the Savior and His disciples.

SIGNIFICANCE

- This is the first of two occasions proving Peter was a married man. For the other, see 1 Cor. 9:5.
- It is the first miracle to be recorded by three gospel writers (Matthew, Mark, and Luke).
- This miracle is followed by numerous occasions where Jesus performed mass healings.

Note:

1. After healing Peter's mother-in-law (Mt. 8:16)
2. After healing a leper (Lk. 5:15)
3. After healing a man with a withered hand (Mt. 12:15)
4. After hearing of John the Baptist's death (Mt. 14:14)
5. After walking on the water (Mt. 14:35)
6. After healing a demon-possessed girl (Mt. 15:30)
7. Prior to His sermon on divorce (Mt. 19:2)
8. After His temple cleansing (Mt. 21:14)

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- Upon being healed, she immediately began serving Jesus as did the maniac of Gadara (Mk. 5:18). We have been saved to serve! Paul would later link both these together in his epistle to the church in Ephesus:

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." (Eph. 2:8-10)

SEVEN: Cleansing a Leper (Mt. 8:2-4; Mk. 1:40-45; Lk. 9:12-16)

SURVEY

A leper approached Jesus, knelt, and begged to be delivered from his leprosy. Filled with compassion the Savior touched him which resulted in immediate healing.

SIGNIFICANCE

- This is the first of at least six miracles where Jesus was moved with compassion. For the others, see miracles 11, 14, 19, 23, and 32.
- It is the first of five miracles where Jesus told the recipient not to broadcast what had been done. For the others, see 16, 17, 22, and 24.
- It is the first of two miracles involving a leper. See also miracle 31.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- It is ironic to note:
 1. Back then, Jesus commanded these individuals not to spread abroad His fame, but they did.
 2. Today He commands us to do this, but we don't (see Mt. 28:19-20).
- He ordered the cured man to present himself to the priest for the Mosaic cleansing (see Lev. 14:3-4, 10, 22). This excited request from a healed leper doubtless caused much confusion and amazement in the temple among the priests. Up until this point there was no need for the cleansing ceremony, for no Israelite had ever been healed of leprosy until Jesus came (with the single exception of Miriam — see Num. 12:13-15; Naaman, of course, was a Syrian — see 2 Kings 5:1, 14).

EIGHT: Healing a Paralytic (Mt. 9:2-8; Mk. 2:3-12; Lk. 5:18-26)

SURVEY

Four friends of a paralytic, unable to approach Jesus because of a huge crowd, made an opening in the roof and lowered their companion at Jesus' feet. The Savior immediately both forgave the man of his sins and healed him of his affliction.

SIGNIFICANCE

- This miracle describes the most unique and innovative way of bringing a person to Jesus.
- It is the first miracle where Jesus forgives the sin of the person, thus announcing His deity, for God alone can forgive sin.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- Both Paul and Jude may well have had the four friends of the paralytic in mind when they penned the following words:

"For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some." (1 Cor. 9:19-22)

"And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh." (Jude 22-23)

- An unknown author has written the following:

They will not seek, they must be sought,
They will not come, they must be brought,
They will not learn, they must be taught.

- J. Vernon McGee writes:

"There are many people who are not going to receive the message of salvation unless you lift a corner of their stretcher and carry them to the place where they can hear the word of the Lord. They are paralyzed – immobilized by sin and by many other things the world holds for them. Some are paralyzed by prejudice and others by indifference. They are never going to hear Jesus say to them, 'Son, thy sins be forgiven thee,' unless you take the corner of their stretcher and bring them to Him." (*Commentary on Luke*, Grand Rapids, MI, 1955, p. 74)

NINE: Healing a Man With a Shriveled Hand (Mt. 12:9-13; Mk. 3:1-5; Lk. 6:6-10)

SURVEY

Jesus restores this hand in a synagogue on the Sabbath day. Keenly aware that His action was condemned by the legalistic and wicked Pharisees who were watching His every move, the Savior demanded from them:

"I ask you, which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good, or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?" Lk. 6:9).

SIGNIFICANCE

- This miracle included the only explicit reference to the anger of Jesus in the four gospel accounts. Note Mark's account:

"And, when He had looked round about on them with anger..." (Mk. 3:5)

- This miracle led to the first plot to kill Jesus. Note:

"Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against him, how they might destroy him." (Mt. 12:14)

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- This episode may well serve as the ultimate illustration of legalism, which places a higher value on a sheep than on a man!
- Jesus had previously explained the divine purpose of the Sabbath and His relationship to it:

"And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath." (Mk. 2:27-28)

TEN: Healing a Centurion's Servant (Mt. 8:5-13; Lk. 7:1-10)

SURVEY

This Gentile military officer who loved Israel and had actually built a synagogue for the Jews implored Jesus to heal his dying servant. Jesus agreed to go and heal him. However, the officer replied:

"No need, Lord, just say the word and it will be done."

The Savior is amazed at this kind of faith. Upon returning to his home the centurion finds his servant healed!

SIGNIFICANCE

- This is the first of two cases involving miracles in which Jesus was amazed at the great amount of faith He found in the one requesting the miracle. Both individuals were Gentiles. The other was the Syrophenician mother (Mt. 15:28).

- How sad to note that He marveled over the unbelief and lack of faith in His own countrymen.

"But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house...And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching." (Mk. 6:4, 6)

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- Almost all centurions (Roman military commanders of 100 soldiers) in the Bible are presented in a favorable light. Examples:

1. The one mentioned here
2. The centurion in charge of Jesus' crucifixion

"And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost. And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God." (Mk. 15:37, 39)

"Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man." (Lk. 23:47)

3. The centurion whom Peter led to Christ

"There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway." (Acts 10:1-2)

4. The centurion who was in charge of Paul's first part of his journey to Rome:

"And when it was determined that we should sail into Italy, they delivered Paul and certain other prisoners unto one named Julius, a centurion of Augustus' band... And the next day we touched at Sidon. And Julius courteously entreated Paul, and gave him liberty to go unto his friends to refresh himself." (Acts 27:1, 3)

5. The centurion who later saved Paul from death following the storm:

"And the soldiers' counsel was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim out, and escape. But the centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from their purpose, and commanded that they which could swim should cast themselves first into the sea, and get to land." (Acts 27:42-43)

6. The centurion who allowed Paul to receive visitors during his house arrest in Rome:

"And when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard but Paul was suffered to dwell by himself with a soldier that kept him." (Acts 28:16)

- This is in stark contrast to the Jewish rulers who misunderstood their own scriptures and mistreated both Jewish and Gentile believers. Note the following indictments:

1. By Jesus (Mt. 22:29; 23:33)

2. By Stephen (Acts 7:51-53)
3. By Paul (Rom. 9:30-32; 1 Thess. 2:14-16)
4. By John the Baptist (Mt. 3:7-12)
5. By John the Apostle (Rev. 2:8-9)