

Reasons To Believe In The Miracles of Jesus

Sunday AM 04/29/18

Introduction:

An important part of Jesus' ministry was the miracles He performed. The reaction of the crowd is often mentioned. In *Mark 1* Jesus cast out a demon.

Mark 1:26-27 "And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him. Then **they were all amazed**, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, 'What is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.'"

Mark 2:11-12 "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that **all were amazed** and glorified God, saying, 'We never saw anything like this!'"

Mark 4:41 "And **they feared exceedingly**, and said to one another, 'Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!'"

Today many either mis-understand the miracles of Jesus or they deny them. We want to first define a miracle and then give reasons to believe they occurred.

I) What Is A Miracle

A) A Miracle - dictionary.com

1. an effect or extraordinary event in the physical world that surpasses all known human or natural powers and is ascribed to a supernatural cause.

2. such an effect or event manifesting or considered as a work of God.
3. a wonder; marvel.
4. a wonderful or surpassing example of some quality.

B) Miracle - Vine's Greek Dictionary of N.T. Words

1. power, inherent ability," is used of works of a supernatural origin and character, such as could not be produced by natural agents and means.
2. "a sign, mark, token" "to give a sign;" sema, "a sign"), is used of "miracles" and wonders as signs of Divine authority;

C) Therefore, a miracle is not:

1. Just some beautiful event or a rare event such as child birth or person surviving cancer.
2. Something performed by a person with their own power. By definition only God can perform miracles or give someone the ability to perform miracles.

II) Did Jesus Perform Miracles?

A) The Bible list at least 37 miracles performed by Jesus.

1. Some involved miraculous healings. *Matthew 8.14,15*
2. Some involved nature such as the quieting of the Sea, *Matthew 8.23-27*
3. Some involved casting out demons, *Matthew 8.28-33*

4. Some involved feeding thousands of people with a few loaves and fishes, *Matthew 14.13-21*
5. Some involved raising the dead, *John 11* and the raising of Lazarus.

B) Each event violated some law of nature.

1. Non-living material does not just come to life.
2. Law of "Consumption" take a bite out of a sandwich, it becomes smaller.

III) Reasons to Believe Jesus Performed Miracles

A) With God all things are possible, *Mark 10.27*

1. The God who created the whole universe in 6 days but simply speaking things into existence can heal the person he created.
2. He can over ride the laws of nature and cause the sea to be calm or given life to a lifeless person. After all He made man a living creature.

B) The Bible records these events and calls them miracles, signs, and wonders.

1. If one accepts the Bible as the inspired word of God, *2 Timothy 3.16*
2. Then they must accept the events described to us in the Bible. If one can discount the miracles in the Bible they can discount the very teachings in the Bible.

C) Miracles are consistent with who Jesus was - or who He claimed to be.

1. The Son of Man, *Matthew 9.6*
2. Involved in the very creation, *John 1.1-5*
3. Jesus claimed to be deity, *John 8.58*.

D) Even the enemies of Jesus acknowledge His miracles

1. His skeptics did not deny a paralytic was healed by Jesus, *Mark 2.10,11*.
2. Jesus healed a man in *John 9* and the dispute was how could a sinner perform such things, *John 9.16*.
3. They did not deny Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, *John 11.47*.
4. Peter mentioned the miracles on the Day of Pentecost which they had seen, *Acts 2.22*.

Conclusion:

There are three things we can also say about Jesus' miracles: 1) they were immediate, 2) they were complete, 3) they were convincing. If one accepts the miracles of Jesus they must accept who Jesus claimed to be, the Son of God. They must also accept His teachings. *John 9.26-29*