



LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

"Miracle: Part 2"

Ps. James Lowe - December 13, 2015

WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- Who is someone you admire because of their faith?
- Did you believe in Santa as a child? If so, when did you learn the truth?

WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online

Today's message will help us understand how to solicit God's attention so as to possibly receive a miracle from him to meet some need. Scripture tells us that without faith it is impossible to please God. Faith, however, attracts God's attention. The Gospels give witness to the fact that people who demonstrated faith toward God through Jesus were able to get his attention and in many cases also received a miracle from him.

Mark 6:1-6 ESV

"He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household." And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. And he marveled because of their unbelief...

Unbelief will keep us from receiving miracles from God.

Matthew 9:2-8 ESV

"And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" —he then said to the paralytic— "Rise, pick up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men."

Faith is demonstrated by bold action that reaches out to God for help.

The greatest miracle we all need is for our sins to be forgiven. Jesus Christ provided for this miracle when he died for our sins on the cross after having lived a sinless life. Faith in Him and repentance are all that is needed to receive the miracle of God's forgiveness.

Matthew 9:18-19, 23-25 ESV

"While he was saying these things to them, behold, a ruler came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." And Jesus rose and followed him, with his disciples... And when Jesus came to the ruler's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, "Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose."

Faith expressing itself in humility and honor toward Jesus will get his attention.

Matthew 9:20-22 ESV

"And behold, a woman who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, for she said to herself, "If I only touch his garment, I will be made well." Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well."

Faith may express itself in ways that are not always religiously appropriate. (Jewish ritual law forbade her from touching others.)

Matthew 9:27-30 ESV

"And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When he entered the house, the blind men came to him, and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened."

Faith will follow Jesus even if it is difficult, and will be rewarded.

Matthew 9:32-33 ESV

"As they were going away, behold, a demon-oppressed man who was mute was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the mute man spoke. And the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel.""

Faith will reach out to Jesus for others with hope when they are oppressed.

PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.

- What circumstances in your life do you need to be "interrupted" by God?
- What are you going to do to build up your faith?
- What step of faith do you need to take to act in God's promise of a miracle?

PRAYER (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Pray for the miracle you need in your life.
- Pray that God will grow your faith to trust his character and his power.
- Give praise to God for his love, his wisdom, and his power.