

I Need a Miracle:
When I Need a Miracle, I Must Call on Jesus
John 2:1-11

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Text Introduction: There are seven events in the Gospel of John that are commonly referred to as the 7 Signs of John: Water into wine, Healing of a nobleman's son, Healing of a man at the Pool of Bethesda, Feeding the 5,000, Walking on the water in the midst of a storm, Healing a blind man, and Raising Lazarus from the dead. The word sign is a technical term in the Gospel of John that refers specifically to the 7 miracles that serve to point people to belief in Jesus. These miracles will be the subject of our study as we begin this new year. As we begin, I would want you to understand that ...

The miracles of Jesus confirm who He is, what He said about Himself, and what others said about Him.

Text: On the third day a wedding took place in Cana of Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and ² Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding as well. ³ When the wine ran out, Jesus' mother told Him, "They don't have any wine."

⁴ "What has this concern of yours to do with Me, woman?" Jesus asked. "My hour has not yet come."

⁵ "Do whatever He tells you," His mother told the servants.

⁶ Now six stone water jars had been set there for Jewish purification. Each contained 20 or 30 gallons.

⁷ "Fill the jars with water," Jesus told them. So they filled them to the brim. ⁸ Then He said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the chief servant." And they did.

⁹ When the chief servant tasted the water (after it had become wine), he did not know where it came from—though the servants who had drawn the water knew. He called the groom ¹⁰ and told him, "Everyone sets out the fine wine first, then, after people have drunk freely, the inferior. But you have kept the fine wine until now."

¹¹ Jesus performed this first sign in Cana of Galilee. He displayed His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.

Introduction: I must tell you that I am a little anxious about this series. Not the kind of anxiousness because I'm uncertain of the message. In fact, I have more peace about that than in some other cases, maybe even most cases. I am anxious because contemporary society seems to misunderstand miracles. Faith healers and television evangelists promising miracles when you send your money have not helped. As such, those of our kind of Christianity, have probably dismissed miracles as something that God once did, but for whatever reason no longer continues to do. Is that so and if so, who said?

My heart is filled with these messages because as the last year closed, I encountered person after person, family after family whose need is so great that it could be said, "Their only hope is for a miracle!" Are you numbered among those who would say, "I need a miracle?"

Before we get to our primary text and account of a miracle today, we probably would do well to offer a bit of introduction today.

Defining a Miracle

What is a miracle?

The famed Southern Baptist theologian, Herschel Hobbs defined miracle this way:

"An act of God, contrary to natural law as human beings understand it, but not contrary to natural law as God understands it, and which He performs in accord with His benevolent will and redemptive purpose." –Herschel Hobbs

Now, I love Dr. Hobbs, and I don't disagree with any part of his definition, I just need something more simple.

My Definition:

Miracles are those things that can only be described by the phrase "God did it!"

The Danger of Miracles

When talking about miracles, there seems to be imbalance on either side.

- We are not talking about miracles on demand.

The worst thing that can happen as a result of this message and the next six is that you will assume that whatever the perceived needed miracle in your life is will be granted. This doesn't seem to be the case in Scripture. In fact, Jesus said, "An evil and adulterous generation demands a sign." (Matthew 12:39 for example and Matthew 16:4) Jesus was trying to get the crowds to seek Him and not His miracles.

- But, we are also not talking about miracles as only happening back then, and not now.

As Adrian Rogers so wrote by the title of a book years ago, Believe in miracles, but trust in Jesus! That's what I hope you will hear in these coming weeks.

So, What about When I Need a Miracle?

The main principle that I notice in this text today is that when there was a need that seemed impossible, the mother of Jesus knew that there was one thing that could be done—Call on Jesus, and then do whatever He said. Let's unpack that a little further. When I need a miracle I must understand that...

1. Miracles and faith go hand in hand.

This is probably a little over simplified, but miracles do start with faith—the faith that believes that God can do all things. Mary believed that Jesus could do something about the need at this wedding party. She is insistent to tell Jesus. She is insistent to tell the others to do whatever He says. So, notice that it is an active faith. It is not a faith that sits idly by, but instead a faith that is activated.

2. Miracles and obedience go hand in hand.

Because it is an active faith, obedience is involved. Notice, in this miracle, that Jesus used common people and common things to bring about the miracle. Think of it this way. If we are going to say that we believe in miracles, don't you think that Jesus could have changed the water into wine without the activity of others? In other words, if we say that we are going to believe in miracles, shouldn't we say that Jesus could have caused the water to be wine as it went down the throats of the guests? If we say that we are going to believe in miracles, shouldn't we say that Jesus could have simply spoke and the water would have turned into wine? But, instead, Jesus gave instructions to follow. Why is this? Our involvement actually might validate the miracle. Notice verse 9. The servants knew. Somebody might have been able to say, "Well, they must have found some more wine." That couldn't have happened because the servants knew.

Might He do the same in us? So, when we need a miracle, it is important to ask some questions....

- Have we done all that we could have done?
- Have we done all that we have been counseled to do?
- Have we removed all impediments to our prayer?
- Are we praying with the glory of God in view?

3. Miracles and God's glory go hand in hand.

This may be hard for us to swallow, but when the miracle comes, it is not about us, but about God. The miracle revealed the glory of God.

4. Miracles and God's purposes go hand in hand.

The ultimate purpose of the disciples believing in Him is the end result of this miracle.

My favorite band is a group called Third Day (not the Gaithers). Their most recent single is the title of this series—I Need a Miracle. The inspiration for this song comes from a mother who attended one of their concerts. She told them how some years ago her son had reached rock bottom in his life, in his marriage, and in his addictions. He drove off into the woods thinking that there he would end his life. Coming to a stop, he turned on the radio thinking that he would listen to one last song and then end his life. From the radio came the sound of a Third Day song called Cry Out to Jesus. A song that spoke right to his situation with these words:

And to all of the people with burdens and pains
Keeping you back from your life
You believe that there's nothing and there is no one
Who can make it right

For the marriage that's struggling just to hang on
They lost all of their faith in love
They've done all they can to make it right again
Still it's not enough

For the ones who can't break the addictions and chains
You try to give up but you come back again
Just remember that you're not alone in your shame
And your suffering

When your lonely
And it feels like the whole world is falling on you
You just reach out, you just cry out to Jesus
Cry to Jesus

There is hope for the helpless
Rest for the weary
Love for the broken heart
There is grace and forgiveness
Mercy and healing
He'll meet you wherever you are
Cry out to Jesus, Cry out to Jesus

And so, here is what happened to that young man! (Play video of "I Need a Miracle")

How many of you today would say, pastor, I need a miracle? I can't promise you that the miracle you are seeking will happen, but I can promise you to the best of my ability, I will pray with you. And, more importantly, I can promise you that you can trust God while you suffer and while you wait.