

JESUS IS...

Jesus Is...The Miracle Worker – Message 5

Warm-up

Share a time when God made something very good out of a difficult situation in your life.

Overview

As we reflect on week five in the series *Jesus Is...*, we look at one of the characteristics of Jesus... *The Miracle Worker*. Jesus performed miracles so we might believe in Him and recognize the power, person, and reality of God.

Word & Application

The first miracle Jesus performed is found in **John 2:1-3** when He turned water into wine. It was at a crucial time during a wedding reception when the hosts ran out of wine for their guests. Good hospitality was very important to Jewish society. As you can imagine, running out of wine would fail to meet cultural expectations, as well as put a damper on a joyful celebration.

Read John 2:1-10, the account of Jesus' first miracle. Give other examples of miracles in the Bible.

This miracle of the wine and others teach us three principles to avoid when faced with disheartenment and unmet expectations.

1. **We try to take control.**

"If God isn't going to do anything about it, then I'll do it myself." We take the problem from God to work it out for ourselves. But we don't need to worry. God is already in control. We need to recognize His authority and let Him lead. Why is it so important to rely on God during hard times? What are the challenges of releasing control to God?

2. **We amplify the negative.**

Whenever thoughts of negativity seek to invade our minds, we must cut them away and give them to God immediately. Negative thinking can lead to ungodly beliefs, followed by a pattern of ungodly behavior. Moreover, carrying damaging thoughts around will only take up space for

God's goodness, grace, and favor. Have you allowed a negative environment to influence you more than you influence it? Brainstorm together other Scriptures that can help counter negative thinking.

3. **We focus on the natural.**

When we focus intently on our problem, it means we are not focusing on our faith. We lack confidence in God to rest in the reality of His nature and to obtain the peace that comes with having faith in Him.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:7, Romans 8:24-25, and 1 Peter 1:8. As Christians, why do we sometimes struggle with a lack of faith? Does your life reflect your trust in God's ways? What is the best way to get people to recognize your faith?

What does it require to see a miracle take place?

1. **Do whatever Jesus tells you to do.**

We may not always understand His timing or His method of solving our problems, but when we take it to Jesus, He can work a miracle in our lives. Share a moment in your life when you were hesitant to obey God while waiting on your miracle.

2. **Seek out what God wants to do in you.**

God can turn a problem into an opportunity to teach you something, to build your faith, or to work on issues in your heart.

Read Psalm 27:14, Isaiah 25:9, and Colossians 1:11. When we wait confidently on God, there is something happening even when it doesn't seem like it. Have you experienced spiritual progress during a season of waiting? Explain.

3. **Keep believing for the impossible.**

Read Matthew 19:26, Jeremiah 32:27, and Luke 18:27. Our faith should direct us to trust God to do big things. When we trust in God, we come to believe that He is powerful, loving, in charge, and in control. What are the benefits of trusting in God? Identify any areas in your life in which you are not presently trusting God. How can you demonstrate your trust in God in this particular area?

Life Challenge

What has God recently told you to do that you have not done yet? Ask God to help you take that next step, share it with a trusted friend, then do it.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You that You love me and want to keep me from depending on other things instead of You. I understand now that the source of a miracle may be unexpected, so I shouldn't try to figure it out. I choose to trust You instead. When You tell me what to do, and it doesn't always make sense, I will still do what You want me to do. Help me to remember that You're all I need and that where You guide, You'll provide. I claim Your promise that if I trust You, You'll meet my needs. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen. Pray for the specific needs of the group.