

JESUS BRINGS THE MIRACULOUS

Isaiah 35:5-6a

The book of Isaiah tells the story of how God's people forfeited His protection and blessings when they spurned His direction and went their own way. As Israel struggled in the midst of His discipline, God's desire and ultimate plan to restore His people back to Himself never diminished. Seven-hundred years before Christ was born, Isaiah prophesied the arrival of a Messiah who would make a way in the wilderness and bring a dry, barren, and desolate land back to life again. Jesus, of course, is the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecies about the coming Messiah; and, because we have placed our hope and trust in Jesus, He transforms our wilderness into a lush garden overflowing with abundance. There are four benefits that the Messiah brings with Him in order to provide us this way in the wilderness: strength, signs, streams, and streets.

This message focuses on the second of these four benefits, which we will simply label as signs. In your wilderness, God is going to work signs and wonders in order to accomplish His purpose in your life and, quite possibly, the world.

FOUR OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING MIRACLES

1. God does signs and wonders.

Isaiah 35:5-6a; Judges 6:13; John 2:1-11; Luke 2:51-52

I love that word, "WONDER." To me it simply means something you can't figure out. You just have to wonder about it! For some of you, your mind is one of your greatest assets and also one of your greatest liabilities. You have to figure everything out. I just want you know that you can't figure God out. You can learn about Him, and you can get to know Him, but you'll never figure Him out! God is omnipotent, and everything He does is supernatural.

The first miracle that Jesus did in His earthly ministry was the turning of water to wine at a wedding in Cana of Galilee (John 2:1-10). This encounter reveals the key to the miraculous. Mary, the mother of Jesus, turns to the servants and says, "Whatever He says to you, do it (v.6)." Do you need a miracle right now in some area of your life? OK... "Whatever He says to you, do it."

2. Miracles are conditional.

John 2:6-7; Luke 6:38

In our walk with the Lord, God has a part, and we have a part. Our part is never supernatural. Our part is always 100% natural. God doesn't do our part, and our part always comes first. This next concept may sound like heresy, but I truly believe that YOU determine whether you receive a miracle or not and how big that miracle is! God is a miraculous God, and He is just waiting to be included in the situation! Jesus has all the power needed to change anything He wants! He loves you and always desires the best for you. So, why isn't He doing a miracle in your situation? Maybe it's because you're not giving Him a chance!

3. Miracles are exciting!

John 2:6; Revelation 12:11

The waterpots that were on site at the wedding were ceremonial waterpots. This might sound a little silly; but, before Jesus got involved, how exciting do you think these waterpots were? These ceremonial, ritualistic waterpots? Have you ever been a part of a ceremonial, ritualistic church? If so, and I asked you to give me one characteristic of this church, what would that characteristic be? Most likely, you would say, "it sure was dead." Because it was dead, it certainly wasn't exciting or enthusiastic. That's what these ceremonial waterpots were like until Jesus got involved with them!

4. Miracles are personal.

Psalms 37:4; Matthew 6:33; Proverbs 10:22

When you are healed from a disability, weakness, or frailty of ANY kind, it's personal. When God provides for you in a time of desperate need, it's personal. When God rescues your life from the entanglements of depravity, it's personal.

Think about this first miracle here in John 2. All Jesus did was provide refreshments for a family's wedding. This simple miracle at a wedding in Cana may sound trivial to you, but at that special moment of time, it was very important to everyone involved. It was personal. No doubt, this wedding was a fulfillment of their heart's desire! Did you know that God cares about your desire? It's not wrong to want better for yourself and your family. God specializes in the WONDERS of desire and cares more about you and your family than you do!