

Those Who Saw

Miracles are supernatural events, transcending natural laws. God's purpose in them is to bring glory to Himself, or confirm His message through a spokesman. The story of miracles are scattered all through the scriptures. But there are a few I would like to call your attention to. I desire to show you not just the miracles, but, the Man that performed the miracles, Jesus.

The list of Jesus' miracles is long and diverse. He cured lepers (Matthew 8:1-3), He walked on water (Matthew 14:22-33), He expelled demons (Mark 1:29-34), He controlled nature (Mark 4:35-41), He healed invalids (John 5:5-15, 16), He multiplied fish and bread (John 6:1-21), and He restored sight to the blind (John 9:1-10:41).

The accounts of Jesus' miracles were not added to the Bible generations later to bring creditability to who He was. They were embedded into the accounts early in the recording of what He did and said. Even critical scholars who are unsympathetic with the gospel writers do not deny the later statement. The writers wrote what they saw. Even the enemies of Jesus could not deny His miracles.

His Jewish audience recognized His miracles for what they were and admitted that Jesus could be the Messiah.

After healing a man possessed by a demon, "And all the people were amazed [astonished], and said, Is not this the son of David? (Matthew 12:23). Even the Pharisees, who opposed Jesus with great vigor, recognized the reality of the miracle. They saw it for themselves. Therefore, they couldn't deny it happened. But rather than acknowledge the presence of God in Jesus, they ascribed the power of Jesus to the Devil. "But when the Pharisees heard it [heard what the people were saying], they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils" (Matthew 12:24). Even those who vehemently opposed Jesus did not deny the miracle that was performed.

A leader of the Pharisees, one that was highly revered and highly learned knew there was something very special about Jesus. John tells us that this man's name was Nicodemus, and he was a ruler of the Jews. He perfectly represented the well-intentioned but unenlightened Jew. Note carefully what John records: "The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him" (John 3:2).

Nicodemus, a member of the party that hated Jesus with a passion, came to the inescapable conclusion that God was with Jesus in a very special way. This conclusion finally lead him to believe that Jesus was more than a teacher, but, that Jesus was God in human flesh (John 19:38-39).

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