

LESSON VII

A Survey of the Life of Christ (Part II)

CHAPTER I

THE MIRACLES OF CHRIST

In the last lesson we spoke briefly about the miracle of turning water into wine. This was the first miracle performed by Jesus at a place called Cana in the province of Galilee.

It is not possible to detail every single miracle Jesus accomplished. In the Gospels, about 40 miracles are recorded. These are by no means by only ones Christ did, for John says, “Many other signs (miracles) did Jesus in the presence of His disciples which are not written in this book.” (John 20:30).

A miracle is an actual event of a supernatural nature, thus being beyond the explanation of ordinary natural laws. This definition is a simple one and can be expanded. The purpose of miracles though is important, why did Jesus do miracles? Again, John says that the miracles that are recorded are for us to believe that Jesus is the Christ. (John 20:31). And Jesus said that His works prove that He was from God. (John 5:36). Thus His miracles proved that His teachings and message were authentic. They showed He was the Son of God. And, of course, His miracles also show a genuine concern and sympathy for man’s weakness and sufferings.

The miracles of Jesus are scattered throughout His ministry. They demonstrate the power of Christ over natural and supernatural forces and over life and death itself. Thus Jesus could command a storm to cease, demons to depart, a sick person to become well again and the dead to live again. Certainly He was the Son of God.

Here is a chronological list of the miracles Jesus did, that were recorded:

<i>S. No.</i>	<i>Miracle</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Reference</i>
1.	Water changed to wine.	Miracle over forces of nature.	John 2: 1-11
2.	Nobleman’s son healed.	Bodily illness healed.	John 4:46-54
3.	Draught of fishes.	Miracle over forces of nature.	Luke 5:1-11
4.	Demoniac cured.	Power over demons.	Mark 1:26; Luke 4:31-37
5.	Healing of Peter’s mother-in-law.	Bodily illness healed.	Matt. 8:14-17; Mark 1:29-31; Luke 4:38, 39
6.	Leper healed.	Bodily illness healed.	Matt. 8:2-4; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-14

S. No.	Miracle	Type	Reference
7.	Paralytic healed.	Bodily illness healed.	Matt. 9:2-8; Mark 2:3-12; Luke 5:13-26
8.	Infirm man healed.	Bodily illness healed.	John 5:1-9
9.	Man with withered hand healed.	Bodily illness healed.	Matt. 12:9-14; Mark 3:1-6; Luke 6:6-11
10.	Centurion's servant healed.	Bodily illness healed.	Matt. 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10
11.	Widow's son raised from the dead.	Power over death.	Luke 7:11-15
12.	Blind and dumb demoniac cured.	Power over demons.	Matt. 12:22; Luke 11:14
13.	Storm commanded to subside.	Miracle over forces of nature.	Matt. 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25
14.	Demoniacs cured.	Power over demons.	Matt. 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39
15.	Jairus' daughter raised from the dead.	Power over death.	Matt. 9:18-26; Mark 5:22-43; Luke 8:41-56
16.	Woman with hemorrhage healed.	Bodily illness healed.	Matt. 9:20-22; Mark 5:25-34; Luke 8:43-48
17.	Two blind men given sight.	Bodily illness healed.	Matt. 9:27-31
18.	Dumb demoniac cured.	Power over demons.	Matt. 9:32-34
19.	5,000 people fed.	Miracle over forces of nature.	Matt. 14:13-21; Mark 6:34-44; Luke 9:11-17; John 6:1-14
20.	Jesus walked on the sea.	Miracle over forces of nature.	Matt. 14:22-23; Mark 6:45-52; John 6:19
21.	Syro-Phoenician woman's demoniac daughter healed.	Power over demons.	Matt. 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30
22.	4,000 people fed.	Miracle over forces of nature.	Matt. 15:32-39; Mark 8:1-9
23.	Deaf and dumb man healed.	Bodily illness healed.	Mark 7:31-37
24.	Blind man healed.	Bodily illness cured.	Mark 8:22-26
25.	Lunatic and epileptic demoniac boy cured.	Power over demons.	Matt. 17:14-21; Mark 9:14-29; Luke 9:37-43
26.	Tax money got from a fish.	Miracle over forces of nature.	Matt. 17:24-27
27.	Ten lepers healed.	Bodily illness cured.	Luke 17:11-19
28.	Blind man healed.	Bodily illness cured.	John 9

<i>S. No.</i>	<i>Miracle</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Reference</i>
29.	Lazarus raised from the dead.	Power over death.	John 11:1-44
30.	Woman with spirit of infirmity healed.	Bodily illness cured.	Luke 13:10-17
31.	Man with dropsy healed.	Bodily illness cured.	Luke 14:1-6
32.	Blind men healed.	Bodily illness cured.	Matt. 20:29-34; Mark 10:45-52; Luke 18:35-43
33.	Fig tree cursed and withered.	Miracle over forces of nature.	Matt. 21:18-22; Mark 11:12-14, 20-26
34.	Malchus' ear healed.	Bodily illness cured.	Luke 22:50-51
35.	Draught of fishes.	Miracle over forces of nature.	John 21:6

These miracles could be read and analyzed in the Gospels. Together with this there is the grand, and over-powering of His own Resurrection. His resurrection sealed the fact that Jesus is the Son of God. He is Divine. And following His resurrection there are His miraculous appearances. His Resurrection is treated in detail in the next lesson.

We should also remember that the Birth of Christ is a definite miracle. Conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin can only be a miracle. Christ demonstrated, throughout His life, that He, being the Son of God, and God Himself had power over all things.

CHAPTER II

THE TEACHINGS OF CHRIST

When Jesus was on earth, those who heard Him speak and teach wondered at his knowledge and authority. Luke records in chapter 4:32, "And they were astonished at His doctrine: for His word had power." When He taught they marveled for no other teacher ever taught like He did. He taught them concerning the issues of life and death itself and they wondered.

He proclaimed that God exists. He told the people that God was Spirit, and a personal loving Father. He said He Himself was God, being the Son of God. And while teaching about God He made it clear that God wants all men to be in a right relationship with Him.

But Christ went further in His teachings about God. He taught about Himself and claimed that He was God. And He supported these claims by His miracles. And proclaiming that He was God He offered salvation from sin to all men by stating that He was the Way, the Truth and the Life. He was saying that He was the only Way by which man could stand as righteous before God.

It is not possible to study all the teachings of Christ in one brief lesson. We will look at His Sermon on the Mount and His teachings concerning Himself. But in the Gospels you can read how He taught concerning man and his life; concerning eternity; concerning God and Truth; and many more subjects. So to know more of Christ's teachings, you should read and study the Gospels themselves.

The Sermon on the Mount: The teachings of Christ cannot be limited to any one period of His life. His teachings are scattered throughout the Gospels and we find Christ teaching from various situations and under a variety of circumstances. However, we do find one great block in what is called the Sermon on the Mount. It is thus called from the reference in Matthew, chapter 5 and verse 1 & 2, "And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: and He opened His mouth and taught them, saying...."

The sermon dealt primarily with social and ethical issues. You can read this sermon in the first Gospel, the Gospel of Matthew. It covers chapters 5, 6 & 7. Jesus taught in this section concerning morality, marriage and divorce, concerning oaths and profanity, personal purity, fasting and prayer, humility, benevolence, our attitude towards evil and Christian love. Other ethical issues are also treated like our relationship to our governments, economic life, etc.

Within this sermon Jesus taught His disciples to pray. He gave them a model prayer that we often call the Lord's Prayer. The purpose of this prayer was not necessarily to provide a prayer for repetition but for learning the proper way to pray. The Lord's Prayer is in Matthew 6:9-15 and Luke 11:1-4. The prayer puts God's interests first, and then man's. Thus, should all prayer be. Acknowledgement of God comes first; then petitioning of spiritual things and finally the petitions of physical things.

Jesus not only taught His disciples to pray, but He also set the example by praying Himself. The Gospels record that He prayed many times. We can note that even in His hour of greatest need, on the Cross, Christ prayed for others. (Luke 23:34).

Throughout the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus emphasized His authority by repeating the phrase, "I say unto you." And as we read in Matthew 7:28 & 29, at the end of the Sermon on the Mount that people were astonished at His teaching and the way He taught.

The Parables: Jesus taught in many ways, using many methods. He often used the question and answer approach. Sometimes His teaching took the form of a debate. Or He used various objects for illustration. But what is usually remembered best is the way He taught by parable.

A parable is like an extended figure of speech. A popular meaning of parable is "an earthly story with a heavenly meaning." And parables were just this. Jesus took an earthly situation, familiar to the people of the area, and narrated on it. But every parable had a spiritual truth of vital importance. The parables were a simple method of teaching though they were, evidently, extremely effective. Here is a list of the Parables and in which chapters they are found in the Gospels.

1. The Sower (Matt. 13:3-8; Mark 4:4-8; Luke 8:5-8).
2. The Tares (Matt. 13:24-30)
3. The Mustard Seed (Matt. 13:31 & 32; Mark 4: 30-32; Luke 13:18 & 19)
4. The Leaven (Matt. 13:33; Luke 13:20 & 21)
5. The Hidden Treasure (Matt. 13:44)
6. The Pearl of Great Price (Matt. 13:45 & 46)
7. The Drag Net (Matt. 13:47-50)
8. The Blade, the Ear and the Full Corn (Mark 4:26-29)
9. The Two Debtors (Luke 7:41-43)
10. The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37)
11. The Friend at Midnight (Luke 11:5-8)
12. The Rich Fool (Luke 12:16-21)
13. The Barren Fig Tree (Luke 13:6-9)
14. The Watchful Porter (Mark 13:34-37)
15. The Lowest Seat at the Feast (Luke 14:7-11)
16. The Great Supper (Luke 14:15-24)
17. The Lost Sheep (Matt. 18:12-14; Luke 15:3-7)
18. The Unforgiving Servant (Matt. 18:23-25)
19. The Lost Coin (Luke 15:8-10)
20. The Lost Son (Luke 15:11-32)
21. The Unjust Steward (Luke 16:1-9)
22. The Unprofitable Servants (Luke 17:7-10)
23. The Unjust Judge (Luke 18:1-8)
24. The Pharisee and the Publican (Luke 18:9-14)
25. The Pounds (Luke 19:11-27)
26. The Laborers in the Vineyard (Matt. 20:1-16)
27. The Two Sons (Matt. 21:28-32)
28. The Faithful and Unfaithful Servants (Matt. 24:45-51; Luke 12:42-48)
29. The Marriage Feast of the King's Son (Matt. 22:1-14)
30. The Wicked Husbandmen (Tenants) (Matt.21:33 & 34; Mark 12:1-12; Luke 20:9-18)
31. The Ten Virgins (Matt. 25:1-13)
32. The Talents (Matt. 24:14-30)

The above list is not conclusive. That is, some might consider certain metaphors as parables while others may limit a parable only to a "very, extended metaphor." But we can note that the parable was a story or an account used to illustrate spiritual truth.

The Kingdom of God: Christ dwelt on one subject a lot more than on others. That topic was concerning the Kingdom. All the four Gospels refer to Christ's teaching on the subject. Sometimes Jesus referred to it as the Kingdom of God and sometimes as the Kingdom of Heaven. We cannot really find any great distinction between them.

Considering all that Jesus said about the Kingdom, we could find that the Kingdom is the total realm of God's rule, brought about through Christ. It is of a spiritual nature. Its manifestation, now on earth, is through the lives of those who have obeyed Christ and live for Him. These are the subjects of the Kingdom.

We find Jesus teaching about the Kingdom on earth. He said it would include some who were with Him (Mark 9:1). We can see how the Kingdom on earth is that spiritual body of obedient believers who make up His Church. It is a spiritual victorious kingdom that takes away the power of sin and death. But Christ also spoke about the Kingdom to come. That is, at His second coming. (Matt. 25:34). And this too is right, since at His coming again, His Church (Kingdom) will be redeemed. Those who belong to His Kingdom now will receive numerous blessings in the Eternal Kingdom (Matt. 19:23-30). So the Kingdom, as preached by Christ, was to begin on earth, through His power and to continue in Eternity.

In teachings concerning the value of the Kingdom and man's need of it, Christ used many parables. You can read these in Matthew chapter 13, Mark 4 and Luke 13:18-30.

Teachings concerning Himself: On many occasions Jesus taught concerning Himself. He did this sometimes directly, sometimes in response to questions and at other times as situations arose. But the greatest fact that comes out of His teaching concerning Himself is that Jesus taught that He Himself was God. He taught that God had revealed Himself through Him, that is Jesus.

One way He did this was through the names He called Himself by. Jesus called Himself the Son of God, making Himself equal with God. Three times in the Gospels, Jesus positively says: "I am the Son of God." On other occasions He used the expression about Himself that could only be used in reference to God. He said in John 14:6, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." Then He said, "No one can come unto the Father but by Me." He also called Himself, "the Bread of Life", "the Resurrection", "the Door". And in John's Gospel chapter 4, verse 25 & 26, He said, "I am the Messiah."

Once in response to a question by His disciple, Philip, (John 14:9), He said, "He that hath seen Me, has seen the Father." And He very clearly stated another time, "I and My Father are one." (John 10:30). So Jesus referred to Himself in terms of deity and expressed the fact that He was co-equal with God.

He also taught that He himself was to be the object of faith – faith that could lead to Salvation. He told His disciples, "You believe in God, believe also in Me." (John 14:10). He said that if people did not believe in Him they would die in their sin. He also taught that He Himself was to be the real and true object of worship. He never rebuked a blind man, whom He healed, when he worshipped Him, in John chapter 9. The blind man said, "Lord, I believe." Again when Thomas, after he had seen his Risen Lord exclaimed, "My Lord, and my God," Jesus did not correct him. He accepted their attitude of worship to Him.

He also taught that He could forgive sins. The ability to forgive sin and forgiveness of sins was considered to be God's prerogative. When a man was brought to Him to be healed He said, "Son, thy sins be forgiven thee" (Mark 2:1-12). And the people questioned. But Jesus did it because He was the Son of God.

So we find Christ teaching His disciples and others that He was God's Son came down to earth, and that He was God Himself. Some of the people did not accept this. But yet He made it very clear by His teachings that He claimed to be the Son of God. And His miracles attributed to this fact, that He is the Son of God. That He is God Himself.

In one particular incident called the Transfiguration, Jesus showed to three of His disciples, Peter, John and James, a little bit of His Divine Glory. He took these disciples into the hills to pray and while He was praying the appearance of His face changed and His clothes became dazzling white and suddenly two men appeared to Him. These were seen as the Old Testament Prophets, Moses and Elijah. Now, Peter, James and John had been in a deep sleep and when they suddenly awoke they saw these two men with Jesus and they heard a voice from Heaven saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, hear Him." Thus three of His disciples were able to know in a very definite way the Divine Nature of Jesus Christ. To know Him as God. It helped these three disciples in confirming their faith. And in showing who their Master, Jesus Christ, really was. The Transfiguration account could be read in Matthew 17:1-13; Mark 9:2-13; and Luke 9:28-36.

The teachings of Jesus formed a very important part of His ministry on earth. And we need to know these teachings if we want to be His followers.

Name:.....

Student No.....

Grade.....

QUESTIONS ON LESSON VII

A SURVEY OF THE LIFE OF CHRIST (Part II)

Note: Answers to the questions below are found in the lesson material. Read the lesson carefully before answering. Try to answer in your own words, as much as possible. Wherever necessary, just fill in the blanks, or choose the correct word. Print out this page if you like. If you wish to send in the answers or to write further comments, or ask any questions yourself, do so on a separate sheet of paper and put your name and student number in a prominent place.

CHAPTER I

THE MIRACLES OF CHRIST

1. What is a “miracle”? (Define it).

2. What was the purpose of Christ's miracles?

3. List the miracles that show Christ had power even over death.

CHAPTER II

THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS

1. What were some of the important subjects, on which Christ taught, in His Sermon on the Mount?

