

# MIRACLES

## The Environment of A Miracle

**April 2, 2023 - Pastor Rafael Aristy**

**Luke 5:17-26** "One day He was teaching, and there were some Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting there who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea, and from Jerusalem; and the power of the Lord was present for Him to perform healing. And some men were carrying a man on a stretcher who was paralyzed; and they were trying to bring him in and to set him down in front of Him. But when they did not find any way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down through the tiles with his stretcher, into the middle of the crowd, in front of Jesus. And seeing their faith, He said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven you." The scribes and the Pharisees began thinking of the implications, saying, "Who is this man who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, except God alone?" But Jesus, aware of their thoughts, responded and said to them, "Why are you thinking this way in your hearts? Which is easier, to say: 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins," He said to the man who was paralyzed, "I say to you, get up, and pick up your stretcher, and go home." And immediately he got up before them, and picked up what he had been lying on, and went home glorifying God. And they were all struck with astonishment and began glorifying God. They were also filled with fear, saying, "We have seen remarkable things today!"

Jesus performed a miracle and the people gathered were able to witness it. There were 5 components to what happened:

- The power of God was present.
- There was a great need in the situation.
- The people involved were persistent.
- There was faith and action involved.
- As a result, Jesus became KNOWN.

### 1. The POWER of God was present

**Luke 5:17** And the power of the Lord was present for Him to perform healing.

This word "power" is the same version found in Acts 1:8, the word "Dunamis."

**Acts 1:8** But you will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Dunamis

- "miraculous power, might, strength, ability to perform, power through God's ability, inherent power, or power residing in something by virtue of its nature."

There's power residing in Jesus, so there's power wherever Jesus is. **When we are in the presence of Jesus, we position ourselves to be touched by His power.**

In Luke 8, we find the woman with the issue of blood. For years she was suffering. No one could help her. She pressed through the crowd because she thought, "If I can just touch the hem of his garment, I'll be healed!" So, she touched the hem of His cloak. Jesus asked "who touched me?" The disciples' response was "Lord, there are so many people here, how can you ask who touched you?" His response:

**Luke 8:46** *Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me.*

There is power in the presence of Jesus! We position ourselves to be touched by His power when we draw near to Him.

*- Where have you or where do you see God's power in your life?*

## 2. There was a GREAT NEED in the situation

**Luke 5:17** *"And some men were carrying a man on a stretcher who was paralyzed."*

God knows and sees physical needs. In our lives, we may not be physically paralyzed but perhaps our mind or emotions are paralyzed.

- "Paralysis by analysis."

*- Do you overanalyze everything to the point you feel paralyzed?*

- There has been some hurt so deeply that they can't allow themselves to love or receive love from others.

*- Is your heart paralyzed? Are you able to receive or give love to others?*

- All the **pain**, the **struggle**, the **hurt**, the **disappointment**, the **illness**, the **brokenness**, the **need**; this is exactly what positions us in the environment for a miracle!

We may ask God "why?", "Why am I going through this?" We want to see signs and wonders but don't want to have to go through the very experience that would necessitate a miracle. Without the pain, without the hurt, without the suffering, there wouldn't be a need for the miraculous.

If you are in a place where you need God to intervene, that's the environment where miracles happen.

*- Where might you be paralyzed in your life right now?*

*- What pain are you experiencing that could be setting you up for a miracle?*

## 3. The people involved were PERSISTENT

**Luke 5:19** *"They did not find a way because of the crowd...so they went to the roof."*

There will be obstacles in our lives and in our walk with the Lord.

- The paralyzed man's first obstacle was that he couldn't get to Jesus on his own.
- Secondly, when he had his friends carry him all the way to where Jesus was, they couldn't get past the crowd.
- Finally, they had to crawl, with the man on his stretcher, up to the roof, remove the tiles, and let him down through the hole in order to receive his miracle.

This man's friends loved him so much, they didn't only carry him all the way to where Jesus was, they were willing to do whatever it took for their friend to receive from the Lord.

-Their response was "if the obstacle is the roof, we will tear it off!"

*What obstacles are keeping you from your miracle? Or, keeping you from your encounter with Jesus?*

*How much love do you have for the people around you? Would you do whatever it takes to get them to Jesus?*

The paralytic man was relying on his friends, his community.  
*Who is relying on you? Who are you carrying?*

#### 4. There was FAITH and action involved

**Luke 5:20** "Jesus, seeing their faith..."

There was a roof being torn apart in front of a crowd of people, but Jesus didn't see the mess, He saw their faith!

When others may point out the mess you've made to bring someone into the presence of Jesus, God will always see your faith. When others point out the mess you've made to reach Jesus, He will see your trust in Him.

How can he see their faith? Because of their ACTION!

**James 2:18** But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.

- This community of friends proved their faith by what they did.
- They carried him there and overcame the obstacles.

Jesus tells the paralytic, "Friend, your sins are forgiven you." He knew that this man's greatest need was relationship with Him. Even if our physical need is met (ie. legs being healed) our bodies will still die! What is more important is our spiritual need and where we will spend eternity.

*- Has anyone ever had faith for you when you were too weak? Have you ever had the faith someone else needed?*

#### 5. Jesus became KNOWN

**Luke 5:21**

The Pharisees and religious leaders began thinking to themselves "Who is this man who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, except God alone?"

- They were right. Only God could forgive sins, **but they didn't acknowledge Jesus as God.**
- Their theology was right, but their knowledge of Jesus was wrong.

Jesus was not angry or disappointed that they doubted His ability. **Doubt** and **unbelief** are sometimes an opportunity for our God to show up!

*Our ability to receive a miracle hinges on our ability to see Jesus for who He is.*

**Luke 5:22** But Jesus, aware of their thoughts, responded and said to them, "Why are you thinking this way in your hearts?"

- Jesus was aware of their thoughts, and He is aware of our thoughts too.
- When you're driving, when you're at work, at school, at the gym, at church, at home, He knows our thoughts!
- The Jews also believed that if you were sinful, you could not be healed from ailments.
- Jesus was saying "I'm taking care of it all", the sins and the healing, proving that He was God.

**Psalms 19:14** "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, LORD, my rock and my Redeemer."

*LORD, help us right now with our thought life. May the words or our mouth and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing in your sight!*

In this story, Jesus continues to prove who He really is.

**Luke 5: 23-24** "Which is easier, to say: 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins,"

There is a purpose for miracles...**SO THAT YOU MAY KNOW!** Jesus wanted to be known by them and He wants to be known by us today!

**Daniel 7:13-14** "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed."

**The Son of Man's authority on earth has not stopped.** His **DOMINION** is **EVERLASTING**; it will **NEVER** end!

**Luke 5:24** "But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins," He said to the man who was paralyzed, "I say to you, get up, and pick up your stretcher, and go home."

Jesus says pick up your stretcher and go home:

- Pick up the constant reminder of your identity, show it to those at home who have known you as nothing more than a cripple, and prove to them what I have done in your life.

The man left glorifying God.

**Your miracle is not only for you.** Your miracle points others to the Miracle-Worker.

We all have many needs. You may have a physical need, financial, relational, but our greatest need is **relationship with Jesus**.

*- How has God been made known in your life?*

*- Who are you pointing to Jesus?*

*- Which of the 5 elements in this environment relates the most to you?*

*- Understanding that these are not a formula or "recipe" for a miracle but rather key elements in the situation, how can you tune in to the miracle environments that are around you and partner with what Jesus wants to do?*