

What are miracles about?

Bertie Brits

July 19, 2020

GREETINGS: It is such an honor for me to minister the Gospel of God's grace to you. This message is going to be short. I am just going to share a thought with you and I trust this will encourage you greatly.

Today I am going to look at miracles and Jesus Christ multiplying the bread and the fish, and what impact that had on people and what people made of that and how Jesus corrected them and helped them to think correctly about miracles, signs and wonders. He also showed Himself as the source of eternal life which was what the whole message was about.

I am sure that today's message will encourage you to be able to receive the supernatural miracles into your life. It will also help you to think correctly about your life and who you are and what God has come to give you. Should you not have received what is seen as a supernatural miracle in your life, where you are a believer, you've believed, and you have not seen a manifestation of the supernatural, this can help you greatly.

We are going to start off in John 6. We are going to look at Jesus and He crossed over the Sea of Galilee and then multitudes followed Him and He did miracles. They followed Him because of the miracles and then He did the grand miracle.

John 6:

¹ After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias.

² And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased.

³ And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there he sat with his disciples.

⁴ And the passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh.

⁵ When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?

⁶ And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.

⁷ Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.

⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him,

⁹ There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?

¹⁰ And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

¹¹ And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

¹² When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.

Now, this is a major miracle that took place here and we find that John sets this up beautifully for us.

Verse 4: ***And the passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh.*** It was time for the Passover. We know what the Passover means. It was time where it was all about Jesus and His death and resurrection and the freedom that would come through what Jesus Christ has done for us where He offers His body, His death and His resurrection for us as what we can partake in. We can partake in His body and so have life where He is the true bread that comes from heaven that is given to us. With this in mind, this is what John is saying: This feast was nigh. We can already see where Jesus' mind was going. His mind was, "I am here to provide bread for all these people."

Then when He saw the multitude come to Him, he says, "Where will we get bread that can feed all these people?" Now, when Jesus asked that question, what was in His mind? In His mind was, "I am the bread that the Father has given to give food to all these people." That is what He had in mind. He then multiplied the bread and then gave it to all the people and they ate. I am sure the people were amazed of the miracle that took place and we are going to see this from verse 23 and onwards. That people crossed over the sea to follow Jesus because He multiplied the food and they knew that with Him there is provision... with Him there is miracles and signs and wonders.

We find in verse 2 that the multitude followed Him because they saw the miracles. Then He did a greater miracle. He saw the people following the miracles and He said, "They are still in need of the true meat." John was basically showing what was in the mind of Jesus. In the mind of Jesus, it was not about the multiplication of bread. I would then include that it was not about the signs, wonders and miracles. In the mind of Jesus, it was about the Passover Feast and about what that would bring to man. It was about the meaning of the Passover which was Him, which was all about what God has come and provided for man in giving man ... and this is the key word... giving man eternal life which is defined in the Resurrected Jesus Christ.

22 The day following, when the people which stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was none other boat there, save that one whereinto his disciples were entered, and that Jesus went not with his disciples into the boat, but that his disciples were gone away alone;

22 (Howbeit there came other boats from Tiberias nigh unto the place where they did eat bread, after that the Lord had given thanks:

24 When the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, neither his disciples, they also took shipping, and came to Capernaum, seeking for Jesus.

25 And when they had found him on the other side of the sea, they said unto him, Rabbi, when camest thou hither (Why did You come here)?

Listen to this: “Jesus, why did You come here and how did You get here?”

26 Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, You seek me, not because you saw the miracles, but because you did eat of the loaves, and were filled.

27 Labour not for the meat which perishes, but for that meat which endures unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

What He was saying here is, “You don’t follow Me because you saw the miracle and you know that I am basically the Lord. I am the one that has the authority. I am the Giver of life but you followed Me because you were simply seeking the bread. You were thinking of how your lives would be preserved in this world now and you will then have this physical bread.” That’s what it is about and then they wanted to know how Jesus got to the other side and even why He went there. They wanted Him to be with them to provide for them in the things of everyday life.

What I see here is, it says here, “You don’t follow Me because you saw the miracle.” That is a way of saying that the Father has sealed Jesus as the Messiah and you are not following Me because I’m the Messiah. You are following Me because you ate of the bread and you want that provision now. That is what you think it is all about. You think it is about the miracle. You don’t listen to the miracle and what the miracle is about. Let me say it again. You think it is about the miracle but, you don’t know what the miracle is about. The miracle is about Jesus being sealed by the Father as the Messiah which is what people can then receive. They can receive Him as the Lord, as the One that would come and give eternal life. So, he was pointing out that their hearts were not really right but He was not rude to them in the sense of just chasing them away. He led them to understand what it is about.

He said to them:

26 Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, You seek me, not because you saw the miracles, but because you did eat of the loaves, and were filled.

27 Labour not for the meat which perishes, but for that meat which endures unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

Listen to this verse carefully: ***Labour not for the meat which perishes...***

When we look at a miracle, we find that every miracle that took place in Jesus' time, in the end, that person has perished. Let's take Lazarus for instance. Did Lazarus rise up from the dead? Yes! Where is Lazarus' body right now? It has perished. When we look at miracles, we find healings, signs, wonders and all those things. Those things pass away. If I pray for you today and you get healed, the healing will be from God but that healing is still in the temporal world. It doesn't have eternal value as pertaining to the healing of your flesh. That means that we cannot heal the whole world by signs, wonders and miracles. So, we are not laboring for signs, wonders and miracles, although signs, wonders and miracles happen.

And we find here that a multitude of people did follow Jesus because they saw His miracles which He did on them that were diseased. So, there were people that were diseased and they saw Jesus and the miracles that He did. Then they followed Him. They could have followed Him because they wanted miracles. I think that is basically the context wherein all of this is written. They didn't know what the miracle was about. They thought it was about the miracle. I say that again: They didn't know what the miracle was about. The miracle was not about a miracle worker that is among the people. The miracle was about Jesus being Lord, whom the Father has sealed as the One that would give you eternal life. And here Jesus is saying to the people: You want a miracle again. You want to live from miracle to miracle to miracle. But that is not the purpose of miracles. The purpose of the miracle is simply to show you that the Father has sealed Jesus as the One who gives eternal life.

When I see this, it excites me in this way: That I can have a heart that is open for signs, wonders and miracles and that I can pray for the sick. I can lay my hands on the sick. When I go through difficult times, I can ask people to pray for me and we can have an expectation of miracles while we know we are not living from miracles. This is what I see in the life of Jesus here.

We see a continuation of that in the lives of the disciples and people in the New Testament. Miracles took place. If we look at how miracles were recorded, it was recorded to say something. The miracle was about Jesus being Lord. It was not about the miracle. It's not about miracles. It is about Jesus. It is about what the miracle communicates.

Yet, we are now in this world, in this broken world, that we are seeing. We are seeing we are still under the rulership of the kingdom of life. And in this kingdom, we find signs, wonders and miracles.

Can we expect a miracle in our life? Yes, you can expect a miracle. I want to say that every person can expect that, in his life, God will do miracles.

I have seen many miracles in my life. I have seen many, what we would call, breakthroughs, or those kinds of things, in my life. But I have come to know, later in my Christian walk, that it is not about the miracle. The miracle is about Jesus and what He has come and brought forth through His death and resurrection and He is pointing us to something that is not perishable. So, Jesus came and said, "These miracles, and what they produce, can perish.

27 Labour not for the meat which perishes... What is He referring to here? They were laboring for the meat that perishes which was the multiplication of the bread which was the previous day. They were laboring for that miracle that Jesus can do and they thought that their life was in the miracle taking place in their life. But, that is not the truth. Jesus pointed that out immediately.

I want to use an example in my own life and say this to you: About six weeks ago, my oldest son, Abrie, got a bladder infection. We gave him some medicine and he became better. Then after two weeks, it happened again. We went to the doctor and got antibiotics and he became better. Then two weeks later this thing came again and I said, "Let us give you some medicine and see what happens." In the meantime, we also prayed for him and he was doing much better. Then I said, "If anything happens again, we will go to the doctor again and we will see what happens." In the meantime, we just prayed for him on a regular basis.

Then in this week, he called and said, "Dad, I feel pain in my stomach again. It is not as bad as before but just a little bit of pain and a slight fever." We went to the doctor and they got a sonar done and another scan. They found what is called an appendix mass inside him which was a bit bigger than a tennis ball and it had to be removed. They gave him antibodies to see if it would make it a bit smaller and then they would do the operation on Monday. It didn't work so yesterday he rushed to the hospital in severe pain and they did the operation and removed it. He is okay now but we went through a difficult time this week. In this week, the message that my heart rested in is that my son has eternal life. And that is what brought me peace in that time. Yes, in my mind, there is the stress of what happens if the worst would happen? I mean, that thing could burst and can be life-threatening. So, here am I. I pray for people. I see miracles. I have seen many miracles take place in my own life and here is another case where I've prayed and we have not seen a miracle that we can define as a miracle in the light of the supernatural.

I don't think that we will really always know what God has done in this case. I do believe that the Lord's hand is in this and that the health and the healing definitely comes from God. I have no doubt about that!

What I want to address is how you deal with a situation when you lay your hands in the mighty name of Jesus and now you don't see a miracle. You immediately go and do self-introspection: God, do I have enough faith? Don't I have enough faith? What's wrong me? Why is this not happening?" You go into all kinds of questioning. How would we see this in biblical times? What brought me peace is that I know that my walk with Jesus is not about miracles but that miracles is about Jesus and what He has come to give us.

And I know that when I prayed, I could pray in faith knowing the Lord would do a miracle. That is what I felt in my heart and I felt the Lord said that He will heal him. And I believe that, even though there was a doctor involved, there is a healing that comes from Jesus and that wellness is His. I just had this, through what I felt the Lord said to me is, that the worst is not going to happen as pertaining to life now, that he will pass away, something bad will happen or something like that. That God's hand is in this and he is safe as pertaining to this situation.

During that time when everything was going on, I felt that in my mind is not the question, "Jesus, why is a miracle not happening? What is going on? What is wrong?" None of that! I had absolute peace that my son has eternal life and that miracles is about pointing us to eternal life which my son and I, my wife and my other children, already possess. We are possessors of eternal life. We are believers in Jesus Christ. So, what a miracle could ever point to, we have already attained to that and we find that our life, my everyday emotion and joy and all of that, is not born from miracles because it is not about miracles. Did I pray? Yes. Did we ask other people to pray with us? Yes. Why did we do that? I just went to our web pastors and I just asked for people to pray. I didn't even make this known to everybody not because, not cognitively. Some of you might be friends hearing this, not even knowing this has taken place, and ask, "Why didn't you call me?" When all these things happen, your mind is not always on, "Just call all these people and those kinds of things." It's just about him and the hospital and the doctor and all those kinds of things.

I am sharing this with you so that you can just know that I live in this world and sometimes you will find me here testifying about the supernatural. Other times you'll find me talking about what I am talking about right now and sharing with you on how I see the Scripture about this. I see that if Jesus said to these people, "You seek Me not because you saw the miracles." That is just the Jewish way of, or what was understood in that time, not because you know you saw a miracle and what this miracle is about. To you it is about the miracles. It's about the supernatural. It's about the multiplication of bread. It's not about what this is all about in the end of the day.

And in the very same way, it is comforting for me, and it's a place of peace, where I can pray and ask and say, "Lord, I thank You for healing for my son," and he is now healed, knowing it is not about miracles. Church, there's a big difference and a big rest that enters into your heart when you know it is about Jesus and not about miracles.

I just want to say this that my son went for the operation. Everything was removed and the doctors are very happy and I'm happy. He has some pain but he had a previous operation where they removed a piece of his lung. He said, "Dad, you know this pain that I have now is not even a patch on what I had when I had the lung operation. But I just want to say this: "I'm so grateful to God! It is just a miracle on how God has helped us that this thing didn't burst and that we could be helped so quickly." Now, do you know what peace that brings to my heart, when I see my son is at a place where it is not about miracles but about the resurrection of Jesus, bring him to a place where when we see the perishable? Because should he have been supernaturally healed, unless Jesus returned, even that very miracle will perish in the fact that he will die.

So, we are not laboring for that although we know that it is also part of our life. You will see miracles. That is sure. That I know and I'm sure that everyone that is hearing me can testify of some form of miracle that the Lord has done in your life. And you can expect that those things will continue to happen in your life until the day of Jesus. But those are things that are perishable. Those are things that will, when you die, ends there. It is not something from where you can have eternal life. It just points you to eternal life. That is what it is about.

So, my son is okay and we will bring him home tomorrow. I just want to say that he is okay. For those of you that feel in your heart to pray for him, thank you so much. Thank you for your love and your care.

Let's get to verse 26:

26 Verily, verily, I say unto you, You seek me, not because you saw the miracles (You are not seeking after Me. You're not seeking the Savior. You are seeking the miracle because you don't know how these things work.), **but because you did eat of the loaves, and were filled.**

28 Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?

29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that you believe on him whom he hath sent. Now He is just focusing, He says what it is all about is believing in Jesus. So I want to say this to you: If you feel like you ever miss out on any form of a miracle or the supernatural in your life, but you have believed upon Jesus, you have already attained to the maximum that a miracle can ever mean in your life. "Labor for that which does not perish", which is Jesus who, after He died, was raised from the dead, believe upon Him. While you believe upon Him, have an expectation knowing that miracles can also take place in your life.

30 They said therefore unto him, What sign do you show us, that we may see, and believe thee? what do You work?

31 Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat. So, here they want to manipulate Jesus and they want to say, “Look at Moses. He gave the people bread and You want to now come and you just want to have all this big talk about who You are. Moses gave bread so now, at least You need to give us bread. So, if You are the right one, You gave bread yesterday so where’s the bread now?” They are using the scripture to manipulate Jesus. You see their heart is not right.

32 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven.

33 For the bread of God is he which comes down from heaven, and gives life unto the world I hope you can hear that.

34 Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.

35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that comes to me shall never hunger; and he that believes on me shall never thirst.

36 But I said unto you, That you also have seen me, and believe not.

37 All that the Father has given me shall come to me; and him that comes to me I will in no wise cast out.

38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. Isn't that absolutely powerful! So, Jesus comes and He says what this whole thing is all about.

Now I want to encourage you. In this passage we can see that He’s basically saying that Moses gave the bread that came from heaven. But that bread, Moses and the people of that time, all perished. They all died. So, let us not labor for that which does not produce eternal life. Let us labor for that which produces eternal life which, according to this passage, is Jesus Christ Himself. And if you have believed on that, never, if you don’t see a miracle as defined by the Bible or the typical Pentecostal Charismatic Church, supernatural miracle take place, never feel there is something wrong with you if you have now already believed upon Jesus. Just be careful that you are not tempted to think that it is about the miracle. It is about what the miracle is about which is Jesus which you’ve already attained to. Glory to God!

I trust that this encourages you. You find that these Jews, if you just go and read on there, he goes on and says...

44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. Can you see what Jesus is saying what this is all about? He came and people followed Him because He did miracles and He healed the sick. But that was simply because the Father had sealed Him and He shows the authority and the power and the forgiveness of sins and His ability for the purpose that they would believe upon Him. So, what was the reason? The reason was to believe upon Jesus. Then He thought of the Passover and He multiplied the bread. That's what John explained. It was not about the multiplication of bread but actually about the Passover Feast. That was what was in His mind. Then the people came to Him and He said to them, "Listen, labor not. Just seek Me for I can give you eternal life. Believe upon Me." If you have believed on that, I want to tell you that you have eternal life and from Jesus you can also expect that miracles take place in your life but it is not what it is about. It's what we can open our hearts for but it's not what it is about. So, we cannot treat our lives and our success in ministry, and all those kinds of things, as if it is about this supernatural and all of that. It is not about that although it can be expected.

We've come to the end of this short message. I want to just encourage you to get your mind thinking a little bit about this. I would like to pray for the sick right now. There are people that miracles can take place in your life right now. You know that it is not about miracles but we do know that we are in a kingdom wherein miracles do manifest. So, let's pray together:

Father, we want to thank You that we know what miracles are about. Miracles are about Jesus. It is a sign pointing to the Christ and thank You that we can see the sign, we can see the Christ and believe upon the Christ. Yet, we want to say, "Lord, we are not seeking the bread to find our life from the miracle, but we know, we know that we have eternal life. Yet, there are people, Lord, that have needs as pertaining to their bodies and finances and all those things. Thank You, Father, that You have given us the right to come to You and to know that in Your kingdom we can be open for Your supernatural working. You are our Father and from You being Father, we open our hearts for Your miracles.

Father, I thank You that I can come right now and stretch forth my hand and just thank You that You bring signs, wonders and miracles forth in people's lives, in Jesus' mighty name.

Thank You that as they hear the word of Your life, You confirm this word with signs, wonders and miracles. And thank You, Lord, that if we just see one person being healed, it is already a confirmation that what we have believed is unto eternal life. Thank You that that person can be us. We are open. Work, through us, signs, wonders and miracles, in Jesus' mighty name. Amen and amen

Thank you so much that I could bring this message to you. Know that you are deeply loved by God and that you are cared for by Him and He will always, always, care for you. Amen