

The Miracle Worker

Lesson Eighteen

Matthew 8-10; Mark 2, 5;

Luke 5, 7, 8; John 3, 5

This lesson centers on the miracles of Jesus. These miracles show Jesus as able to heal the sick and to control nature. He is Lord of the universe and nature will obey Him. Jesus also shows, through these miracles, that He is able to rule over death. He can cause people who have died to come back to life.

Two other aspects of Jesus' ministry are covered in this lesson. First, the conversation between Jesus and the Pharisee Nicodemus is examined. Also, the selection of the twelve apostles will be covered.

JESUS' CONVERSATION WITH NICODEMUS

John 3:1-17

Nicodemus was a Pharisee. That means he was a teacher in the synagogue (or church of the Jews) and a recognized religious leader. John the Baptist had harsh words for the religious leaders of that day. Jesus also had hard words for them. Most did not believe in Jesus and worked to get rid of Him. Nicodemus, however, seriously wanted to know more of Jesus and His message.

Read John 3:1-17. (Slide 1)

What is the requirement for seeing the Kingdom of God? Being born again

What does "born of water" refer to? baptism

Water alone does not allow one to enter the Kingdom of God. What is the other element? The Spirit

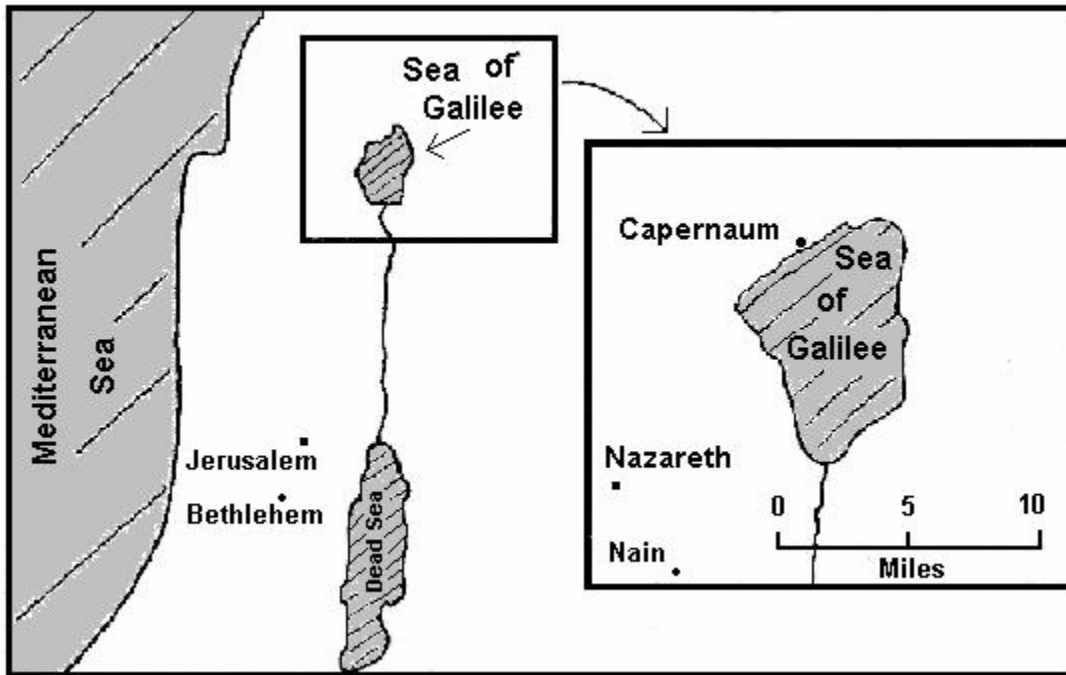
Explain the story of Moses and the snake in the desert. The people rebelled. God sent poisonous snakes. People repented. If they looked on the bronze snake, they would be saved.

Who is the Son of Man? Jesus

How will He be lifted up? On the cross

Why was Jesus sent into the world? to save us from our sins

Most of the events covered in the rest of this lesson took place in Galilee. The map below shows some of the locations and gives information on the distances involved. Refer to it throughout this lesson.



PETER'S CATCH OF FISH THE TWELVE APOSTLES

Luke 5
Matthew 10

And it came to pass that, as the people pressed upon Him to hear the Word of God, He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret (another name for the Sea of Galilee) and saw two boats standing by the lake. But the fishermen were out of them and were washing their nets. And He entered into one of the boats, 2 which was Simon's, and asked that he would push the boat out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the people out of the boat.

Why does Jesus get in a boat and go out on the lake? So He can be seen better and heard better

The above episode is the introduction to a miracle and the calling of Jesus' first Apostles. **Read Luke 5:4-11. (Slide 3, 4)**

What does Jesus tell Simon to do? Let down the nets

Does Simon think they will catch anything? no

How many fish do they catch? Enough to fill the boat to the point of sinking

What is the reaction of Simon to the catch? Astonishment and reverence

Which three future apostles were part of this miracle? 1) Peter

2) James 3) John

What does Jesus tell them they are to do from now on? Catch men

What is their reaction? They left everything and followed Jesus

And Jesus called to Him His twelve disciples **5** and gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: the first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew, his brother; James, the son of Zebedee, and John, his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew, the tax collector; James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon, the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him.



These twelve Jesus sent forth and commanded them, saying, "Go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils. Freely you have received, freely give."

Note that Bartholomew is the same person as Nathanael in lesson seventeen. Zealot (from Simon the Zealot) either refers to this man's zeal for the kingdom or it indicates his membership in a party of that name which was violently opposed to Roman rule of their country. Thaddaeus is probably the same person sometimes referred to as "Judas son of James." And Iscariot most likely means "man from Kerioth." Kerioth is a town about thirty miles south of Jerusalem.

Where do these men get the power to perform these miracles? From Jesus

List the twelve apostles.

1) Simon Peter 2) Andrew 3) James

4) John 5) Philip 6) Bartholomew/Nathanael

7) Thomas 8) Matthew 9) Thaddaeus/Judas

10) James 11) Simon 12) Judas Iscariot

Why should they freely give to others? We have received freely from God

THE LEPER AND THE CENTURION OF CAPERNAUM

Matthew 8:1-13

The following episode takes place just after the Sermon on the Mount.

When Jesus was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him. Behold, there came a leper and worshiped Him saying, 6 "Lord, if You will, You can make me clean." Jesus put forth His hand and touched him saying, "I will; be clean." Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. Jesus said to him, "See that you tell no man, but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded for a testimony to them."

What is the man's problem? leprosy

Does Jesus heal him? yes

The next miracle that will be considered deals with the faith of a centurion. A centurion was a Roman military officer. As an officer he would be in charge of one hundred soldiers. Jesus' healing ministry went beyond the Jewish community, because people from outside the Jewish community had faith in Jesus.

Read Matthew 8:5-13. (Slide 7)

Why doesn't the centurion expect Jesus to come in order for his request to be granted?

1.) he does not deserve to have Jesus come

2.) he understands how authority works and believes in Jesus' authority

Why is Jesus astonished? The man's faith is so great

What is the point of what Jesus says next? Many Gentiles will come to faith and be saved; many in Israel will not come to faith and will not be saved

Is the centurion's servant healed? yes

JESUS AND THE PARALYTIC MAN JESUS STILLS THE TEMPEST

Matthew 8, 9 Mark 2:1-12

Read Mark 2:1-5 for the first segment of the next miracle that will be considered in this lesson. (Slide 8)

Where is Jesus? Capernaum

What problem do the friends of the paralyzed man encounter? It is too crowded to get to Jesus

How do they solve their problem? Lower him through the ceiling

What does Jesus say to the paralyzed man? "Your sins are forgiven."

At this time in history, the Jewish people thought that physical afflictions were the direct result of someone's sin. A person with a physical impairment carried the double burden of physical limitations and guilt for some supposed sin. Everyone who saw this person would be thinking that a great sin must have been committed by this person or someone closely related to him. What a terrible burden to bear. Jesus knew that the man needed re-assurance that he was forgiven of his sins in order to release him from the load of guilt he bore. But the work of our Lord does not end here.

Behold, the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason in their hearts saying, "This man is blaspheming. Who can forgive sins but God only?" Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier to say, 'Your sins be forgiven you' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins, (then He said to the paralyzed man) "Arise, take up your bed and go your way into your house." Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and departed to his own house. But when the multitude saw it, they marveled and glorified God who had given such power to men.

Why are the Scribes and Pharisees upset with Jesus? They think He is claiming to be

equal with God – which He is

Which is harder, to say someone's sins are forgiven or to heal them? heal them

Who gets the glory for this miracle? God

In the introduction it was noted that Jesus is Lord of the entire universe. He therefore has power over the forces of nature as well as power over death and illness.

Read Matthew 8:23-27 for an example of Jesus' mastery over the forces of nature. (Slide 9)

What happens as they are out on the lake? A strong storm comes up

What is Jesus doing at this time? sleeping

To whom do the disciples turn for help? Jesus

What does Jesus do? Calms the storm

What is the reaction of the disciples? amazement

THE RAISING OF THE RULER'S DAUGHTER AND OF THE WIDOW'S SON

Matthew 9

Mark 5

This section of the lesson shows two examples of Jesus as ruler over death. These are not the only times Jesus brought the dead back to life. In another lesson the raising of Lazarus will be studied.

*And behold, there came a man named Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, and he fell down at Jesus' feet **10** and pleaded with Him that He would come into his house; for he had one only daughter about twelve years of age, and she lay dying. But as He went, there came one from the ruler of the synagogue's house saying to him, "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Master." But when Jesus heard it, He answered him saying, "Fear not, only believe; and she shall be made whole."*

Read Mark 5:38-43 for the rest of this account. **(Slide 11)**

Why are the people wailing and crying? They think the girl is dead

Do they believe what Jesus tells them? no

What happens when Jesus talks to the girl? She comes back to life

Jesus gives two commands after this. What are they?

1.) do not tell anyone

2.) give her something to eat

This next episode happens shortly after the healing of the centurion's servant.



And it came to pass the day after that He went into a city called Nain. Many of His disciples went with Him and many people. Now, when He came near to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother. She was a widow, and many of the people of the city were with her.

Two important pieces of information concerning this family are included in this brief passage. The woman has lost her only son, and the woman is a widow.

Think back to the story of Ruth and Naomi. What problems will this woman face?__

Nobody to provide for her

Read Luke 7:13-17 to see what happens next. (Slide 12)

What is Jesus' immediate reaction to this scene? His heart went out to her

What does Jesus do for this family? Restores the son

Whom do the people praise? God

Who do they think Jesus is? A great prophet

HEALING ON THE SABBATH THE WITHERED HAND BETHESDA

Matthew 12

John 5:1-16

The religious leaders had taken the concept of Sabbath and expanded it to the point that very little activity was allowed. The point of the establishment of the Sabbath had long been lost in the many rules that came to be enforced. The purpose of the Sabbath was to establish a much-needed time of rest and restoration for the family, the body and the relationship to God. The Sabbath was made for man, because he needed to put aside his work and renew himself. The Sabbath had become, instead, a day of rules and regulations, and those rules and regulations had become more important than the rest that it was intended to provide. Once again, the letter of the law was kept, but the spirit of the law was broken repeatedly. On several occasions Jesus ran into opposition for healing on the Sabbath. The religious leaders of the time considered this to be breaking the Sabbath. Jesus explains things a bit differently.

At that time Jesus went on the Sabbath day into their synagogue. Behold, there was a man whose hand was withered. They asked Him saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath day?" that they might accuse Him. He said to them, "What man shall there be among you that shall have one sheep and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath day will he not lay hold on it and lift it out? How much, then, is a man better than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." Then said He to the man, "Stretch forth your hand." He stretched it forth, and it was restored whole like the other.

What is the problem with the reasoning of the religious leaders? It is okay to

take care of animals but not okay to heal

Does Jesus heal the man? yes

For another instance of healing on the Sabbath, read **John 5:2-9**. (Slide 13)

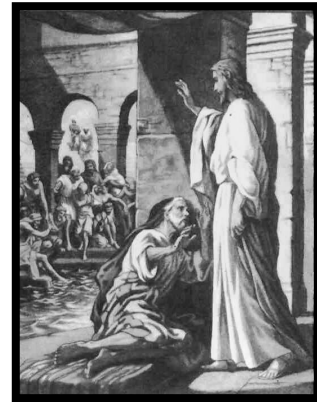
For how long has the man been an invalid? Thirty-eight years

What is the man's response when Jesus asks him if he wants to get well? There is no one to put him in the water

Does the man recognize who Jesus is and ask Him for help? no

Does Jesus heal him? yes

On what day does this take place? Sabbath



*The Jews, therefore, said to the man who was cured, **14** "It is the Sabbath day. It is not lawful for you to carry your bed." He answered them, "He who made me whole, the same said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'" Then they asked him, "What man is it who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?" And he that was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had conveyed Himself away into the crowd that was there. Afterward Jesus found the man in the Temple and said to him, "Behold, you are made whole. Sin no more lest a worse thing happen to you." The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him whole. Therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus and sought to slay Him because He had done these things on the Sabbath.*

Why do the Jews stop the man and speak with him? He is carrying his bed and he should not be because it is the Sabbath

What worse thing could happen to the man if he continues to sin? He could suffer eternal punishment

REVIEW

1. What does Nicodemus have difficulty understanding? How can a person be born again?
2. In order to enter the kingdom of God, how must we be born? Water & Spirit
3. Why does Jesus go out in the boat? To be better seen and heard
4. What miraculous thing happens to Simon and the fishermen? Get lots of fish
5. Will the twelve disciples be able to perform miracles? yes
6. From whom do they receive this power? Jesus, God
7. Is Nathanael one of the twelve disciples? yes
8. Whom does the centurion want Jesus to heal? His servant
9. Does Jesus go see the servant? no
10. Does Jesus heal the servant? yes
11. Why is it important for Jesus to tell the paralyzed man that his sins are forgiven? He will be free from guilt
12. Why can Jesus control nature? He is Lord of the universe
13. What does Jesus do for Jairus' daughter? Raises her to life
14. Does Jesus observe all the religious rules for the Sabbath? no
15. What is one reason the religious leaders want Jesus dead? Heals on the Sabbath

