

Anatomy of a Miracle

Previously we had a study titled “An Introduction to Miracles”. In that study (which should be reviewed with this particular endeavor) we saw a basic pattern for the working of miracles. Information specific to the situation is received from God. This information may seem impossible to the five senses, but the information from God is accepted over the information from the five senses and acted upon. Then God, with a supernatural intervention in the natural world, brings His Word to pass.

The same disclaimer from the previous study also applies here.

Whenever we discuss one of the manifestations of the spirit, it can be easy to overlook the truth that the manifestations are designed to work together and not separately. When studying the working of miracles, one also must understand that one or more of the revelation manifestations and the manifestation of believing will also be involved. With that understood, let’s proceed to the Anatomy of a Miracle.

We will be reading a record from the Gospel of Matthew. This incident is one that is recorded in all four Gospels. While we will be concentrating on the passage from Matthew, references will be made to the other Gospel records. Here are the Scripture references for the other accounts of this incident if you would like to read them and practice your use of the key to interpretation called “scripture build-up”. Mark 6:32 – 44; Luke 9:10 – 17; John 6:1 – 13.

Matthew 14:13 – 16

After hearing about the death of John, Jesus takes his disciples to a desert place away from the crowds, but the crowds followed them. Jesus, moved with compassion, spent the day healing the sick. As the day was drawing to a close, the disciples asked him to send the crowds away so that they could get themselves something to eat. Jesus' response was classic – they don't need to leave, you give them something to eat, you feed them. When you compare this passage with the record in John you will see that Jesus is proving or testing his disciples. He already knew what he was going to do.

That he already knew what he was going to do shows us that Jesus had already received revelation (specifically word of knowledge and word of wisdom) and was ready to carry it out (manifestation of believing). There was already scriptural evidence that God was able to supply needs even in the direst of circumstances. Let's review some of them.

Exodus 16:4,5,14,15,35: Joshua 5:10 – 12

I Kings 17:8 – 16

II Kings 4:1 – 7

II Kings 4: 42 – 44

So certainly, there was scriptural evidence that God was able to supply needs despite the circumstances in the natural world. These were not secret references that only Jesus would know. The evidence of God's ability was unmistakable.

Matthew 14:16,17

When Jesus told his disciples that they should give the multitude something to eat, he was testing them. This was a chance for them to rely on God's power and providence. But they looked at what they had and said "We can't."

Matthew 14:18,19

Jesus started with the exact same loaves and fish and he looked up to heaven. Heaven here is a figure to speech meaning he looked to God.

The need was on earth; the supply was in heaven. Jesus looked to heaven.

The lack was on earth; the abundance was in heaven. Jesus looked to heaven.

The problem was on earth; the solution was in heaven. Jesus looked to heaven.

Man's ability is on earth; God's ability is in heaven. Jesus looked to heaven.

So, just as we saw in the study "An Introduction to Miracles", we can see that God gave information and instruction specific to the situation. (Remember that Jesus knew ahead of time what he would do – word of knowledge and word of wisdom). That information, though it was impossible in the natural world, was not impossible for God. The information was accepted and acted upon (believing). That allowed God to go to work and the result was a miracle.