

Sunday School Lesson

**Luke 7-8: The Miracles & Ministry of Jesus** (November 13, 2022)

### **Introduction:**

John Spencer pointed out that God performed seven major miracles in the history of the universe:

1. The creation of the angelic hosts (Colossians 1:16)
2. The creation of material things, including man (Genesis 1:1-31)
3. The Incarnation (John 1:14)
4. The death of Christ (John 9:30)
5. The Resurrection of Christ (Matthew 28:5-6)
6. The Second Advent of Christ (Revelation 19:11-16)
7. The creation of the new Heavens and the new Earth (Revelation 21:1, Isaiah 65:19)

### **Miracles**

Jesus is going about, healing the sick and raising the dead.

### **Healing the Centurion's Servant**

A Gentile seeks Jesus' help for his dying servant. Read **Luke 7:1-8**.

*After he had ended all his sayings in the hearing of the people he entered Caper'na-um. <sup>2</sup> Now a centurion had a slave who was dear to him, who was sick and at the point of death. <sup>3</sup> When he heard of Jesus, he sent to him elders of the Jews, asking him to come and heal his slave. <sup>4</sup> And when they came to Jesus, they besought him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy to have you do this for him, <sup>5</sup> for he loves our nation, and he built us our synagogue." <sup>6</sup> And Jesus went with them. When he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; <sup>7</sup> therefore I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed. <sup>8</sup> For I am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me: and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it."*

Analysis:

- "Centurion" was probably equivalent to an army captain (perhaps in Herod's guard).
- Humble; he has authority over others, but rather than boast of his position, he identified himself within the command structure.
- He was able to convince Jewish leaders to approach Jesus on his behalf.

- Humility- not worthy to have you enter my house. He did not expect Jesus to come into his house, which might defile Jesus.
- Exceedingly faithful – you don't even need to touch to heal; just say the word.

Jesus is impressed by the man's faith and his concern for his servant. The centurion's faith is simple, but not simplistic. Jesus heals the servant remotely. <sup>9</sup> *When Jesus heard this he marveled at him, and turned and said to the multitude that followed him, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith."* <sup>10</sup> *And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave well.*

- *Luke 7:9-10*

Gentiles were not excluded from the benefits of His grace.

## **Raising the Dead**

In this case Jesus is sympathetic towards a widow, whose son had died – her only source of support. Read **Luke 7:11-17**

<sup>11</sup> *Soon afterward he went to a city called Na'in, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. <sup>12</sup> As he drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a large crowd from the city was with her. <sup>13</sup> And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." <sup>14</sup> And he came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." <sup>15</sup> And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And he gave him to his mother. <sup>16</sup> Fear seized them all; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!" <sup>17</sup> And this report concerning him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.*

Analysis:

- Women depended upon family (men) for financial support.
- Widow => no husband; only one son and he is dead => she will be destitute
- No one requested Jesus' assistance; He was simply moved by the weeping and the situation so "he had compassion on her"

## **Impatience**

### **John The Baptist**

John wants Jesus to start being "the Messiah." He recognized Jesus as the Promised One as Jesus approached him to be baptized. He has heard about Jesus' preaching and healing, but what about establishing his kingdom? What about building an army? What about chasing the Romans out of their country? Read **Luke 7:19-23**.

<sup>19</sup> And John, calling to him two of his disciples, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?" <sup>20</sup> And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" <sup>21</sup> In that hour he cured many of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many that were blind he bestowed sight. <sup>22</sup> And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>23</sup> And blessed is he who takes no offense at me."

So what was Jesus doing? Read **Isaiah 35:5-6**.

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
<sup>6</sup> then shall the lame man leap like a hart,  
and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

What is Jesus doing? \_\_\_\_\_

Fulfilling the Messianic prophecies.

<sup>31</sup> Yet many of the people believed in him; they said, "When the Christ appears, will he do more signs than this man has done?"

- John 7:31

What are other instances when people were impatient with Jesus?

- Mother, Mary, at wedding in Cana – water into wine
- Lazarus sisters, Mary & Martha, when he was dying
- Betrayal by Judas Iscariot

Have you been impatient with God?

What do you think you should do when you want God to hurry up?

Then Jesus turned to the crowd and asked them (paraphrased), "What did you come out here to see? Something common and ordinary, or some fancy courtier out here in the desert? Or, did you come to see a real prophet?" Read **Luke 7:24-28**.

<sup>24</sup> When the messengers of John had gone, he began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to behold? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>25</sup> What then did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are gorgeously appareled and live in luxury are in kings' courts. <sup>26</sup> What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>27</sup> This is he of whom it is written, 'Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way before thee.'

<sup>28</sup> *I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John; yet he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.*”

Jesus concluded this with high praise for John. But, he also gave a hint about His kingdom, that as great as John is, even the least in Christ’s kingdom will be greater.

Then Jesus chastised the Pharisees for rejecting Him and His message: “You criticize John (an ascetic) for being unusual – wearing rough clothes, eating a limited diet and not drinking wine. Yet I eat normal food, drink wine, celebrate special occasions with friends, and you call me a glutton and a drunkard. And then you complain about my dinner companions, too.” Read **Luke 7:31-34**.

<sup>31</sup> *“To what then shall I compare the men of this generation, and what are they like? <sup>32</sup> They are like children sitting in the market place and calling to one another, ‘We piped to you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not weep.’*

<sup>33</sup> *For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine; and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ <sup>34</sup> The Son of man has come eating and drinking; and you say, ‘Behold, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’*

## **Dinner with Simon, the Pharisee**

A Pharisee invited Jesus to dinner (not sure why because he treated Jesus shoddily). To eat dinner people would lie on a couch on their left side, head towards a central table, and eat with their right hands. Their feet would be sticking outward, so “a woman of the city” (prostitute?) had easy access to Jesus’ feet. The ointment she used was usually applied to the head of an honoree, but she applied it to His feet. The Pharisee thought to himself, “If this man is such a great prophet he’d know what kind of woman this is and never let her touch him!”

Jesus read his thoughts and really gave him what-for! Read **Luke 7:41-50**.

<sup>41</sup> *“A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. <sup>42</sup> When they could not pay, he forgave them both. Now which of them will love him more?” <sup>43</sup> Simon answered, “The one, I suppose, to whom he forgave more.” And he said to him, “You have judged rightly.” <sup>44</sup> Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house, you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. <sup>45</sup> You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. <sup>46</sup> You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. <sup>47</sup> Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little.” <sup>48</sup> And he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” <sup>49</sup> Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this, who even forgives sins?” <sup>50</sup> And he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”*

## **Allegories**

Jesus used allegories to drive home points he wanted to make. And, he was becoming a very popular teacher. But, he wanted more serious followers, not just superficial listeners, so he made his allegories more complex to separate them. This is why even his disciples had to ask for explanations.

The Sower:

- The seed falls on 3 types of soil.
- Message: The Word is distributed freely, but only some will take hold and bear good results. This should be reassuring to us that we are encouraged to spread the Word, but we are not responsible for the results.

Lamp under a jar:

- A lamp in a house provides light to the benefit of all and should be shared, not hidden.
- Message: You have the “Word” which can benefit all, so it should be shared, not hidden.

Chapter 8 of Luke continues with more miracles:

- Calming the storm as the disciples crossed the lake with Jesus asleep. Even his disciples questioned, who in the world IS this?? And Jesus rebuked them: where is your faith?
- Jesus heals the demoniac by driving his demons, named Legion, into a herd of swine that then drowned themselves.
- On the way to Jarius’ house, a woman, hemorrhaging for 12 years, was healed by simply touching His robe.
- Restoring life to Jarius’ daughter with only the parents, Peter, James, and John present with Him.

## **Synoptic list of Jesus' Miracles<sup>1</sup>**

		Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
1	Water into Wine				2:1-11
2	The Healing of the Demoniac in the Synagogue		1:23-28	4:33-37	
3	Jesus Heals Multitudes by the Sea	4:25-25	3:7-12	6:17-19	
4	The Cleansing of the Leper	8:1-4	1:40-45	5:12-16	
5	The Healing of the Centurion of Capernaum's Son	8:5-13		7:1-10	4:46-54
6	The Healing of Peter's Mother-in-Law	8:14-15	1:29-31	4:38-39	
7	The Sick Healed at Evening	8:16-17	1:32-34	4:40-41	
8	Stilling the Storm	8:23-27	4:35-41	8:22-25	
9	The Healing of the Paralytic	9:1-8	2:1-12	5:17-26	
10	The Miraculous Draught of Fish	13:1-3	4:1-2	5:1-11	
11	The Man with the Withered Hand	12:9-14	3:1-6	6:6-11	
12	The Raising of the Widow's Son at Nain			7:11-17	
13	Jesus Heals the Two Gadarene Demoniacs	8:28-34	5:1-20	8:26-39	
14	Jairus' Daughter and the Woman with the Hemorrhage	9:18-26	5:21-43	8:40-56	
15	Jesus Heals Two Blind Men	9:27-31	10:46-52	18:35-43	
16	Jesus Heals the Dumb Demoniac	9:32-34	3:22	11:14-15	
17	Healing the Withered Hand	12:9-14	3:1-6	6:6-11	
18	Jesus Again Heals Multitudes by the Sea	12:15-16)			
19	Jesus Casts out a Demon from a Blind and Dumb Man	12:22-30	3:22-27	11:14-23	
20	Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand	14:13-21	6:32-44	9:10-17	6:1-15
21	Jesus Walks on Water	14:22-33	6:45-52		6:16-22
22	Healings at Gennesaret	14:34-36	6:53-56		
23	Jesus Casts out a Demon from the Daughter of the Syrophenician Woman	15:21-28	7:24-30		
24	Jesus Heals a Deaf Mute and Many Others	15:29-31	7:31-37		
25	Jesus Feeds the Four Thousand	15:32-39,	8:1-10		
26	A Blind Man Is Healed at Bethesda		8:22-26)		
27	Jesus Heals a Boy Possessed by a Spirit	17:14-21	9:14-29	9:37-43	
28	Jesus Has Peter Pay the Temple Tax with a Coin from a Fish	17:24-27			
29	Jesus Again Heals Two Blind Men	20:29-34			
30	The Cursing of the Fig Tree	21:18-19	11:12-14		
31	The Healing of the Crippled Woman on the Sabbath			13:10-17	
32	The Healing of the Man with Dropsy			14:1-6	
33	The Cleansing of the Ten Lepers			17:11-19	
34	Jesus Heals Large Crowds in Judea	19:1-2			
35	The Healing of Blind Bartimaeus	20:29-34	10:46-52	18:35-43	
36	Jesus Restores the Ear of the High Priest's Servant			22:50-51	
37	The Resurrection	28:1ff	16:1ff	24:1ff	20:1ff

<sup>1</sup> Moody Bible Institute web site

## **Summary:**

Why miracles?

- Give comfort to the ailing
- Proof of His power, especially to forgive sin

God's plan, through Jesus, will progress at God's pace. We must be patient.

“But there are also many other things which Jesus did; were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.” - John 21: 25

## **References:**

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<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%201&version=RSV>

Reading Assignments:

<b>1. Luke 7:1-8</b>	<b>2. Luke 7:11-17</b>
<b>3. Luke 7:19-23</b>	<b>4. Isaiah 35:5-6</b>
<b>5. Luke 7:24-28</b>	<b>6. Luke 7:31-34</b>
<b>7. Luke 7:41-50</b>	<b>8.</b>