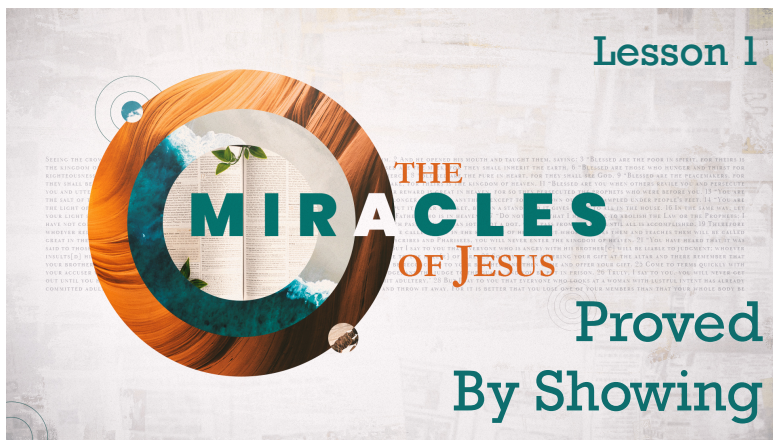


Jesus of Nazareth was a worker of **miracles**. "Miracle." That word gets thrown around a lot and attached to a wide variety of natural occurrences and amazing events. But what is a miracle? Why did Jesus perform them? And maybe most important of all, what do the many miracles we read about in the Gospels reveal about the heart of our King?



Let's listen in to the way Peter and the rest of the apostles preached in **Acts 2:22-24**:

"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man _____ to _____ by _____ with mighty _____ and _____ and _____ that God _____ through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it."

to "attest" is to _____ by _____

In **John 5:36**, we hear from Jesus himself:

"But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the _____ that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear _____ about me that the Father has _____ me."

Our Father in heaven—the Creator of the universe—has "borne witness." He has proved by showing. Jesus was sent by him, and the incredible works, wonders, and signs Jesus performed are the proof. In fact, there was lots and lots of proof, with a very specific purpose *behind* the proof.

Now Jesus did many other _____ in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that _____ may _____ that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (**John 20:30-31**)

Plenty of people, even in the first century, didn't see Jesus with their own eyes, or hear him with their own ears, or touch him with their own hands. But they could believe. Because God had proven by showing and the eyewitnesses were willing to share what they had seen and heard, people could believe that Jesus is the Anointed Son of God and have life in his name. Over and over and over again in the New Testament, we hear this news:

...God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various _____ ... (**Heb 2:4**)

Okay. Something incredible happened. Lots and lots of incredible things. Someone amazing walked among us. But that was a long time ago. Is it really still that big of a deal?

Therefore _____ must pay much closer attention to what we have heard... (**Heb 2:1**)

Proved by showing. Proof that we need to pay attention to. **So let's talk about it...**

For Class & Family Discussion:

- To “attest” is to prove by showing. Can you think of an example from everyday life of **proving** something to someone by **showing** them something?

- Peter preached in **Acts 2** that Jesus of Nazareth was “attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst.” Let’s take a look on the next page at the many recorded miracles of Jesus. As you scan that list, what are some good examples of...
 - Mighty works?

 - Wonders?

 - Signs?

- Compared to the incredible list on the next page, what might we sometimes hear described as a “miracle” that doesn’t fit the Biblical description of a miracle? In your own words, what *is* a miracle?

- In **John 3:1-2**, what did Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, recognize about the powerful proof attached to these miracles?

- Let’s open our Bibles back to **John 20** and reread **verses 30-31**. Is it enough to believe that Jesus was a real person? A good teacher? Even a miracle worker? If not, why not?

- Looking back at **Hebrews 2:1-4**, why “must” we pay close attention to what we have heard?

Miracles of Jesus	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Water turned to wine				2:1
Healing of a man with an unclean spirit		1:23	4:33	
Many healings	4:23	1:32		
A miraculous catch of fish			5:4	
Healing of a leper	8:1	1:40	5:12	
Healing of a Roman centurion's servant	8:5		7:1	
Healing of Peter's mother-in-law	8:14	1:29	4:38	
Raising of a widow's son			7:11	
Calming of the storm at sea	8:23	4:35	8:22	
Healing of the demon-possessed men	8:28	5:1	8:26	
Healing of a paralytic	9:1	2:1	5:18	
Healing of a woman with a discharge of blood	9:20	5:25	8:43	
Raising of Jairus's daughter	9:23	5:22	8:41	
Healing of two blind men	9:27			
Healing of a mute demon-possessed man	9:32			
Healing of a man with a withered hand	12:10	3:1	6:6	
Healing of an official's son				4:46
Healing of an invalid man				5:1
Feeding of 5,000	14:15	6:35	9:12	6:1
Walking on the sea	14:22	6:47		6:16
Healing of a man born blind				9:1
Healing of the Canaanite woman's daughter	15:21	7:24		
Healing of a deaf man		7:31		
Feeding of 4,000	15:32	8:1		
Healing of a blind man		8:22		
Healing of an epileptic boy with a demon	17:14	9:14	9:37	
Healing of two blind men	20:30			
Healing of a woman with a disabling spirit			13:11	
Healing of a man with dropsy			14:1	
Healing of ten lepers			17:11	
Healing of blind Bartimaeus		10:46	18:35	
Raising of Lazarus				11:38
Healing of Malchus's ear			22:50	18:10
A miraculous catch of fish				21:1