

“The very works that
I do...bear witness of
Me”

A Study of the Miracles of Jesus – John
5:31-36

Introduction

- Bible is the only book that substantiates itself by miracles.
- The Bible's focus is the greatest of miracles—the incarnation of Jesus – Phil. 2:5-8
- Acceptance or rejection of this miracle has eternal life and death implications.
- Jesus called upon man to consider his miracles as proof of who He is – Jn. 5:36
- These miracles as proof that Jesus is the Son of God and the Messiah is the focus of our lesson.

**GOD USED MIRACLES TO CONFIRM HIS
EXISTENCE AND HIS TRUTH**

Old and New Testaments

- Old Testament:
 - Moses was given “signs” to do that the Egyptian might listen to him – Ex. 4:9
 - God sent fire from heaven to prove that Elijah served the true and only God—Jehovah – 1 Kgs. 18:36-39
- New Testament:
 - God bore witness to the Apostles’ and prophets’ message through signs, wonders, and miracles – Heb. 2:3-4

Jesus?

- Isaiah spoke of a coming time where the blind would see and the deaf hear – Isa. 35:4-10
 - Jesus was the literal fulfillment – Mt. 11:4-5
 - The Jews expected the Messiah to perform miracles – Jn. 4:48; 7:31
- So, Jesus' miracles served an added purpose over those of O.T. prophets or the apostles.
 - They proved Him to be God's son, the Messiah
 - Jesus used them this way – Jn. 10:25, 37-38
 - The apostles used them this way – Jn. 20:30-31

**WHY SHOULD WE BELIEVE THE N.T.
ACCOUNT OF JESUS' MIRACLES?**

Some Will Not Believe

- Those of Jesus' home area did not believe despite Jesus' miracles – Mk. 6:4-6
- Some who witnessed Lazarus' raising from the dead did not believe – Jn. 11:45-46
- Others attributed Jesus' miracles to the power of Satan – Mk. 3:22
- Also, if one rejects God's existence and the Bible's inspiration, they will not likely accept the proof of Jesus being God's Son presented in the Bible!

We should believe because:

THE MIRACLES OF JESUS' GALILEAN MINISTRY

Facts Needed:

Miracles of the Galilean Ministry

- Israel as a whole was only 150 miles long and covered only 8500 square miles.



42,146 Sq. Miles

Size of New Jersey

Facts Needed:

Miracles of the Galilean Ministry

- Israel as a whole was only 150 miles long and covered only 8500 square miles.
- Jesus' Galilean ministry only covered an area of 8-10 miles on the northern shores of the Sea.
 - Some of these towns had 5000+ people in very small areas.
 - Cookeville is 22 sq. miles and has 31,000 people.
 - These Galilean areas were where a concentration of Jews lived.

Miracles of Capernaum

- Capernaum was about 60 acres in size and had 1500 residents! (1 sq. mile has 640 acres!)
- Jesus did 10 miracles there.
- Jesus healed a paralyzed man in front of a multitude that included Pharisees from Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem – Lk. 5:17-25
- Jesus healed the daughter of the ruler of the synagogue – Mk. 6:22-24, 35, 38-42
- Jesus also exorcised demons, healed all manner of sickness and disease, gave sight to two blind men, and healed one unable to speak.

Miracles at Bethsaida

- Located near Capernaum.
- Jesus healed the sick who were part of a multitude that followed him – Mt. 14:13-14
- He fed 5000 men, not including women and children, with five loaves and two fish – Mt. 14:19-21
- These miracles are claimed to have been witnessed by crowds of 1000's in a very small area!

Miracles in Gennesaret

- Jesus fed 4000 men, besides women and children – Mt. 15:35-38
- This was a small area and only six miles from Bethsaida, where the 5000 were fed.
- This could have easily included 8-10,000 witnesses!
- Jesus also healed a woman of a blood issue, and calmed a storm and walked on water in the Sea near this area.

Miracles In/Near Jerusalem

- Jerusalem's size is less than 1 sq. mile, while having some 25-40,000+ people.
- Jesus healed a man lame for 38 years at the pool of Bethesda – Jn. 5:1-10, 15-16.
- Jesus healed a man born blind who was near the temple – Jn. 9:1-9, 16
- Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead in Bethany, just six miles away – Jn. 11:33-48
- All of these miracles are claimed to have been witnessed or known about by a great number of people, including the leaders of the Jews!

**WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO YOU AND
ME?**

We Can Trust The Bible's Account of Jesus' Miracles in Galilee

- How could they have “sold” a fictitious Christ that they claimed to have done 18 miracles in a 9-10 mile area?
 - These miracles boasted of 10,000 or so witnesses!
 - These areas were teeming with Jews looking for the Messiah who would have easily witnessed or learned of these events!
 - Why would you provide such detail for such a small area if they were not true?

We Can Trust The Bible's Account of Jesus' Miracles in Jerusalem

- How could they have “sold” a fictitious Christ to those who crucified Him 50 days earlier?
 - It was a small area that held 25-40,000+ Jews!
 - People would know whether these claims were true or false!
 - Jerusalem is where the preaching of the Gospel is known to have begun, which involved Jesus' miracles and His resurrection – Acts 2:22-24
 - Is this the best place to start a hoax?
- Yet, multitudes came to Jesus! – Acts 2:41; 4:4

We Can Trust The Bible's Account of Jesus' Miracles in Jerusalem

- Because they were recorded by multiple writers, who neither contradicted nor colluded.
- Jesus' miracles were recorded by others.
 - Josephus – “wonderful works”
 - The Jewish *Babylonian Talmud* – “he has practiced sorcery”
- They presented the miracles as facts of history – 2 Pet. 1:16; 1 Jn. 1:1, 3; 1 Cor. 15:4-8
- They presented them with sobriety – Lk. 22:51
- They suffered and died for these claims!

Conclusion

- Jesus presented His miracles as proof of being the Messiah, God's Son.
- Never should we ignore the significance of what Jesus said were undeniable proof of who He is!
- So, strengthen your faith in Christ as the Messiah of the world and His word as truth...proven by the miracles He did!