



Teach & Talk Study Guide

Session Three: The “First” Miracles

Use the following **Study Guide** and **Discussion Questions** in your Community Groups.
Encourage others in your group to download these notes at abundantlifebaltimore.com/resources.

Introduction

The ‘First’ Miracles we will be studying in this session:

1. Jesus’ First Miracle at the Wedding of Cana (John 2).
 2. The Apostle’s First Recorded Miracle of the Lame Man at the Temple Gate (Acts 3).
- Both of these miracles were notable. Not only in the sense of undeniable, but also notable in the greater work and purpose in the Kingdom of God.
 - Jesus worked countless miracles (Luke 6:17-19, John 21:25). Yet Jesus' first miracle while physically on this earth was when He turned water into wine (John 2).

John 2:11 (NKJV) 11 This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.

Turning the Water into Wine (John 2:1-11)

How the miracle happened:

- Learning of the situation, Mary came to Jesus.
- Mary told the servants to do anything that Jesus told them.
- The obedience of the servants was an important factor in the miracle.
- At Jesus' command, they filled six large water jars to the brim.
- They then drew from the jars and took the drink to the master of the feast. When he tasted it, he declared that it was the best wine.

The Results:

According to John 2:11, this first miracle had 2 results... 1) It "manifested forth His glory" and 2) "His disciples believed on Him"

- This demonstration of the Lord's power authenticated His identity, and ignited the faith of his first followers.
- This first miracle proved to them that He was the Messiah, and that He could do anything.

Takeaways:

- Jesus is concerned about the needs of people.
- Obedience is the key to the Supernatural.
- Miracles serve a greater purpose in the Kingdom Plan of God. The changing of the water into wine served the greater purpose of establishing the faith of Jesus' first disciples.
- We must remember that we're a part of something greater than ourselves. Our mission is the advancement of the Kingdom of God... and miracles in the Apostolic Church will meet the needs of people, but will also serve the greater need of spreading this Great Gospel.
- As we mature in Christ, we raise our focus off of so much of ourselves (to have a better life), and begin to be concerned about the needs of the Kingdom.

The Healing of the Lame Man (Acts 3:1-11)

Acts 3:1 NKJV “Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.”

- Peter and John continued in the practice of regular participation in the prayer at the Temple (see Acts 2:43). Also note that prayer was not the only component of the Apostolic Church, but also “Wonders, Signs and Miracles” (Acts 2:43).

The Need

Acts 3:2 NKJV And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple;

- This man was 40 years old (Acts 4:22).
- He suffered from a birth defect that prohibited him from walking.
- We do know he was a familiar face in the vicinity of the Temple's gate. He claimed his spot every day to beg of worshipers who had come to prayer.

The Timing of the Miracle

- Interestingly, Jesus did not heal this man during His earthly ministry:
 - This man who was lame was known to the people (vs. 3).
 - Jesus' earthly life was contemporary to this man.
 - Jesus went to the Temple as recorded in Scripture.
- Jesus left this miracle undone for a time when it would serve the plan of God.
- The miracle was not an end in itself. It became a door that opened the gospel to others.

The timing of the miracle is in God's hands (not ours) just as the power of the miracle is in God's hands not ours.

Acts 3:3 NKJV who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms.

- This miracle became possible due to the apostles' faithfulness (routine) of prayer at the temple as well as the lame man's routine of seeking help at the temple. The routine or faithfulness opened up the opportunity for the extraordinary.

The Making of a Miracle

Acts 3:4-5 And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us." So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.

- Lame man was expecting to receive alms from Peter and John.
- But this time was different. Peter was directed of the Spirit.
- He spoke a word of faith in the authority of the name of Jesus.

1. Speaking a Word of Faith

Acts 3:6 Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

- Peter spoke a word of faith to a man who had probably never considered that he might someday walk.
- Peter leaned on the authority of "the name of Jesus Christ." In the name of Jesus, Peter commanded the man to "rise up and walk."

2. Acting on the Word of Faith

Acts 3:7 NKJV "And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength."

- Note Peter spoke "rise up and walk" but then he "lifted him up."
- Peter acted on an impulse of the Spirit on both accounts. He spoke the Word of faith and he acted on the Word of faith.

3. Celebrating the Word of Faith

Acts 3:8 NKJV So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them--walking, leaping, and praising God.

- Do not miss the importance of celebrating what God has done!
- Note this healing was a perfect work.
- This man's enthusiastic celebration of the miracle attracted the attention of all.

4. Witnessing the Word of Faith

Acts 3:9-10 NKJV And all the people saw him walking and praising God. Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Acts 3:11 NKJV Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon's, greatly amazed.

- Note in the Book of Acts, what results yielded in the initial outpouring of the Spirit and the first miracle recorded through the Apostles:

Acts 4:4 NKJV “However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.”

Conclusion

- With God, all things are possible. Thus, what is a miracle to us is standard procedure for Him.
- Miracle, signs and wonders are part of what it means to be “Apostolic”. The miraculous is not optional or extra-curricular.
- God expects us to be used in the working of Miracles to show God’s compassion, glory and for the gospel to be shared.

Small Group Discussion Guide

*The questions below are options for group leaders to help facilitate discussion.
You may use all or some of the questions as needed based on the needs of the group.*

1. Ask someone in the group to share how this focus on miracles has affected their faith, prayers, or expectations to see and celebrate the miraculous. (*i.e. feeling empowered to pray in faith, looking for miracles to celebrate, sense of duty to be used in the miraculous, etc.*)
2. What makes Jesus' first miracle in the disciples' first miracle "notable?" (*Without a doubt no other source than supernatural, that is Jesus; greater work and purpose in the kingdom, etc.*)
3. Similar to turning water into wine, Jesus can change situations and circumstances for His glory...
 - a. Discuss the ways in which God might use a bad situation or circumstance for His glory?
 - b. Name a personal example of How / when /what God has done to miraculously turn a situation around in your life?
4. Discuss the role of obedience, sacrifice, and belief in the demonstration of miracles?
5. Consider the making of a miracle (Speaking the word of faith, acting on it, celebrating and witnessing)...
 - a. Why is it important to include all four steps mentioned?
 - b. How does the disciples' first miracle exemplify the elements of speaking, acting on, celebrating, and witnessing a word of faith?
 - c. Is there a miracle in the making of your life right now? How can you take part in applying these elements to your miracle ?