



“Didn’t I tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?”

The Message About Miracles

John 11:38-46

Introduction

John 11 is the account of Lazarus who was sick, who’d died and was raised to life.

John 11 is the only account in the Gospels of Lazarus being raised from the dead.

Last week we discovered the Significance of Grief.

Six Lessons We Learned About Grief:

Grief Begins With Shock

Grief Is Real

Grief Is Difficult

Grief Is Personal

Grief Will Test Our Faith

Hope In Jesus Is Greater than Grief

Today we are going to discover the Significance of Miracles.

Scripture

Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.

³⁹“Remove the stone,” Jesus said. Martha, the dead man’s sister, told him, “Lord, there is already a stench because he has been dead four days.”

⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Didn’t I tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?”

⁴¹ So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you heard me.

⁴² I know that you always hear me, but because of the crowd standing here I said this, so that they may believe you sent me.”

⁴³ After he said this, he shouted with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”

⁴⁴ The dead man came out bound hand and foot with linen strips and with his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unwrap him and let him go.”

⁴⁵ Therefore, many of the Jews who came to Mary and saw what he did believed in him.

⁴⁶ But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. CSB

Quote Of The Day

“The most incredible thing about miracles is that they happen.”
— G.K. Chesterton

"We live on a blue planet that circles around a ball of fire next to a moon that moves the sea... and you don't believe in miracles?"
— Unknown

Miracles are extraordinary demonstrations of God’s divine presence and power that occur in the lives of ordinary people, in ordinary places, at ordinary times and ordinary events.

A miracle is a surprising and welcome event that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is therefore considered to be the work of a divine agency.

The central theme to the Gospel of John— John 20:30-31 “Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may believe that

Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” CSB

The Gospel of John records eight miracles performed by Jesus.

Christian scholars often call the Gospel of John “**The Book Of Signs.**”

“**The Book Of Signs**” is named for the eight miracles, often called signs, that are recorded in the book of John.

1. **Changing water into wine-- John 2:1-11**
2. **Healing the royal official's son in Capernaum-- John 4:46-54**
3. **Healing the paralytic at Bethesda-- John 5:1-15**
4. **Feeding the 5000-- John 6:5-14**
5. **Jesus walking on water-- John 6:16-24**
6. **Healing the man blind from birth-- John 9:1-7**
7. **The raising of Lazarus from the dead— John 11:1-45**
8. **The Miraculous catch of fish— John 21:1-14**

These miracles are not all of the miracles Jesus performed they are the ones that John recorded in his Gospel.

John 21:24-25 says, “This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true. ²⁵ And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which, if every one of them were written down, I suppose not even the world itself could contain the books that would be written.” CSB

Miracles are extraordinary demonstrations of Divine intervention in our world and in our lives.

Miracles happen all around us if we are willing to recognize them.

Our bodies are a fascinating example of a working miracle.

Let’s examine the miracle of sight—

Light rays enter the eye through the cornea, the clear front "window" of the eye. The cornea's refractive power bends the light rays in such a way that they pass freely through the pupil, the black, size-changing hole in the iris, the colored part of the eye.

The iris works like a shutter in a camera. It has the ability to enlarge and shrink, depending on how much light is entering the eye.

After passing through the iris, the light rays pass through the eye's crystalline lens. This clear, flexible structure works like the lens in a camera, shortening and lengthening its width in order to focus light rays properly.

Light rays pass through a dense, transparent gel-like substance, called the vitreous that fills the globe of the eyeball and helps the eye hold its spherical shape. The light rays come to a sharp focusing point on the retina. The retina functions much like the film in a camera. It is responsible for capturing all of the light rays, processing them into light impulses through millions of tiny nerve endings, and then sending these light impulses through millions of nerve fibers to the optic nerve in the brain.

After the light passes through the cornea, it is bent again -- to a more finely adjusted focus -- by the crystalline lens inside the eye. The lens focuses the light on the retina. This is achieved by the ciliary muscles in the eye changing the shape of the lens, bending or flattening it to focus the light rays on the retina. This adjustment in the lens is necessary for bringing near and far objects into focus.

Ideally, the light is "refracted," or redirected, in such a manner that the rays are focused into a precise image on the retina.

Even with the light focused on the retina, the process of seeing is not complete. For one thing, the image is upside down. Light from the the object being observed stimulates nerve endings -- photoreceptors or cells sensitive to light -- in the retina. There are two types of receptors -- rods and cones. Rods are mainly found in the peripheral retina and enable us to see in dim light and to detect peripheral motion. The rod receptors are primarily responsible for night vision and visual orientation. Cone receptors are principally found in the central retina and provide detailed vision for such tasks as reading or distinguishing distant objects. Cone receptors are necessary for color detection. These photoreceptors convert light to electrochemical impulses that are transmitted via the nerves to the brain. Millions of impulses travel along the nerve fibers of the optic nerve at the

back of the eye, eventually arriving at the visual cortex of the brain, located at the back of the head. Here, the electrochemical impulses are unscrambled and interpreted. The image is re-inverted so that we see the object the right way up.

Eyesight is one of many miraculous functions in the human body.

Strawberries— There is nothing fascinating about dirt until you place a strawberry seed into the dirt and in the process of time that seed will produce a plant and that plant will produce strawberries. THAT IS CRAZY!

Chick-fil-a lemonade is fascinating— A lemon is formed from a lemon seed, sugar is formed from a plant that grows from the ground and mixed in the right proportion with water makes the best lemonade in the history of all mankind!

Miracles give us hope when there is no hope!

Miracles protect us, Miracles heal us, Miracles reveal the power of God to interrupt our lives and do impossible things!

Miracles teach us that God is always present and working in our lives.

The Divine presence and power of God in our lives reveals:

God is involved in our lives

God has power to meet our specific needs

God's divine nature and glory

God's priority to advance His Kingdom on the earth.

A miracle is an extraordinary event that demonstrates Divine intervention in human experience.

The Gospel of John h

John 11 reveals three lessons we learn about miracles:

Often times Miracles are preceded by problems

Miracles have purpose

Miracles are extraordinary signs that demonstrate Divine intervention in human experience.

Three Lessons we learn about miracles:

1. Many times Miracles are preceded by problems vv.38-39

Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹“Remove the stone,” Jesus said. Martha, the dead man’s sister, told him, “Lord, there is already a stench because he has been dead four days.” CSB

Miracles are demonstrations of God’s Divine presence and power to provide solutions to problems where human effort and involvement cannot possibly produce a positive outcome.

Three Lessons We Learn About Miracles:

2. Miracles have purpose v.40

Jesus said to her, “Didn’t I tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” CSB

Miracles are not random events that occur in the lives of people.

Every demonstration of God’s Divine presence and power has a purpose.

We cannot expect God to perform a miracle in our life if it does not glorify Him, accomplish His purpose, or advance His Kingdom on the earth.

There are at least five reasons why God demonstrates His divine presence and power:

- 1. Miracles Demonstrate God's grace and His Involvement in our lives.**
- 2. Miracles Accomplish God's plan and advance His Kingdom on the earth.**
- 3. Miracles Reveal God's Glory.**
- 4. Miracles Prove the Presence and Power of God in our lives to help us in our time of need.**
- 5. Miracles Convince people to believe God and draw people to Christ.**

Three Lessons We Learn About Miracles:

3. Miracles are a significant part of the human experience vv.41-46

So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you heard me. ⁴²I know that you always hear me, but because of the crowd standing here I said this, so that they may believe you sent me." ⁴³After he said this, he shouted with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out bound hand and foot with linen strips and with his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unwrap him and let him go." ⁴⁵Therefore, many of the Jews who came to Mary and saw what he did believed in him. ⁴⁶But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. CSB

Those present at the tomb of Lazarus experienced first hand the miraculous power of Jesus to raise Lazarus from the dead.

There have been significant moments in our life when we have experienced first hand the miraculous power of God in our lives.

Miracles come in all shapes and sizes and they happen all around us.

There are at least six types of miracles:

1. **Healing Miracles**— Demonstrations of Divine Power where Jesus healed people from disease, deformity, and raised people from the dead.

There are multiple examples of Jesus healing people from disease, deformity or raising people from the dead.

Luke 17:12-19 “While traveling to Jerusalem, he passed between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he entered a village, ten men with leprosy met him. They stood at a distance ¹³ and raised their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” ¹⁴ When he saw them, he told them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And while they were going, they were cleansed. ¹⁵ But one of them, seeing that he was healed, returned and, with a loud voice, gave glory to God. ¹⁶ He fell facedown at his feet, thanking him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus said, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? ¹⁸ Didn’t any return to give glory to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹ And he told him, “Get up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you.” CSB

2. **Salvation Miracles**— Demonstrations of Divine power that cause people to believe Jesus is the Son of God.

John 1:46-51 “Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the law (and so did the prophets): Jesus the son of Joseph, from Nazareth.” ⁴⁶ “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Nathanael asked him. “Come and see,” Philip answered. ⁴⁷ Then Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said about him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.” ⁴⁸ “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked. “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you,” Jesus answered. ⁴⁹ “Rabbi,” Nathanael replied, “You are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel!” ⁵⁰ Jesus responded to him, “Do you believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this.” ⁵¹ Then he said, “Truly I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.” CSB

3. Exorcism Miracles— Demonstrations of Divine Power where Jesus revealed His authority over the spiritual realm to cast out demons.

Luke 8:26-39 “Then they sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷ When he got out on land, a demon-possessed man from the town met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes and did not stay in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before him, and said in a loud voice, “What do you have to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don’t torment me!” ²⁹ For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was guarded, bound by chains and shackles, he would snap the restraints and be driven by the demon into deserted places. ³⁰ “What is your name?” Jesus asked him. “Legion,” he said, because many demons had entered him. ³¹ And they begged him not to banish them to the abyss. ³² A large herd of pigs was there, feeding on the hillside. The demons begged him to permit them to enter the pigs, and he gave them permission. ³³ The demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned. ³⁴ When the men who tended them saw what had happened, they ran off and reported it in the town and in the countryside. ³⁵ Then people went out to see what had happened. They came to Jesus and found the man the demons had departed from, sitting at Jesus’s feet, dressed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. ³⁶ Meanwhile, the eyewitnesses reported to them how the demon-possessed man was delivered. ³⁷ Then all the people of the Gerasene region asked him to leave them, because they were gripped by great fear. So getting into the boat, he returned. ³⁸ The man from whom the demons had departed begged him earnestly to be with him. But he sent him away and said, ³⁹ “Go back to your home, and tell all that God has done for you.” And off he went, proclaiming throughout the town how much Jesus had done for him.” CSB

4. Nature Miracles— Demonstrations of Divine Power where Jesus exercised authority over nature.

John 6:16-21 “When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷ got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. Darkness had

already set in, but Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸ A high wind arose, and the sea began to churn. ¹⁹ After they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea. He was coming near the boat, and they were afraid. ²⁰ But he said to them, “It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

²¹ Then they were willing to take him on board, and at once the boat was at the shore where they were heading.” CSB

5. Provision Miracles— Demonstrations of Divine Power where Jesus provided specific needs at precise moments.

John 6:5-14 “So when Jesus looked up and noticed a huge crowd coming toward him, he asked Philip, “Where will we buy bread so that these people can eat?” ⁶ He asked this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷ Philip answered him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread wouldn’t be enough for each of them to have a little.” ⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, ⁹ “There’s a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish—but what are they for so many?” ¹⁰ Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place; so they sat down. The men numbered about five thousand. ¹¹ Then Jesus took the loaves, and after giving thanks he distributed them to those who were seated—so also with the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹² When they were full, he told his disciples, “Collect the leftovers so that nothing is wasted.” ¹³ So they collected them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces from the five barley loaves that were left over by those who had eaten. ¹⁴ When the people saw the sign he had done, they said, “This truly is the Prophet who is to come into the world.” CSB

6. Protection Miracles— Demonstrations of Divine Power where Jesus protected people at specific places, in extreme circumstances, at precise moments.

Mark 4:35-41 “On that day, when evening had come, he told them, “Let’s cross over to the other side of the sea.” ³⁶ So they left the crowd and took him along since he was in the boat. And other boats were with him. ³⁷ A great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking over the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. ³⁸ He was in the stern, sleeping on

the cushion. So they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher! Don’t you care that we’re going to die?” ³⁹ He got up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Silence! Be still!” The wind ceased, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ Then he said to them, “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?” ⁴¹ And they were terrified, and asked one another, “Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!” CSB