

“REGARDLESS OF WHAT ANYONE MAY PERSONALLY THINK OR BELIEVE ABOUT HIM, JESUS OF NAZARETH HAS BEEN THE DOMINANT FIGURE IN THE HISTORY OF WESTERN CULTURE FOR ALMOST TWENTY CENTURIES.”
(JAROSLAV PELIKAN, *JESUS THROUGH THE CENTURIES*)

“The Miracle Accounts”

1. A Day in the Life of Jesus: Mark 1:21-39

- 1:21-22 – Teaching
- 1:23-28 – Deliverance
- 1:29-31 – Healing (Peter’s mother-in-law)
- 1:32- 34 - Healing and deliverance of multitudes
- 1:35-39 - Prayer

2. Definition of a miracle

- Webster: “an event or action that apparently contradicts known scientific laws and is hence thought to be due to supernatural causes, especially an act of God”
- Elements:
 - Goes beyond the ordinary limits of nature
 - Creates a sense of wonder in those who witness it
 - Generally points beyond itself to some sense of meaning or purpose
- Biblical definition of a miracle
 - Power that exceeds ordinary limits of nature
 - *Dunamis* (plural of *dunamis*) – powers
 - Creates a sense of wonder or awe
 - *Terata* (plural of *terasa*) – wonders
 - Authenticates the identity of the one who performs the miracle
 - *Semeion* – sign
 - Occurs instantaneously or more quickly than usual
 - *Eutheos* – immediately
 - Df, Thomas Oden: “A miracle is an unusual and significant event (*terasa*) which requires the working of a supernatural agent (*dunamis*) and is performed for the purpose of authenticating the message or the messenger (*semeion*).”

3. Functions of a Biblical miracle

- Brings glory to God
- Expresses the compassion of Christ
- Authenticates the ministry of Christ or his Spirit

4. Types of Biblical miracles (*adapted from NIV Study Bible, see addendum*)

- Miracles of Healing
- Miracles of Spiritual Deliverance
- Miracles showing power over nature
- Miracles of raising the dead

5. Examples of Jesus' miracles

- a. Mark 1:40-45 – Healing of the leper

- b. Mark 8:22-26 and 10:46-52 – Two accounts of Jesus healing blind men

- c. Mark 4:35-41 – Jesus calms the storm

- d. Mark 6:30-44 – Feeding of the 5,000

- e. Mark 5:21-24, 35-43 – Raising of Jairus' daughter

- f. Mark 9:14-29 – Demon-possessed boy

6. **DISCUSS: Do miracles still occur today?**

- Is timing alone enough to call an event a miracle?
- Why don't we see more Biblical-style (instantaneous) miracles today?

7. Miracle stories

Addendum: Miracles of Jesus
Adapted from the NIV Study Bible

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Healing Miracles				
• Man with leprousy	8:2-4	1:40-42	5:12-13	
• Roman Centurion's servant	8:5-13		7:1-10	
• Peter's mother-in-law	8:14-15	1:30-31	4:38-39	
• Paralyzed man	9:2-7	2:3-12	5:18-25	
• Woman with bleeding	9:20-22	5:25-29	8:43-48	
• Two blind men	9:27-31			
• Man with shriveled hand	12:10-13	3:1-5	6:6-10	
• Two blind men/Bartimaeus	20:29-34	10:46-52	18:35-43	
• Deaf mute		7:31-37		
• Blind man at Bethsaida		8:22-26		
• Crippled woman			13:11-13	
• Man with dropsy			14:1-4	
• Ten men with leprousy			17:11-19	
• The high priest's servant			22:50-51	
• Official's son at Capernaum				4:46-54
• Sick man at pool of Bethesda				5:1-9
• Man born blind				9:1-7
Spiritual Deliverance				
• Man/men from Gedara	8:28-34	5:1-15	8:27-35	
• Mute demon-possessed man	9:32-33			
• Blind, mute demon-possessed man	12:22		11:14	
• Canaanite woman's possessed daughter	15:21-28	7:24-30		
• Boy with a demon	17:14-18	9:17-29	9:38-43	
• Possessed man in synagogue		1:23-25	4:33-35	
Power over Nature				
• Calming the storm	8:23-27	4:37-41	8:22-25	
• Walking on water	14:25	6:48-51		6:19-21
• Feeding of the 5,000	14:15-21	6:35-44	9:12-17	6:19-21
• Feeding of the 4,000	15:32-38	8:1-9		
• Coin in fish	17:24-27			
• Fig tree withered	21:18-22	11:12-14, 20-25		
• Large catch of fish			5:4-11	
• Water turned to wine				2:1-11
• Another large catch of fish				21:1-11
Raising the Dead				
• Jairus' daughter	9:18-19, 23-25	5:22-24, 35-43	8:41-42, 49-56	
• Widow's son at Nain			7:11-15	
• Lazarus				11:1-44