

Dare to Believe for Your Miracle

Who is the Greatest

How many of you know that the disciples of Christ had issues? One such issue is pettiness, which is found in **Mark 9:33-37**. Jesus has entered into a house and wants His disciples to confess to their petty discussion which He already knows about. He wants to clarify to them a concept of the Kingdom of God that applies to us today as well. **TPT: 33.** *“Then they came to Capernaum. And as soon as Jesus was inside the house, He asked His disciples, “What were you arguing about on the way here?” 34. No one said a word, because they had been arguing about which one of them was the greatest. 35. Jesus sat down, called the twelve disciples to come around Him, & said to them, “If anyone wants to be first, he must be content to be last and become a servant of all.” 36. Then He had a child come and stand among them. He wrapped the child in His arms and said to them, “Whoever welcomes a little child in My name welcomes Me. And whoever welcomes Me welcomes not only Me, but the one Who sent Me.”*

Jesus is teaching a supernatural principle of the kingdom of God here that we would do well to understand. The kingdom of God is spiritual & is not simply to be understood with the mind. It must be comprehended and entered into by spiritual means such as prayer and meditation on Jesus' words, and in practical daily living. We need to **recognize** that kingdom people are to be childlike in their trust, blamelessness & faith, but not childish like these disciples. Then we must **pursue** childlikeness in our everyday dealings w/ others (i.e. Downs Syndrome children racing).

Another lesson we can learn from our Lord's teaching is that of "representation" as found in v. 37. There Jesus says, *"Whoever welcomes a little child in My name welcomes Me. And whoever welcomes Me welcomes not only Me, but the one Who sent Me."* To support this example of representation, there is a Jewish legal principle that says a man's representative, such as a lawyer, is the same as himself. Therefore, receiving a little child = receiving Jesus = receiving God. Also, to give service to those whom the world considers worthless, irrelevant or insignificant in the Name of Christ and for His sake, is actually giving the service to Him!

The Name of Christ; Jesus Forbids Narrowmindedness

In **Mark 9:38-41 TPT**, Jesus' speaking of service prompted John to speak up & relate an incident that reveals the narrowminded attitude of the disciples. *"John spoke up and said, "Teacher, we noticed someone ["who does not follow along with us"] was using Your Name to cast out demons, so we tried to stop him because he wasn't one of our group." 39. "Don't stop him!" Jesus replied. "For the one who does **miracles*** in the power of My Name proves he is not my enemy (or "would soon speak evil of Me"). 40. And whoever is not against us is for us."*

SFLB note "There is no place for narrow exclusivism in the church. All genuine Christians are to be tolerant toward their fellow believers, regardless of their denomination. A crucial test in determining true service is motive. Is the work done for the sake of Christ & His glory? The disciples prove to be sectarian (v. 38). Jesus' words *"Do not forbid him"* are followed by a three-fold explanation as to why the prohibition of the disciples was wrong (vv. 39-41). Each explanation is introduced by *"for"*."

Doing Miracles in the Power of Jesus' Name

Mark 16:16 TPT *"Whoever believes the good news and is baptized will be saved, and whoever does not believe the good*

news will be condemned. **17.** And these miracle signs will accompany those who believe: They will drive out demons in the power of My Name. They will speak in tongues. **18.** They will be supernaturally protected from snakes & from drinking anything poisonous. And they will lay hands on the sick and heal them.”

V. 39 *Miracles in the Gk. is “*dunamis*”. **Strong's** #1411

“miraculous power (usually by impl. a *miracle* itself): - ability, abundance, mighty deed, worker of miracles, power, strength, violence, mighty (wonderful) work.” **Vines** “It means “power, inherent ability, and is used of works of a supernatural origin & character, such as could not be produced by natural agents and means.”

Miracles can be both received & performed in a person’s life.

The apostles performed miracles (the man lame from birth in Acts 3 from last week’s message). Fallout from that miracle: **Acts 4:15-16 TPT** “So they ordered them to leave the room while they discussed the matter. Among themselves, they said, “What should we do with these men? Everyone in Jerusalem can clearly see that they’ve performed a notable sign and wonder (NKJV “notable miracle”) – we can’t deny that. **17.** But to keep this propaganda from spreading any further among the people, let’s threaten them severely and warn them to never speak to anyone in this Name again.” **19.** “But Peter and John replied, “You can judge for yourselves – is it better to listen to you or to God? **20.** It’s impossible for us to stop speaking about all these things we’ve seen and heard!” **21b.** “All the people praised God, thrilled over the miraculous healing of the crippled man.”

Extraordinary Miracles in Ephesus

Acts 19:11-12 TPT “God kept releasing a flow of extraordinary miracles through the hands of Paul. **12.** Because of this, people

took Paul's handkerchiefs and articles of clothing, even pieces of cloth that had touched his skin, laying them on the bodies of the sick, and diseases and demons left them and they were healed."

TPT note on Matt. 14:36: "The power of God exuding from Jesus was so incredible that merely touching His prayer shawl (or cloak) would bring instant healing. This same power is available to the church today, for Christ, the Healer, lives in every believer."

Varieties of Spiritual Gifts

1 Cor. 12:8a *"The Spirit gives to one the gift of the word of wisdom, to another, the same Spirit gives the gift of the word of revelation knowledge. V. 10 "And to another the power to work miracles (one of the distinctive marks of an apostle (2 Cor. 12:12).*

1 Cor. 12:29 TPT *"Not everyone is an apostle or a prophet or a teacher. Not everyone performs miracles 30. Or has gifts of healing or speaks in tongues or interprets tongues. 31. But you should all constantly boil over with passion in seeking the higher gifts."*

Heb. 2:4 TPT *"Then God added His witness to theirs. He validated their ministry with signs, astonishing wonders, all kinds of powerful miracles, and by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which He distribute as He desired."* **TPT note:** "Signs, wonders and miracles were all components of the ministries of the New Testament believer. There is no place in Scripture to indicate that any of the works of Jesus or His apostles should not be seen today."

Jesus Still Heals Today

Isa. 53:3-5 TPT All of chapter 53 speaks of Messiah Jesus. *"He was despised and rejected by men, a man of deep sorrows who was no stranger to suffering and grief. We hid our faces from Him in disgust and considered Him a nobody, not worthy of*

respect. **4.** Yet He was the one who carried our sicknesses and endured the torment of our sufferings. We viewed Him as one who was being punished for something He Himself had done, as one who was struck down by God and brought low.* **5.** But it was because of our rebellious deeds that He was pierced and because of our sins that He was crushed. He endured the punishment that made us completely whole, and in His wounding we found our healing.” ***TPT note:** “This was fulfilled in two ways. First, the Lamb of God carried away diseases as He walked the earth (Matt. 8:16-17). And second, He paid the sin price for all humanity on the cross with His sacred blood.”

Salvation & Healing Go Together

Mark 6:12-13 TPT “So they went out and preached publicly that everyone should repent. **13.** They cast out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.”

If you need prayer for healing or something else, come forward now. Trust the Lord for every good thing that He has for you.

Psa. 107:1-3 TPT “**God’s Constant Love** (“Let the redeemed of the Lord say so.”)” “Let everyone give all their praise and thanks to the Lord. Here’s why – He’s better than anyone could ever imagine. Yes, He’s always loving and kind, and His faithful love never ends. **2-3.** So, go ahead – let everyone know it! Tell the world how He broke through and delivered you from the power of darkness and has gathered us together from all over the world. He has set us free to be His very own!”