



Take Your Problems to Jesus

# Miracles as “Signs” of the Kingdom

- Miracles in the NT are not for show, or to manipulate and coerce people into belief and the Kingdom
- Miracles done by Jesus shouldn't be viewed apart from his message—the Good News he preached!
- Miracles are *signs* or clues to Jesus' true identity; He is the Messiah, the promised One of salvific history
- Miracles are intersections of heaven and earth, where the partition between the two realms becomes thin
- Miracles are evidence of the power of God, the in-breaking of the Kingdom right here and now

“That’s why it simply won’t do, despite what some have said, to see the things Jesus did, and the stories about them [miracles]... as pleasant but imaginary legends—things that didn’t actually happen but which ‘illustrate’ some supposedly deeper, more ‘spiritual’ truth. The whole point of the ‘signs’ is that they are moments when heaven and earth intersect with each other. The point is not that they are stories which couldn’t have happened in real life, but stories which point away from earth to a heavenly reality.”

N. T. Wright, *John for Everyone* (pg. 21)

John ch. 2:1-11

**The Gospel of John (2003)**

## **John 2:1-5 NIV**

<sup>1</sup> On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, <sup>2</sup> and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

<sup>3</sup> When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

<sup>4</sup> "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."

<sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

## **John 2:6-9 NIV**

<sup>6</sup> Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water”; so they filled them to the brim.

<sup>8</sup> Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.” They did so, <sup>9</sup> and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew.

## **John 2:9-11 NIV**

Then he called the bridegroom aside <sup>10</sup> and said,  
“Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.”

<sup>11</sup> What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

## **Luke 9:10-13 NIV**

<sup>10</sup> When the apostles returned, they reported to Jesus what they had done. Then he took them with him and they withdrew by themselves to a town called Bethsaida,  
<sup>11</sup> but the crowds learned about it and followed him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing.

<sup>12</sup> Late in the afternoon the Twelve came to him and said, “Send the crowd away so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside and find food and lodging, because we are in a remote place here.”

<sup>13</sup> He replied, “You give them something to eat.”



## **Luke 9:13-17 NIV**

They answered, “We have only five loaves of bread and two fish—unless we go and buy food for all this crowd.”<sup>14</sup> (About five thousand men were there.)

But he said to his disciples, “Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each.”<sup>15</sup> The disciples did so, and everyone sat down.

<sup>16</sup> Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to distribute to the people. <sup>17</sup> They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

# Jesus Took Care of Their Problems

- He healed a man born blind
- He healed the sick and the unclean
- He healed a woman with a serious health issue
- He forgave an adulteress and set her free
- He helped his own pay their taxes
- He made a way for tax collectors to set things right
- He calmed the raging sea for his disciples
- He cast out demons from the afflicted
- He raised several people from the dead

# And He Can Take Care of Yours

- What problem(s) do you need to take to Jesus?  
(e.g. personal sin, illness, job, marriage, anxiety, etc.)
- Do you believe that Jesus can still perform miracles?  
(i.e. of the heart, mind, and body)
- Are you willing to serve Him in the waiting?  
(i.e. build trust & faith, serve others, uphold truth, etc.)
- Are you prepared to give Him glory as a disciple?  
(i.e. for who he is, what he's done, and is able to do)



# Take Your Problems to Jesus

Sermon audio & slides in PDF can be downloaded at:  
[www.christiansburgmennonite.org](http://www.christiansburgmennonite.org)