

The Miracles of Jesus as Signs



Jesus performed many miracles providing a glimpse into the kind of world God wants for His children. When Jesus fed five thousand men, women and children with only five loaves and two fish, healed the sick, and raised the dead, it was a sign that our Heavenly Father is a caring God and Jesus as His only Son is equally loving and compassionate.



Jesus never performed a miracle to show-off or to glorify himself, rather each of His miracles was meant to be a sign or message to the whole of humankind about God's providence over all living beings.

The many miracles that Jesus worked can be grouped into four types for a better understanding of their significance.

Healing: Jesus healing the people suffering from different diseases is a sign of God's loving concern for all human beings.

Exorcism: Jesus freed many people from the power of evil as a sign that there is no other force greater than God.

Nature: Jesus walked on the sea, or calmed a storm, to show that God the Father is the Lord of the universe.

Raising to Life: By raising the dead Jesus gave the sign that God is the creator and master of all life on earth.

The most important element in a miracle is not the wonder felt by humans but the response of the faithful. The New Testament provides many incidents where ordinary people understood the sign Jesus was giving and believed in Him, but the scholarly Pharisees refused to accept them as signs from God.

Insight



St. Francis Xavier who preached Christianity in Goa, south India, and Japan is called the Apostle of the Far East. He, along with St. Ignatius of Loyola and others, founded the Society of Jesus or the Jesuit congregation. Born in Spain, he arrived as a missionary in Goa in 1542. He died while he was waiting for a boat to go to mainland China. When his body was exhumed it was observed that it had not decomposed. His relics are preserved at the Bom Jesu Basilica in Old Goa. His feast day, December 3, is a public holiday in Goa.



Word of God

Luke 13: 10 – 13

One Sabbath Jesus was teaching in a synagogue. A woman there had an evil spirit that had kept her sick for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, He called out to her, "Woman, you are free from your sickness!" He placed His hands on her, and at once she straightened herself up and praised God.

Notes

**Know
Now**

BOOK: Jesus and the Miracle Tradition by Paul J. Achtemeier: Working with selected miracles of Jesus from the canonical Gospel traditions and with background studies in the general understanding of miracles in the Greco-Roman world of the Hellenistic period, this collection of essays shows how we may understand the theological reasons why the early followers of Jesus included these stories in their traditions.

my TASK this week

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To Do



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