

Expect Miracles Series

1/22/2023

How do you live your life?

There are two ways to live your life.
One is as though nothing is a miracle.
The other is as though everything is a
miracle.

Albert Einstein

The Miracle Killers

- Bitterness (Forgiveness)
- Lack of Trust in God and others (Leaders)
- Lost Hope
- Logical and analytical thought (Secular Thought)
- Traditional Norm (Going with the flow)
- Unrepentant Sin
- Settle with Humanistic Progress/Process (Flesh)
- Faithlessness
- Encouragement Groups (Renewal/Outreach/Serve)

Expect Miracles

M- Magnificence of God

I- Insistent

R- Resistance

A- Acknowledging where you are really at.

C- Confess Condition

L- Life of Appreciation

E- Elation

Expect a M.I.R.A.C.L.E

The Blind Man

As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by."

He called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?"

"Lord, I want to see," he replied.

Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God (Luke 18:35-43)

Background

- 3 Years with his Apostles
- Jesus going to Jerusalem
- Jesus going to his Death
- More serious things (Cross)
- Poor and Needy Mission
- Jesus cared about the individual

Magnificence (of Christ)

Expect Miracles

Magnificence of Jesus

- Son of David
- Bitterness and Victim (Blamed God)
- Believed he was the Messiah
- Total Faith in being Healed
- Understood the Power of God

Insistent

Expect Miracles

Insistent

38 He called out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

39 Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Insistence

- Opportunist (One Time)
- Not intimidated
- Fought the Crowd
- Told to be Quiet
- Called out louder
- Willing to be embarrassed
- Wanted to see Christ
- Belief was unwavering

Resistance

Expect Miracles

Resistance

38 He called out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

39 Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Resistance

- His Disability
- Opposition from those in front
- His Disciples? (3 yrs)
- Jesus and Apostles (Conflict)
- Opposition where you least expect it (Pharisees)
- Expect Miracles, Expect Opposition.
- Satan wants to destroy your faith

Satan wants no Miracles!

So I find this law at work: When I
want to do good, evil is right there
with me

(Rom 7:21)

Fight for your Miracle!

"Thankfully, God gives us a miracle like Jericho from time to time, but far more often, he asks us to strap on our swords, pick up our shields, and courageously enter the battle...When this happens we see a miracle there too--the miracle of men and women staying faithful to God in the midst of conflict in their lives."

Scott Wilson, The Next Level, 75

Acknowledgement

Expect Miracles

Acknowledge (Who you are)

- Have Mercy on me (Sinner)
- In need
- Blind
- Broken
- Poor
- Alone

Confess/Convicted

Expect Miracles

Confess the Obvious

40 Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him,

41 “What do you want me to do for you?”

“Lord, I want to see,” he replied.

Sin is Obvious!

The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God
(Gal 5:19-21)

Confess

- Obvious (unhappy, marriage, kids, dull)
- Confess Condition
- Humility
- Squeaky wheel gets the oil
- Believe that Jesus can really heal
- Safe place
- Prayer and others

Confess to Each Other

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective

(James 5:16)

Power of Prayer

Prayer works on our negative, doubting, critical, apathetic sinful attitudes and behaviors. It transforms such harmful attitudes and behaviors into a joyful, loving, caring Christian community. So as Paul would say, never underestimate the power of your prayers—God works miracles through them.

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Life of Appreciation (Sharing)

Expect Miracles

Jesus: I Healed you and now Go!

42 Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you." 43 Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God (Luke 18:35-43)

Faith=Miracles

“It is not miracles that
generate faith but faith
generates miracles”

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Life of Appreciation

- Empowered to go
- Praising everywhere
- No one told him
- I was blind but now I see (Facts)
- Unwavering in that Faith Heals
- Deep Conviction (Power of God)
- Changed forever (A little better, only one eye!)

Misconceptions of Jesus

- Jesus silence doesn't mean he doesn't hear us.
- Jesus is constantly misunderstood by his followers! (Church)
- We can be passionately wrong!
- No Miracle without a Confessing State!
- Jesus has the power to heal you now!
- Jesus can only perform Miracles through our faith

Elation

Expect Miracles

Elation

- His faith healed Him
- Limits of Christ
- Other rejoiced in the Obvious Miracle
- Praised God (Worship)
- Healed = Elation
- Healed are Grateful
- The healed are always Joyful

The Miracle of Healing Joy!

"Joy is the great note all through the Bible. We have the notion of joy that arises from good spirits or good health, but the miracle of the joy of God has nothing to do with a man's life or his circumstances or the condition he is in. Jesus does not come to a man and say Cheer up. He plants within a man the miracle of the joy of God's own nature."

(Discipleship Journal)