

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF JESUS, THE CHRIST

4

His Miracles

INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUR STUDY

This study is important because it looks at the life and teachings of the greatest man who ever lived -- Jesus, the Christ. There are four parts we will study. Part One, has an **introduction** and studies in the **Sermon on the Mount**. Part Two studies the **parables** of Jesus. Part Three studies the **teachings of Jesus**. Part Four studies the **miracles** of Jesus. When you finish this Part mail your test questions back, and begin the next Part.

- Use your own Bible. The King James version of the Bible is being used in this study, but you may use your own Bible.
- We encourage you to underline passages in your Bible during your study. Suggest you use a yellow “crayon” type underliner because liquid underliners will soak through the pages.
- We also encourage you to buy a 1" or 1 ½ " three ring notebook in which to put notes, comments or questions you may have.
- Read each lesson, then go to the end and answer the test questions.
- When you complete the test questions, return them to us for grading. Send only the test questions, the lesson material is yours to keep for future reference..
- At the conclusion of the study, you will be sent a Certificate of Completion.

God bless you as you study your Bible – it is time well spent.

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**STUDIES IN THE
LIFE OF JESUS, THE CHRIST
HIS MIRACLES
PART 4**

LESSON ONE

INTRODUCTION

Sometimes something happens to a person that they can't explain or understand, so they say, "It's a miracle!" Is it? Sometimes things happen in church that people don't understand and they say again, "It's a miracle!" Is it?

So, what is a miracle anyway? Remember that the New Testament was written in the common everyday Greek language of Jesus' day. The word translated "miracle" in our English Bible is a word meaning "power"; the word is "dunamis" and we get our words "dynamite" and "dynamo" from it. But when the New Testament uses this word to refer to miracles, it means **"a work of a supernatural (coming from God) origin and power, such as could not be produced by natural things or by men."**

Let's explain this for a minute. When a person is born blind, he'll remain blind for the rest of his life, won't he? When Jesus healed the blind man in John 9, it was a miracle because the man would have stayed blind until he died. The same is true of leprosy, which is a disease that cannot be cured. When Jesus healed lepers, it was a miracle because they would have died of leprosy except for the work of Jesus.

Things today that are unexplained or which we cannot understand are not miracles, according to the Bible's definition and we just cannot afford to call such things "miracles" because **every miracle in the New Testament that Jesus did has an explanation**. This is kind of hard for us to understand, but we're studying what the Bible says about miracles and not what a preacher or church says about them.

John 20:30,31 teaches us why Jesus did so many miracles. *"And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book, but these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."*

The purpose of Jesus' doing miracles and having them written down in the New Testament was to bring faith to the hearts of people.

Romans 10:17 teaches, *"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."* It ties together. Miracles were done to bring faith, they were written down in the word of God and we have faith today by believing in those miracles and the rest of the word of God.

The miracles Jesus did in the New Testament happened immediately.

Have you ever heard on the radio or seen on the television someone who claimed to have a miracle done on them, but they weren't healed immediately? That's a sign that what happened was not a miracle at all because New Testament miracles happened immediately.

The blind man in John 9 didn't have to wait three months for his healing to take effect; he was healed right then and there.

When Jesus raised his friend, Lazarus, from the dead, John 11:39 says, *“Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.”* Mary and Martha, Lazarus’ sisters, didn’t have to wait for him to come out of the tomb; he came out right then and there.

It’s confusing to people today to read the Bible and see how the miracles of Jesus happened immediately and then listen to preachers who claim to be able to do miracles in the same way today. That’s the reason we’re going to study the miracles of Jesus – to find out what the Bible teaches and not what some people claim.

As you study these miracles, please check your map (on Pg. 24) and find as many places as possible where Jesus did his miracles. Also, be sure to read the scripture noted and underline passages that are interesting to you. And, as always, please feel free to ask any questions you may have.

TURNING THE WATER INTO WINE

Place: Cana

Read: John 2:1-11

The text: John mentions the calling of the twelve disciples in chapter 1, and, here in chapter 2, Jesus, his mother, Mary, and the disciples were attending a marriage feast. When they ran out of wine, Mary asked her son to do something about it and, even though Jesus really didn’t want to, he obeyed his mother. The Jews would purify water by putting it into stone jars (v 6) and each waterpot would contain (according to reports from that time) about 27 gallons apiece. So Jesus commanded that the six waterpots be filled with about 162 gallons of water and the water bearers took it to the governor of the feast (v 8). We would call this governor a “caterer” today. It surprised him that the best wine had been saved till last because, normally, the best wine would be served first and then the worst wine last. This was the first of Jesus’ many miracles (v 11).

What kind of wine did Jesus make? The governor of the feast called it “good wine” and it was obviously not the “worse wine” (v 10). Let’s check out a few things about wines in the New Testament.

- When we use the word “wine” today, we always mean alcoholic grape juice.
- But the New Testament word translated wine in our English Bibles is “oinos”, which could mean alcoholic grape juice, just plain grape juice or a special, expensive kind of spiced grape juice. This expensive spiced wine was called “good wine” according to writings from the New Testament day and this is probably the wine Jesus created from the water.
- Bible wines were often used for a medical purpose as Paul told Timothy in 1 Timothy 5:23, “Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach’s sake and thine often infirmities.” In Luke 10, the good Samaritan poured oil and wine onto the man’s wounds.
- Matthew 9 teaches that wine was kept in wineskins and you couldn’t pour new wine into old wineskins because it would split the skin. Jesus used this illustration to show that his gospel would replace the Old Testament as law for us.

So when you read of Jesus being accused of being a “**winebibber**” (Luke 7:34), you just can’t assume that he was drinking alcoholic grape juice. Some people today believe they can drink alcoholic grape juice because that’s what Jesus made in John 2. You just can’t prove that by the Bible.

Lessons learned: Jesus was obedient to his parents (Luke 2:52).

HEALING THE NOBLEMAN'S SON

Place: Capernaum

Read: John 4:46-64

The text: This second miracle of Jesus (v 54) was done at a distance. The nobleman (ruler) asked Jesus to come heal the man's son (v 47,49) and Jesus did so without even seeing the boy or touching him (v 50). (You certainly don't see that on television!) On his way home, the ruler met servants from his household who told him his son was healed at the same time Jesus said he was healed, about 1:00 pm, the seventh hour. (Remember the Jews counted time from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm, so the seventh hour would be 1:00 pm.) Notice the nobleman believed Jesus could do this miracle (v 50), but when he found out his son was healed, he "believed and his whole house" (v 54). The purpose of Jesus' miracles was to get people to believe and this second miracle served that purpose well.

Lessons learned: Jesus could do miracles from afar off as well as close up.

CATCHING MANY FISH

Place: the Sea of Galilee

Read: Luke 5:-11

The text: Another name for the Sea of Galilee is the "lake of Gennesaret" (v 1) and here Simon Peter, James and John had fished all night and had caught nothing (v 5). After Jesus had taught the crowd from Peter's boat (v 3), he told him to do a little more fishing (v 4). Peter was willing to listen to Jesus because he said "*nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net*" (v 5) which is a good thing for all of us to do – listen to the teachings of Jesus in spite of anything and everything. Peter, James and John, along with their partners, caught so many fish the net broke (v 6) and they filled both ships "*so that they began to sink*" (v 7). Peter got the point: "*Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, Oh Lord*" (v 8). Jesus then told them they would be fishers of men (v 11).

Lesson learned: Jesus had power even over nature.

CURING A MAN POSSESSED OF DEVILS

Place: Capernaum

Read: Mark 1:22-28

The text: When Jesus taught people, it was obvious that it just wasn't words – his teachings had authority (v 22). You can always tell a good Christian preacher from the other kind – the good preacher uses Bible in his lessons, the others use man-made teachings. In the synagogue in Capernaum was a man who had an unclean spirit (v 23) and who cried out, "*Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God*" (v 24). **Demons** in the New Testament are also called **devils, unclean spirits, evil spirits** and there was evidently more than one demon in this man. Notice this unclean spirit **1)** wanted nothing to do with Jesus, **2)** knew who he was **3)** knew where his home was and that **4)** Jesus was the holy one of God. This reminds us of James 2:19, "*Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.*" Remember that the devils were fallen angels (2 Peter 2; Jude) and they knew very well who Jesus was. When they came out of the man it caused the man some kind of injury and notice also that the devils cried with a loud voice (v 26). The result? The religious people in the synagogue were amazed because the devils even obeyed him (v 27).

Lesson learned: Jesus had power over Hell.

JESUS HEALS A CENTURION'S SERVANT

Place: Capernaum

Read: Matthew 8:5-13

The text: A centurion was a Roman military officer who commanded 100 soldiers. His command was called a "century" and the officer was called a "centurion", roughly equivalent to the rank of Captain in our army. This centurion's servant was paralyzed (sick of the palsy) (v 6) and Jesus offered to come and heal him, and as they went to the house (Luke 7:6), the centurion said, "*Speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed*" (v 8). He said this because he knew Jesus had the power to heal (v 9) and Jesus was amazed that this Gentile man had more faith than many Jews did (v 10).

"That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (vv 12,13). The Jews thought they were the only children of the kingdom, but Jesus here says that the Gentiles (those who come from east and west) will also be blessed by fellowship with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

NOTE: A large and very active religious group teaches that only a literal 144,000 will be specially saved at the second appearing of Christ. They teach that these people will be in the atmosphere of the earth ruling over lesser members of their organization who will remain on the earth (Revelation 7). This idea is false for two reasons:

- Revelation 7:4 "*And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.*" **Dan** and **Ephraim** are not in this number so, according to this group's doctrine, Joshua (of Ephraim) and Samson (of Dan) won't be able to be blessed.
- Jesus said the Gentiles would sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom. **Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were never part of the twelve tribes of Israel.**

Don't believe anything that is false.

Lesson learned: The gospel is for all men who obey the truth and the truth only.

JESUS CURES PETER'S MOTHER IN LAW

Place: Capernaum

Read: Mark 1:30,31

The text: Peter and Andrew, his brother, lived in the same house (v 29), where Peter's mother in law lay sick with a fever (v 30). Jesus healed her and "*immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them*" (v 31). There's another lesson we can learn from this miracle. The Catholic church teaches that Peter was the first Pope and we know that Catholic priests cannot be married. Therefore, Peter was never a Catholic priest because he was married! And if he was never a Catholic priest, he couldn't have been the first Pope. Also, 1 Corinthians 9:5 says, "*Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas?*" This "sister, a wife" evidently refers to the fact that Peter's wife was also a Christian.

Lesson learned: Jesus had power over physical illnesses.

JESUS HEALS A LEPER

Place: Capernaum

Read: Mark 1:40-45

The text: Jesus preached continually throughout all of Galilee (v 39) and now a leper comes to him to be cleansed (v 40). Leprosy is a horrible disease, for which there is no cure. Doctors say leprosy is caused by the same virus that causes tuberculosis, but affects the body in different ways – reddish, grayish or whitish scales appear on the body; parts of the body begin to peel off; ears, toes, fingers and parts of the nose fall off and finally death comes when parts of the body rot away and life functions stop. Doctors also say that the only animal in the world that carries leprosy naturally is the armadillo.

No wonder this man wanted to be cleansed – he was a walking death sentence! Jesus cleansed this leper “**immediately**” (v 42) and you just don’t see this type of thing on television, do you? Jesus told the leper to keep quiet about his healing and to go to the priest to confirm his now-clean state. (Read Leviticus 13 and 14 for a further discussion of the Old Testament teaching about leprosy.) The leper didn’t keep quiet about his healing and the crowds got so big Jesus had to go outside the city into deserted places (v 45).

Lesson learned: Jesus had power over incurable diseases.

JESUS HEALS A WIDOW’S SON

Place: Nain

Read: Luke 7:11-17

The text: This mother had lost her only son (v 12) and this was a double tragedy. In those days, widows were taken care of by their family and now that her only son was dead, this widow was not only heartbroken, but without support. That’s why Jesus had compassion on her and brought the young man back to life (vv 13,14). “**Compassion**” is an interesting word because it comes from a Greek word meaning “the very inner part of a person; his bowels.” Jesus felt this poor mother’s pain in the very depths of his heart and this is a good lesson for us even today. The people who saw this miracle got the point: only God could do such a thing (v 16).

Lesson learned: Jesus did miracles because of his love and concern for people.

LESSON TWO

JESUS CALMS THE STORM

Place: The Sea of Galilee

Read: Matthew 8:23-27

The text: After teaching and healing, Jesus must have been exhausted because when the great storm (tempest) arose on the Sea of Galilee, he was asleep, even when the ship was covered by the waves (v 24). The Sea of Galilee, even today, is known for sudden storms just like this one. Jesus told the disciples “*Oh, ye of little faith*” and calmed the sea (v 26). Faith is “**trust in God that he will keep his promises**” but these disciples, like us today, try to rely on our own seamanship as we plot our ways through life. We should always have faith in the Lord, but also remember, “faith without works is dead” (James 2:20). Jesus could calm the storm because the writer of Hebrews 1:2 teaches, “*Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.*”

Lesson learned: Jesus had power over nature.

JESUS CASTS OUT DEMONS FROM A MAN IN GADARA

Place: Gadara

Read: Matthew 8:28-34

The text: Check your map and you'll find Gadara just to the right of the Sea of Galilee in the area known as Decapolis. The people who lived here were called the Gergesenes (v 28) and they were also called the Gadarenes (Mark 5:1). Matthew mentions two men possessed of devils but Mark and Luke only speak of one man having the devils cast out of him (Mark 5:1-17; Luke 8:27-36). Mark's and Luke's accounts could mean that there was one man who was more violent than the other or it could mean that the demons were so much in the man that Matthew calls them two. We don't know, but we do know the Bible has no contradictions. Luke says the demons' name was Legion because they were many.

These devils knew that Jesus was the son of God and they did not want to be tormented "*before the time.*" The "**time**" here refers to the judgment day. It's interesting to note that Legion was part of those demons in Hell who believe and tremble (James 2:19) and we also note that in Acts 16:17, the demons in the girl said, "*These men are the servants of the most high God, which show unto us the way of salvation.*" **The devil and his angels know about God's anger because that's why they were sent to hell in the first place.**

The demons asked that Jesus cast them into the herd of swine (pigs) in verse 31 and Jesus granted their request (v 32) and the pigs rushed violently into the sea. Their keepers saw these things and ran into the city where they told the people what had happened (v 33).

NOTE: People today who claim to be able to cast out devils have never cast them into a herd of any kind of animal. Their claims are false.

Lesson learned: Only Jesus, the apostles and first century Christians could cast out demons.

JESUS CURES THE MAN WITH PALSY

Place: Capernaum

Read: Matthew 9:1-8

The text: Capernaum is described as "his own city" (v 1) and Jesus tells a man who is sick of the palsy that "*thy sins be forgiven thee*". In the New Testament days, "**palsy**" was the same thing as being paralyzed which is why this man was lying on a bed when he was brought to Jesus (v 2). This statement made the scribes angry and they accused him of blaspheming (v 3). Jesus puts the point right to them when he says, "*whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk*" (v 5).

Jesus' point was that these miracles could not be done unless God did them and, if Jesus could do miracles by the authority of God, he could also forgive sins (v 6). (It's amazing what people think when they refuse to see the truth).

After the paralyzed man was healed, Jesus "*departed to his house*" (v 7). This house must have been where Jesus was a guest because in Matthew 8:20, he says, "*The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head*" meaning Jesus did not own his own house.

NOTE: Jesus gave the apostles the ability to heal and the Holy Spirit gave those gifts to those upon whom the apostles laid their hands. But the ability to forgive sins comes only through the power of the gospel (Romans 1:16).

Lesson learned: Jesus' miracles were for the purpose of showing that he was God in the flesh.

**ON HIS WAY TO HEAL JAIRUS' DAUGHTER,
JESUS HEALS THE WOMAN WITH THE ISSUE OF BLOOD
THEN TWO BLIND MEN
AND THEN A DEAF/DUMB MAN
Place: Capernaum
Read: Matthew 9:18-35**

The text: Mark 5:22 tells us that Jairus was the name of this ruler of the Jews who wanted Jesus to come and bring his daughter back to life (v 18). On the way to Jairus' house, a woman with an "issue of blood" for twelve years had so much faith in Jesus that she just wanted to touch the bottom part of his garment to be healed (vv 20,21). He told her that her faith had made her whole that very hour and what faith it was (v 22).

NOTE: We do not know exactly what this "issue of blood" was but it must have been some sort of hemorrhage problem, perhaps connected with the woman's femininity.

When Jesus and the disciples got to Jairus' house, the mourners had already started the funeral process (v 23). Back in those days, when someone died, musicians (minstrels) played music and some people were even professional wailers! Jesus told them she was only asleep but they laughed at him because they knew she was dead. She slept the sleep of death waiting for the power of God, through Jesus, to bring her back to life and it happened (v 25).

Right after leaving Jairus' house, two blind men wanted Jesus to heal them and Jesus wanted to know if they had faith in him, to which they answered yes (v 28). (The other gospel writers do not record this miracle.) After he healed them, he instructed them to tell no one about it (v 30), but they were so thrilled they told it to anyone who would listen (v 31). Their faith was like the faith of the woman who had the issue of blood – it moved them to do something.

As they were evidently leaving the house, someone brought him a deaf and dumb man whose infirmities were caused by demon possession (v 32). The word "**dumb**" does not refer to this man's mental abilities, but, as it does always in the New Testament, refers to his inability to hear and speak.

Jesus cast out the devil and the man spoke, to which the people said, "*It was never so seen in Israel*" (v 33). Now, that got the Pharisees' attention because they didn't want to share the religious limelight with anyone, so they accused Jesus of doing miracles by the prince of the devils. Jesus ignored them on this occasion but at another time he said, "*How can Satan cast out Satan? And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand. And if Satan rise up against himself, and be divided, he cannot stand, but hath an end*" (Mark 3:23-26).

Lesson learned: Jesus' earthly ministry was full of miracles which he did.

JESUS CURES A LAME MAN

Read: John 5:1-16

Place: Jerusalem

The text: There was a five-porched pool in Jerusalem called Bethesda which had healing powers provided periodically from God by an angel and the first person who stepped in the water when the angel roiled it was cured (vv 1-4). A man sick for eight years lay by the pool (v 6) and when Jesus asked him if he would be made whole (v 6), the man said he had no one to race him to the pool when the angel troubled the water (v 7).

Jesus healed the man (v 8) and, again, we have that word “**immediately**” in verse 9; but the day was a sabbath day, so the Pharisees told him he couldn’t carry his bed (which they considered to be work) on the sabbath. They were really watchdogs, weren’t they? But the man had enough sense to tell them that if a man could heal him, he could also tell him to carry his bed (v 11), even though the lame man didn’t even know the name of the one who healed him (v 13). (The word “**wist**” in verse 13 means “**know**.”) Jesus told him to “*sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee*” (v 14). Being lost in sin is worse than being physically lame. The Jews then wanted to kill Jesus because he had done these things on the sabbath day (v 16).

Lesson learned: Jesus was lord even of the sabbath day and it’s right to do good on any day of the week.

CURING THE MAN WITH THE WITHERED HAND

Place: Judea

Read: Matthew 12:10-13

The text: Here they go again. There was a man with a dried-up, paralyzed (withered) hand and the Pharisees asked Jesus if it was lawful to heal on the sabbath day (v 10). Jesus had already answered that question (vv 3-8), but that wasn’t enough to satisfy these dried-up religious people. He tells them that a shepherd would help a sheep in an emergency and a man is much more important in God’s sight than a sheep (v 11).

NOTE: We may think, “What’s wrong with these people? Can’t they just accept these things and believe in Jesus?” But, before we get too rough with these people, let’s remember that we sometimes do the same thing today.

The Bible may teach something that we don’t agree with, so we argue with God! We say, “**Well, that’s just your opinion**” or “**My church teaches it differently than the Bible**” or “**My heart teaches me differently from what the Bible teaches.**” For example, when Jesus says that fornication is the only cause for divorce (Matthew 5 and Matthew 19), we argue with him and get divorced for any old reason. Think about it.

Lesson learned: Jesus doesn’t approve of churches, feelings or opinions that are against the teachings of the Bible.

LESSON THREE

HEALING ANOTHER DEMON-POSSESSED PERSON

Place: Capernaum

Read: Matthew 12:22,23

The text: The devil in this man showed itself by making the man blind and deaf (dumb) (v 22) which amazed the people who rightly concluded that Jesus was the son of David (v 23). But the Pharisees just wouldn't let this thing drop. They accused Jesus of casting out devils by **Beelzebub**, the prince of the devils (v 24). **Nowhere** in the Old Testament is Beelzebub mentioned and this is important because Beelzebub was a concoction of the Pharisees' **tradition**. Their tradition had created something out of the air that wasn't even in the Bible and here they were accusing Jesus of doing something by the authority of a thing not even in the Bible. *"Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition"* (Mark 7:9).

NOTE: Do we do this today? It's a tradition of men to baptize babies, but there is absolutely nothing in the Bible about that. It's a tradition to call preachers "Reverend" but the **only** time this word is used in the Bible is in Psalm 111:9 and then it refers to God! It's a tradition to call some preachers "Father" but Jesus said in Matthew 23:9, *"call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven."* It's a tradition to take the Lord's Supper anytime we want to, but Acts 20:7 teaches it was taken on the first day of the week. Where does this nonsense come from? It comes from **men trying to be religious**, but they only end up being wrong.

Lesson learned: The **Bible** teaches something, that settles it and we believe it.

JESUS FEEDS OVER FIVE THOUSAND PEOPLE

Read: Matthew 14:15-21

Place: Decapolis

The text: Check your map and see where Decapolis is located. People followed Jesus all throughout his ministry (v 13) and because he loved them, he healed them and taught them (v 14). But it got late and the disciples told him to send the people away so that they could take care of themselves (v 15). Jesus told the disciples to feed them (v 16), but they only had five loaves and two fishes (v 17). Jesus took this small lunch bag and not only fed the crowd (v 19), but they had twelve baskets full of leftovers (v 20). We know there were 5000 men, but we don't know how many women and children there were (v 21), so he fed over 5000 people at this time.

Lesson learned: Jesus did miracles sometimes because of his compassionate love for people.

JESUS HEALS A CANAANITE WOMAN'S DEVIL-POSSESSED DAUGHTER

Place: Near Tyre

Read: Matthew 15:21-28

The text: Check your map and find the two cities of Tyre and Sidon on the seacoast of Palestine. This unnamed Canaanite woman had a daughter who was possessed with a devil and she begged Jesus to do something for her (v 22). But he did a strange thing: he refused to answer her. The disciples got tired of her constant nagging and crying so they told him to send her away (v 23) to which he replied, *"I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel"* (v 24).

This is not a cruel thing at all because Jesus was to go to the “Jew first, and also to the Greek” (Romans 1:16b). It wasn’t time for the gospel to go to the Gentile people because that would come after Acts 2 in Acts 10 with the conversion of Cornelius and his household.

But this lady kept on and even worshipped him, still wanting his help (v 25). Jesus again said something that really was not cruel, “*It is not meet to take the children’s bread and to cast it to dogs*” (v 26). “**Meet**” means “**suitable**” and “**dogs**” is a reference to anyone who was not a Jew.

Why did he say this thing? We don’t know, but perhaps it was to test her; anyway, she kept at it until Jesus granted her request. He did what she wanted because this woman had great faith in him. She had to, because she worshipped him.

Lesson learned: Sometimes even we today need to ask the Lord for blessings more than just one time.

JESUS HEALS A DEAF AND DUMB MAN

Place: Decapolis

Read: Mark 7:31-37

The text: Mark also records the healing of the Canaanite woman’s daughter but adds this healing which Jesus did for a deaf and dumb man (v 32). This healing was different from many others because Jesus said only one word and also did something which many would think was a little gross: he put his fingers in his ears and he spit, then touched the man’s tongue (v 33). While doing this, he said “**Ephphatha**” which is a word meaning “open up” (v 34) and the man’s tongue was loosened up and he spoke. It impressed the people so much that they said, “*He hath done all things well*” (v 37).

Lesson learned: Anything Jesus did was well done and anything Jesus taught must be well received.

JESUS FEEDS ABOUT FOUR THOUSAND

Place: Decapolis

Read: Matthew 15:32-39

The text: Here we are back in Decapolis where Jesus fed the 5000 + and he astounds the multitude with his teachings and healings (vv 30,31). They had been with Jesus for three whole days and had nothing to eat and he intended to feed them (v 32). You’d think that the disciples would have learned the lesson of the 5000, but they hadn’t (v 33). They told Jesus this time they had seven loaves and a few little fishes (v 34), so he took this small amount of food and this time fed 4000 men, plus women and children (v 38) and even had seven baskets full of leftovers (v 37).

NOTE: This is astounding that the disciples hadn’t learned the lesson of the 5000. We want to make the point that not only the religious people refused to listen to Jesus, but sometimes his own disciples had a hard time following him. When we teach people today, the biggest problem we have is getting them to accept the Bible and just the Bible in order to go to heaven. And we also have the same problem with the church – the church needs to be taught over and over again what it means to live like a Christian.

Lesson learned: Jesus sometimes did the same thing over and over and he taught the same things over and over because he knows us – we don’t learn unless we have things repeated.

JESUS CURES A DEVIL-POSSESSED BOY

Place: Someplace after the Mount of Transfiguration incident, possibly Mount Tabor

Read: Mark 9:14-29

The text: When someone is teaching the truth, there is always someone else trying to either undo or question what is being taught. It's true today and it was true when Jesus was on earth. The scribes were questioning the multitude (v 14), but when Jesus came on the scene, the people left the scribes and ran to Jesus (v 15), which must have made these scribes pretty much upset.

Jesus asked the scribes what they were asking the people, and they pointed out a man with a demon-possessed deaf son whom Jesus' disciples couldn't cast out (v 18). This poor boy's body was torn by the demon in him and you know the father must have been beside himself with worry and fatherly concern. It frustrated Jesus that his disciples didn't have enough faith (v 19), so he had the boy brought to him and when the boy came, that demon convulsed the poor boy and threw him on the ground where he wallowed foaming at the mouth. This possession had been with the boy since he was a child and even cast him into fire and water in attempts to kill the boy (v 21).

NOTE: In Revelation 9, the angel of the bottomless pit (Satan) was given a key to the pit and his armies were allowed by God to come out on the earth to torment men "five months"; that is, a short period of time. One of the things said about this army from Hell is that *"it was given that they **should not kill them**, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man"* (v 5). The demon in the boy tried to kill the young man, but couldn't because here is no record in the New Testament where a demon-possessed person was killed by the demon in them.

Jesus told the man, *"If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth"* (v 23) and this was said probably to teach a lesson to the disciples as well as to the man. The man said, *"Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief"* (v 24) which means he believed Jesus could heal his son, but in his heart of hearts really didn't. The Lord cast out the "dumb and deaf spirit" and the demon tore the poor boy one more time so that it seemed as if he was dead, but wasn't (vv 25,26).

The disciples asked Jesus *"why could not we cast him out?"* (v 28), to which Jesus replied, *"This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting"* (v 29). Demons could not kill people but this one sure tried with this boy and that made this particular demon worse than the rest and the disciples had to have dedicated hearts in order to cast this kind out.

NOTE: The ability to cast out demons in the New Testament days was a gift of God through the Holy Spirit, but it looks like the dedication and faith of the disciples were also factors to be considered. No demon could stand up to Jesus and win the fight and he was teaching his disciples that no demon would stand up to them either, but they needed faith as well.

Lesson learned: Trust in God that he will always keep his promises

LESSON FOUR

JESUS HEALS A MAN BORN BLIND

Place: Jerusalem

Read: John 9:1-41

The text: This is the longest account of any miracle done by Jesus and he took this opportunity to teach against a religious theory those folks had in those days.

The disciples asked Jesus, “*who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?*” (v 2). The reason they asked this question was they also believed this false religious theory. What was this theory? People in those days believed that if a person was sick, blind, leprous or maimed, it was **because God was punishing them for some sin they had committed**. People also believed that if a person had money, God was specially blessing him and if a person was poor, **God was punishing them for some sin**. The disciples believed this theory and asked if the man was blind because he sinned or was he blind because his parents sinned?

NOTE: This same kind of thinking is also in our world today, isn't it? A person dies in a car wreck and someone says, “God took him.” A baby dies unexpectedly and someone says, “God needed another angel in heaven.” **God is not in the murdering business.** Jesus answers this problem in John 9.

“*Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents*” (v 3a). God doesn't punish, cripple or kill anyone because of some sin they, or their parents, have done. Ezekiel 18:20 teaches, “*The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son.” Sin is something we do in rebellion against God's law (1 John 3:4) and often we pay for our sins – the alcoholic runs the risk of cirrhosis of the liver, the adulterer runs the risk of venereal disease, the homosexual runs the risk of AIDS, etc.*

Jesus heals this man-born-blind by spitting on the ground, taking the clay and then anointing the eyes of the man, which is unusual because this is the only time he did such a thing while doing his miracles (v 6). The man obeyed Jesus and went to the pool of Siloam, washed himself and could see (v 7) which amazed his neighbors (v 8,9). The man testifies (v 11) of the miracle and then he was brought before the Pharisees (v 13). What follows is typical of religious people who refuse to believe plain truth.

- They must have thought within themselves, “Here comes this fellow healing on the sabbath again.” The **sabbath** is a word meaning rest. Numerically it is the seventh day of the week, our **Saturday**. It is so named because in the creation God ended his work and rested on the seventh day (Gen 2:2).

NOTE: Saturday is not the day of Christian worship; the first day of the week (our **Sunday**) is. Sunday is not the **mark of the beast** of Revelation; the two beasts of chapter 13 and chapter 17 were the two Roman emperors in the first century that persecuted the church.

Colossians 2:16,17 teaches, “*Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days, which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.*” Under the Old Testament, the sabbath was a shadow, but the New Testament is substance.

- The Pharisees said Jesus couldn't be of God because he healed on the sabbath, but others said he must be from God because he did heal (v 16).

- The healed blind man drew the only conclusion he could have drawn; he said Jesus was a prophet (v 17) and the Pharisees called his parents because they didn't believe him (v 18).
- The parents said he was indeed born blind (v 20) and didn't know anything about his healing (v 21); they should ask him. The parents were afraid of the Pharisees because they didn't want to be put out of the synagogue (v 22).

NOTE: Sometimes when the truth is taught and people believe it, they're afraid to obey the Bible because they may be put out of the church. **We must always do what is right regardless of what it costs us.**

- What hypocrites these Pharisees were! They told the man to give God the praise and not Jesus because everyone is a sinner (v 24). They were hypocrites because only God could heal and if Jesus healed, it meant he was from God, but they were so religiously blind and filled with hatred that they couldn't see what was in front of them.
- The man told them they wouldn't believe what he told them anyway (v 27), but they insulted him, preferring Moses over Jesus (vv 28,29), to which the man answered in amazement, *"Why herein is a marvelous thing, that ye know not from whence he is he, and yet he hath opened mine eyes"* (v 30). The Pharisees should have accepted the truth, but they didn't. The same is true today: **religious hatred and prejudice are the worst kinds of thinking**
- Then this man says something which is just as true today: *"Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshiper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth. Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. If this man were not of God, he could do nothing."* God listens to people who listen to him. God listens to people who believe and obey the Bible. People who add things to God's worship and who say "The Bible says that, but I'm going to believe what my church says" do not have the ear of God and will be lost at the judgment day.
- The Pharisees told him he was born in sin (v 34), and this is another amazing thing because their own Bible, the Old Testament, taught differently in Ezekiel 18:20. **When people get a religious idea in their heads that is not taught in the Bible, they'll usually go with their own thinking rather than what God says and this is the devil working in them.**
- Jesus meets the man again and wanted to know if he believed on the son of God (v 35), to which the man answered he would if he knew who he was (v 36).
- Jesus told the man, *"Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee"* (v 37) and the man confessed his faith and worshipped Jesus (v 38).

Lesson learned: People are responsible for their own sins and had better believe the Bible's teachings to get forgiveness.

JESUS HEALS THE LAME WOMAN

Place: Galilee

Read: Luke 13:11-17

The text: While Jesus was teaching in the synagogues on the sabbath (v 10), a woman with a *"spirit of infirmity"* for eighteen years came to him. Her poor little body was so deformed that she was "bowed together" meaning she couldn't straighten up (v 11). Jesus freed her (v 12) by laying hands on her (v 13) and she was "made straight."

The ruler of the synagogue (what we today might call the chairman) got mad and told the people that nobody should heal on the sabbath day (v 14). Jesus called him a hypocrite because he would take care of his animals on the sabbath (v 15), but he wouldn't lift a finger on the sabbath day to help this lady who had been bound eighteen years (v 16).

Lesson learned: It is not only right to teach the truth any day of the week, but we must accept the gospel truth regardless of our religious thinking.

HEALING THE MAN OF DROPSY

Place: Galilee

Read: Luke 14:1-6

The text: What in the world is dropsy? It's when your body retains fluid and can't get rid of it. It's very painful and we have medicines today that can help such as Lasix. When the body can't get rid of the fluid, it can also cause heart problems with death resulting. This is the only time in the record we have of Jesus' miracles that he healed someone of dropsy.

It was the sabbath (again) and Jesus was having a meal with one of the chief Pharisees (v 1) when this dropsical man came on the scene. Before healing him, he asked, "*Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath day?*" (v 3), but the Pharisees kept their mouths shut, possibly because they wanted to see for themselves if he would heal the man or maybe they didn't want to give up their religious hatred.

After Jesus healed the man and left him (v 4), he told them (again) that if their donkey fell into a pit on Saturday, they'd haul him out on the sabbath (v 5), which pretty much shut them up (v 6).

Lesson learned: Religious people will always have a problem with the truth if it goes against their religious opinions.

JESUS CLEANSSES TEN LEPERS

Place: Somewhere in the midst of Samaria and Galilee

Read: Luke 17:11-19

The text: Ten men who had the disease of leprosy asked Jesus to have mercy on them (v 13) and he told them to go show themselves to the priests (v 14), which is what Leviticus 13:1-3 required. They were healed while on their journey (v 14) even before they got to the priests.

NOTE: We've mentioned about how horrible and incurable leprosy is – parts of the body fall off until death results. The law of Moses commanded that lepers not mix with the general population, but must always keep to themselves. People who lived and wrote in those days say that part of lepers' misery was that they had to carry a bell with them and whenever someone approached, they would ring the bell and shout "Unclean, unclean."

Now, the story gets interesting. Ten men were cleansed, but only one came back to thank Jesus (v 15,16). This cleansed leper was a Samaritan who, as we've learned, were hated by the Jews even more than they hated Gentiles, dogs and pigs. Jesus must have been sad when he said, "*Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?*" (v 17). He sent the Samaritan away with the assurance, "*thy faith hath made thee whole*" (v 19).

Lesson learned: Ingratitude is a nasty thing to practice.

JESUS RAISES LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD

Place: Bethany

Read: John 11:1-46

The text: Though he loved all men, even Jesus had his favorite friends such as Peter, James and John and Mary, Martha and Lazarus: as a matter of fact, Jesus loved Mary, Martha and Lazarus (v 5). Check your map for the location of Bethany: it's about 2 miles just to the east of Jerusalem. Lazarus had fallen sick (v 3) and Jesus said his sickness would be for the glory of God (v 4), so Jesus stayed behind (v 6). When Jesus wanted to go back into Judea, to Bethany which was close to Jerusalem, his disciples were afraid for him (v 8). But Jesus said basically the same thing he said in John 9:4, that he must work while it is day, and that people who walked in the light wouldn't stumble (vv 9,10).

When Jesus said Lazarus slept and that he would wake him up (v 11), the disciples thought that sleep would do any sick person good (v 12,13), but Jesus knew Lazarus was dead (v 14). Lazarus must also have been loved by the rest of the disciples because Thomas wanted to die with him (v 16). Lazarus had been dead four days (v 17) by the time Jesus got to Bethany.

Martha met Jesus and said Lazarus wouldn't have died if Jesus had been there (v 21), but whatever Jesus wanted to do, God would hear (v 22). Martha knew about the resurrection because when Jesus said Lazarus would rise again, she thought he was talking about the resurrection of the dead. Jesus told her, *"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"* (Vv 25,26). Martha surely did (v 27).

Martha went to the house to get Mary and Mary went quickly to meet Jesus (vv 28,29) where he was waiting for her (v 30). Mary was heartbroken (v 32) and so was Jesus in that he *"groaned in the spirit and was troubled"* (v 33). Jesus cried when he saw Mary's sorrow (v 35). The Jews put some blame on Jesus because he performed many wondrous miracles, but did nothing for his good friend (v 37). So they came to where Lazarus was buried in a cave (v 38) and a stone lay across the mouth of the cave.

NOTE: In the New Testament days, they would bury a person in a tomb which was sometimes hacked out of rock or they buried them in a natural cave which would be blocked by a stone.. Here the body would stay until it rotted away down to the bare bones and then the family would take the bones and put them into a family box called an "ossuary" where the bones of other family members were kept. Do you remember the recent story about such a box being found which supposedly contained the bones of James, the Lord's brother? That box was also called an "ossuary." We don't know whose bones were in this recently discovered ossuary, but the outside has the inscription, "James, the son of Joseph, the brother of Jesus." The jury is still out on this case.

Jesus commanded the stone to be rolled away, but practical Martha said that, after four days in the tomb, Lazarus stunk (v 39), to which Jesus replied that he had told her she would see the glory of God (v 40). After praying to God (vv 41,42), Jesus cried loudly, *"Lazarus come forth"* (v 43) and to everybody's amazement, Lazarus came out still bound in his grave clothes (v 44). What a time! Some of the Jews believed (v 45), but some went to tattle to the Pharisees.

NOTE: There is absolutely nothing in the scripture of what Lazarus had to say about anything before or after his death. If men had written the Bible, there would be long chapters devoted to what he had to say while in the grave, but the New Testament is totally silent. This is another proof that the Bible came from God and not man.

Lesson learned: Jesus was human and could cry, but still all he did was to the glory of God.

JESUS HEALS TWO BLIND MEN

Place: Jericho

Read: Matthew 20:29-34

The text: In Matthew's and Luke's account of this healing, there were two blind men, but in Mark's account (10:46), there is only one mentioned and his name was Bartimaeus. Why were two mentioned in Matthew and Luke and only one in Mark? The answer is simple: Mark's gives one man's name, but the other man is not named. Each author of the four gospels told the same story, but with different points of emphasis and this case shows that the writers did not give up their individuality. Besides, there are no contradictions in the Bible.

The blind men shouted out for mercy (v 31), but the people told them to quit bothering Jesus, but they cried out even harder (v 32). Jesus asked them what they wanted (v 32) and they said, "*Lord, that our eyes may be opened*" (v 33). He felt sorry for them, touched their eyes and they were healed (v 34).

Lesson learned: Don't let anyone stop you from doing what is right and good.

JESUS CURSES THE FIG TREE

Place: Mount Olivet

Read: Matthew 21:18-22

The text: In chapter 21, Jesus was very busy in Jerusalem. He came into the city riding on the offspring (foal) of a donkey in fulfillment of Zechariah 9:9, "*...behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.*" He didn't ride upon the donkey, but upon the colt. The people welcomed him by putting their clothes in his path or by putting tree branches on his route (v 8). He then cast out the moneychangers in the temple (v 12), healed people (v 14) and again tried to do something with those scribes and chief priests (vv 15, 16).

He left Jerusalem and went the about two miles back to Bethany (v 17) and on his way he came upon a fig tree but couldn't eat from it because it had no figs, only leaves (v 19). He told that tree that no fruit would ever grow on it again (v 19).

NOTE: Jesus did his miracles so that people would believe that he was God in the flesh and here he uses this fig tree to illustrate some lessons that his disciples really needed.

- If they believed strongly in him, they would be able to do great things, even to the point of casting mountains into the sea (v 21). Folks, this was a reference to the wonderful things done by the disciples in the name of Jesus in the first century when real miracles were done to prove that God and his message were now on earth (v 21).
- The thing that would last beyond the first century would be believing people's confidence that our prayers would be answered (v 22). God always answers the prayers of Christians, but not the prayers of unbelievers. Here is how he answers our prayers:
 - He answers "yes" because we're asking for the right thing and for our own good
 - He answers "no" and we do not doubt his wisdom
 - He answers "not now, but later."
 - He answers, "no, because it's not good for you."

- Whatever he answers, we accept it.

Prayer is not a miracle; it is a **blessing** given by God to his children. Remember, miracles were things done in spite of natural law and were done to bring faith to those who saw them. **Prayer is a privilege given by God to people who already believe.**

Lesson learned: Christians must bear fruit for Jesus or die spiritually and eternally.

LESSON FIVE

JESUS HEALS THE EAR OF MALCHUS

Place: the Garden of Gethsemane

Read: Luke 22:50,51; Mark 14:47; Matthew 26:51 John 18:10

The text: Jesus and the disciples have already taken the last supper and Judas now brings the soldiers to the place where Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. The signal to identify Jesus was a kiss from Judas. When the soldiers saw who Judas kissed, they advanced on Jesus to take him, but Peter took his sword and cut off the right ear of Malchus, a servant of the high priest, whose ear Jesus healed. Right here at the very last of his life, Jesus was still doing miracles because he loved the people.

We need to learn a real good lesson from this gathering in the garden. Let's look at all four Biblical accounts of this incident:

Mark 14:47 says: "*And one of them that stood by drew a sword, and smote a servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear.*" From Mark's account, we learn:

- Somebody there had a **sword**
- That person used the sword to cut off the **ear** of a **servant** of the high priest

Luke 22:50 says: "*And one of them smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear.*" From Luke's account, we learn:

- Somebody there had a **sword**
- That person used the sword to cut off the **right** ear of a **servant** of the high priest

Matthew 26:51 says: "*And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest's, and smote off his ear.*" From Matthew's account, we learn:

- The person who had a sword was with Jesus and was one of his **disciples**
- A disciple of Jesus cut off the high priest's servant's **ear**

John 18:10 says: "*Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.*" From John's account, we learn:

- The disciple who had the sword was **Peter**
- He cut off the **right ear** of the high priest's servant
- The high priest's servant was named **Malchus**

We do not know the whole story until we read all four accounts of what happened in the Garden of Gethsemane. THIS IS A GREAT LESSON ON HOW TO INTERPRET THE BIBLE CORRECTLY WHICH IS THE WAY GOD WANTS US TO:

- Take all the scriptures on a subject
- Draw your conclusion based on all the scriptures on that subject
- Don't let your conclusion go against any of the scriptures
- Teach others what your conclusion is

You can work this principle throughout your entire time in studying and teaching the Bible. It will never fail you because it makes only sense to interpret the Bible in this way. Here are a few examples on how to work this principle.

SALVATION

- **We are saved by grace through faith**

"By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God" (Romans 5:2).

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8).

- **We are saved when we repent of our sins**

"...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3)

"For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death" (2 Corinthians 7:10).

- **We are saved when we confess Christ as the son of God**

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Romans 10:9).

"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 10:32).

- **We are saved when we are baptized into Christ**

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16).

"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38)

We take all of these scriptures and draw the conclusion that if a person wants to be saved from their sins, he responds to the **grace** of God with **faith**, which leads him to **repent** of his sins, **confess** Christ as the son of God and be **baptized** for the forgiveness (remission) of sins.

Makes sense, doesn't it? Now, let's put into practice what we've learned draw a few more conclusions about our salvation

- We are to believe in Christ as the son of God and be baptized
- Some people will not believe in Christ as the son of God
- Therefore, those people are not to be baptized
- We are to believe, repent and confess Christ to be saved
- We are also to be baptized to be saved
- Therefore, if a person believes, repents and confesses Christ is not baptized, he is not saved

Another good example of this principle is what the New Testament teaches about the Lord's Supper.

- **The Lord's supper today is to have bread as a part of it.**

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body" (Matthew 26:26).

- **The Lord's supper today is to have fruit of the vine (grape juice) as a part of it.**

"And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it" (Matthew 26:27).

- **The bread is for us to remember the body of Jesus which was crucified for us.**

"And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19)

- **The fruit of the vine (grape juice) is for us to remember the blood of Jesus which was shed for our sins.**

"This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you" (Luke 22:20).

- **Jesus would not eat with them until the kingdom had come**

"I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God" (Luke 22:16).

- **The church ate the Lord's supper on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2, which was the first day of the week**

"And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42).

- **The early church ate the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week (our Sunday)**

"And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight" (Acts 20:7).

- **The first century church remembered the body and blood of the Lord when they ate the Lord's supper**

“For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come. Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body” (1 Corinthians 11:23-29).

We take all these scriptures about the Lord's supper and draw the conclusion that whenever Christians come together to **worship** on the **first day of the week**, the Lord's day (our Sunday), we eat **unleavened bread** to remind us of Christ's **body** and we drink **grape juice** to remind us of the saving **blood** of the Lord Jesus.

Now, draw some more conclusions about the Lord's supper.

- We are to eat the supper till he come (1 Corinthians 11:26)
- The early church ate the supper every Sunday as a part of their worship (Acts 20:7)
- Therefore, we are to eat the supper every Sunday as a part of our worship
- The unleavened bread and fruit of the vine are what we eat today
- Leavened bread, milk or water are not bread and grape juice
- Therefore, adding anything to the supper is not a part of our worship and is displeasing to God

Here's something for you to also consider when you're drawing some conclusions about the Lord's supper.

- 1 Corinthians 16:2 teaches, *“Upon the **first day of the week** let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”*
- Acts 20:7 teaches, *“And upon the **first day of the week**, when the disciples came together to break bread (eat the Lord's supper), Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.”*
- Therefore, we are to give our money on the first day of the week and also take the Lord's supper on the first day of the week.

If churches have the time to give their money every first day of the week, why can't they use the same reasons to take the Lord's supper every first day of the week.

Is money more important than the Lord's supper? I don't think so, but churches today seem to believe it because they take up a collection every Sunday, but don't eat the Lord's supper every Sunday..

Lesson learned: Take all of what the Bible teaches on any Bible subject – and then do what it says.

THE BIG FISH HAUL

Place: Sea of Galilee

Read: John 21:1-14

The background: Jesus made his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, instituted the Lord's supper at the feast of passover, taught his disciples for the last time, was betrayed by Judas, tried before the high priest, tried before Herod, killed on the cross, buried in the ground and resurrected from the dead.

The apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:6, "*And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures and that he was seen of **Cephas**, then of the **twelve**; after that, he was seen of above **five hundred brethren** at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of **James**; then of **all the apostles**. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.*" **The resurrection of Jesus was a witnessed event to prove with human eyes that he was dead no more.**

The text: This is one of the times he showed himself to the apostles and it is the third time (v 14). Peter, James and John were fishermen and when Peter said he wanted to go fish, the others came along with him, but caught nothing after fishing all night (v 3). They didn't recognize Jesus on the shore (v 4) even though he was close enough to ask them if they had eaten (v 5). He then told them to cast their net on the right side of the boat which they did and got a huge haul of fish (v 6).

John (the disciple whom Jesus loved) said it was the Lord and Peter put on his clothes (because he was naked) and jumped into the sea to get to the Lord (v 7). The other disciples were about 300 feet from the shore and followed, dragging the full net (v 8). Jesus had fixed a meal of fish for them and bread also (v 9), then told them to bring the haul of fish (v 10). Peter hauled 153 big fish onto the shore and, remarkably, the net was not even broken (v 11). Peter must have been quite a strong man! No one asked Jesus who he was while they ate (vv 12,13) because they knew it was the Lord.

What follows is interesting. Jesus asks Peter three times if he loved him and Peter answers "yes" all three times, to which Jesus commands him, "**Feed my sheep.**" The purpose of this discussion with Peter is to teach him that working with people to teach them to become Christians and to teach them to grow as Christians is the reason the church is in existence.

The lesson must have worked with Peter for he said in 2 Peter 3:18, "*But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.*"

Lesson learned: We can know a lot of things in the Bible, but our knowledge is for the purpose of teaching people how to become faithful Christians so that when they die, they will go to heaven.

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LESSONS WE HAVE LEARNED FROM A STUDY OF THE MIRACLES OF JESUS

- A miracle is when God stops the natural course of things and makes the deaf hear, the lame walk, the blind see, the devils cast out and the dead come back to life.
- The primary purpose of miracles was to bring about faith in God and faith in Jesus, the Christ
- Another purpose of miracles was to confirm the word spoken by the apostles and first century Christians.
- Now that all of God's word has been spoken from heaven (all scripture), there is no more need for miracles today.
- Miracles done in the New Testament were instant and did not require a long period of time to develop
- The miracles of Jesus showed his power over all natural things
- The miracles of Jesus showed his power over Satan and the devils in hell
- The miracles of Jesus showed his love for people who were afflicted
- The miracles of Jesus always proved his point to his disciples

We're not mad at anybody when we study the Bible, but want to know and teach the truth. Now, let's do some comparing.

COMPARING BIBLE MIRACLES TO PRESENT DAY CLAIMED MIRACLES

True Bible Miracles

- Always immediate
- The dead were raised
- Incurable diseases were cured
- Miracles were always free
- Miracles were done calmly

- Jesus, the apostles and first century Christians could do miracles
- Miracles were to confirm the word spoken

- Miracles were real

Present Day Claimed Miracles

Never immediate
The dead are never raised
Incurable diseases are never cured
Money is charged or requested today
There is always a highly emotional atmosphere today
There are no apostles alive today to pass on the gift of miracles
There is no more word being spoken from heaven because the Bible is complete
So-called miracles today are false

God bless you as you continue your study of the Bible.

**THIS CONCLUDES YOUR STUDY
OF THE MIRACLES OF JESUS, THE CHRIST
IT ALSO CONCLUDES YOUR STUDIES
IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST**

**NOW, PLEASE ANSWER
THE QUESTIONS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES AND RETURN ONLY
THE TEST QUESTIONS
TO US FOR GRADING
THE STUDY MATERIAL IS YOURS TO KEEP**



**TEST QUESTIONS
THE MIRACLES OF
JESUS, THE CHRIST
PART 4**

YOUR NAME _____

YOUR ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

WHERE DO YOU GO TO CHURCH? _____

LESSON ONE

True false (Check the correct answer)

- | | | | | |
|--|---|-------|---|-------|
| 1. Miracles in the New Testament days happened immediately | T | _____ | F | _____ |
| 2. Miracles in the New Testament days were also done by the apostles | T | _____ | F | _____ |
| 3. Jesus turned water into wine in the city of Tyre | T | _____ | F | _____ |
| 4. Demons are different from devils | T | _____ | F | _____ |
| 5. Demons, devils and unclean spirits refer to the same thing | T | _____ | F | _____ |
| 6. Leprosy is an incurable disease | T | _____ | F | _____ |
| 7. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were never part of the twelve tribes of Israel | T | _____ | F | _____ |
| 8. Armadillos carry the disease of leprosy naturally | T | _____ | F | _____ |
| 9. A Roman centurion commanded 250 soldiers | T | _____ | F | _____ |
| 10. In the New Testament, the word "wine" means several kinds of grape juice | T | _____ | F | _____ |
| 11. The apostle Peter was the first Roman Catholic pope | T | _____ | F | _____ |
| 12. People today can do miracles just like Jesus did | T | _____ | F | _____ |
| 13. Miracles were done to cause faith in people who saw them | T | _____ | F | _____ |
| 14. You can see miracles done on television today | T | _____ | F | _____ |
| 15. In Revelation 7, Dan and Ephraim are the two tribes left out of the list | T | _____ | F | _____ |

Match the lessons learned with the miracle done

- | | | | |
|-------|-----------------------------------|----------|---|
| _____ | Turning the water into wine | A | Jesus had power over hell |
| _____ | Healing the nobleman's son | B | Jesus could do miracles from afar off as well as close up |
| _____ | Catching many fish | C | The gospel is for all men who obey the truth |
| _____ | Curing a man possessed of devils | D | Jesus was obedient to his parents |
| _____ | Jesus heals a centurion's servant | E | Jesus had power over incurable diseases |
| _____ | Jesus cures Peter's mother in law | F | Jesus had power over nature |
| _____ | Jesus heals a leper | G | Jesus did miracles because of his love and concern for people |
| _____ | Jesus heals a widow's son | H | Jesus had power over physical illness |

LESSON TWO

Fill in the blanks

1. Faith is _____ in God that he will _____ his _____.
2. Jesus doesn't approve of _____, feelings or _____ that against the _____ of the _____.
3. Jesus' _____ were for the purpose of showing that he was _____ in the _____.
4. People today who _____ to be able to cast out devils have _____ cast them into a _____ of any kind of _____.
5. Only _____, the _____ and first century _____ could cast out _____.

True false (Check the correct answer)

- | | | |
|---|---------|---------|
| 1. Churches who don't do what the Bible teaches are still right | T _____ | F _____ |
| 2. The devils in hell believe in God | T _____ | F _____ |
| 3. The people of Gadara are also called Nazarenes | T _____ | F _____ |
| 4. Jesus owned a house in Capernaum | T _____ | F _____ |
| 5. The word "wist" means to "know" | T _____ | F _____ |

LESSON THREE

Multiple choice (Circle the correct answer)

1. How many baskets of leftovers did the disciples have when Jesus fed the 5000? **A** 8
B 4 **C** 12
2. The word "Ephphatha" means **A** Open up **B** Close up **C** Bethlehem
3. How many baskets of leftovers did the disciples have when Jesus fed the 4000? **A** 8
B 12 **C** 4 **D** 7
4. The demon whom the disciples could not cast out could only be cast out by **A** Jesus
B Prayer and fasting **C** Both of these
5. When we have religious beliefs today, they must come from **A** Our churches
B The Bible **C** Our feelings **D** Our opinions

Match the lessons learned with the miracles done

- | | | |
|--|----------|--|
| _____ Healing another demon-possessed person | A | Sometimes today we need to ask the Lord's blessings more than once |
| _____ Jesus feeds over 5000 people | B | Trust in God that he will keep his promises |
| _____ Jesus heals a Canaanite woman's daughter | C | Anything Jesus did was well done |
| _____ Jesus heals a deaf and dumb man | D | The Bible teaches something, that |

- _____ Jesus feeds over 4000 people
- _____ Jesus cures a devil-possessed boy

- E** settles it and we believe it
Jesus sometimes did and taught the same thing over and over
- F** Jesus did miracles sometimes because of his compassionate love for the people

True false (Check the correct answer)

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Beelzebub is mentioned four times in the Old Testament | T _____ F _____ |
| 2. Jesus was to go to the Jews first with the gospel | T _____ F _____ |
| 3. Demons could not kill people they possessed | T _____ F _____ |
| 4. It is okay to call a preacher "Reverend" | T _____ F _____ |
| 5. The ability to cast out demons in the New Testament was a gift of God through the Holy Spirit | T _____ F _____ |

LESSON FOUR

Multiple choice (Circle the correct answer)

- The worst kinds of thinking are: **A** Religious hatred and prejudice **B** Democrat and Republican **C** Good and evil
- The sabbath day is **A** Our Sunday **B** Our Monday **C** Our Saturday
- The disease of "dropsy" is **A** Clumsiness **B** Paralysis **C** When the body retains fluids
- When we pray, God **A** Always answers our prayers **B** Answers our prayers like he wants to **C** Both of these
- How many miles is Bethany from Jerusalem? **A** 5 **B** 2 **C** 10

Match the lessons learned with the miracle done

- | | | |
|--|----------|---|
| _____ Jesus heals a man born blind | A | It is right to teach the truth any day of the week |
| _____ Jesus heals the lame woman | B | Religious people will always have a problem with the truth if it goes against their religious beliefs |
| _____ Jesus heals the man of dropsy | C | People are responsible for their own sins |
| _____ Jesus cleanses ten lepers | D | Jesus was human and could cry |
| _____ Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead | E | Ingratitude is a nasty thing to practice |
| _____ Jesus heals two blind men | F | Christians must bear fruit spiritually or die eternally |
| _____ Jesus curses the fig tree | G | Don't let anyone stop you from doing what is right and good |

Fill in the blanks

- Ezekiel 18:20, "The _____ that _____, it shall die; the _____ shall not bear the _____ of the _____, neither the father the _____."

2. We must always do what is _____ no matter what it _____ us.
3. In the New Testament days, people believed that if a person was sick, _____ was _____ them for some _____ they had committed.
4. Prayer is a _____ given by God to people who _____ believe.
5. When people get a _____ idea in their heads that is _____ taught in the _____, they'll usually go with their _____ thinking rather than what _____ says and this is the _____ working in them.

True false (Check the correct answer)

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. God punishes children for sins their parents had done | T _____ F _____ |
| 2. God punishes each of us for our own sins we have done | T _____ F _____ |
| 3. It took four days for Jesus to do miracles | T _____ F _____ |
| 4. God is a murderer | T _____ F _____ |
| 5. God seeks people to worship him in the right way | T _____ F _____ |
| 6. Lazarus was buried in the ground for a week | T _____ F _____ |
| 7. Jesus wept | T _____ F _____ |
| 8. Lazarus wrote a book about his time in the tomb | T _____ F _____ |
| 9. Jesus healed a blind man named Bartimaeus | T _____ F _____ |
| 10. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a white Arabian stallion | T _____ F _____ |

LESSON FIVE

Fill in the blanks

1. John 18:10, "Then Simon _____ having a _____, drew it and smote the high priest's _____ and cut off his _____ ear. The servant's name was _____."
2. When interpreting the Bible, take _____ the scriptures on a subject, then draw your _____ based on _____ the scriptures on that subject, then do not let your _____ go against any of the scriptures and then _____ others what your conclusion is.
3. Acts 20:7, "And upon the _____ day of the week, when the disciples came together to break _____, Paul preached unto them..."
4. If churches have the time to give their _____ every _____ day of the week, why can't they use the same _____ to take the Lord's _____ every first day of the _____?
5. The Lord's Supper is composed of _____ which reminds Christians of the body of _____ and of _____ juice which reminds Christians of the saving _____ of Jesus.

Match the lessons we have learned from a study of the miracles

- | | | | |
|-------|---|----------|--|
| _____ | A miracle is when God... | A | Power over all natural things |
| _____ | The primary purpose of miracles.... | B | There is no more need for miracles today |
| _____ | Another purpose of miracles was to.... | C | Power over Satan and the devils in hell |
| _____ | Now that all God's word has been spoken from Heaven.... | D | Confirm the word spoken by the apostles and first century Christians |
| _____ | Miracles done in the New Testament were.... | E | Stops the natural course of things |
| _____ | The miracles of Jesus showed his... | F | Was to bring about faith in God and faith in Jesus |
| _____ | The miracles of Jesus showed his... | G | Love for people who were afflicted |
| _____ | The miracles of Jesus showed his... | H | Proved his point to his disciples |
| _____ | The miracles of Jesus always.... | I | Instant and did not require a long period of time to develop |