

Bite Size Bible Study

Jesus' Miracles part 3 #255

By Lee Logue

In the last two studies we have seen that Jesus not only taught the way to live in the Kingdom but also demonstrated that teaching in His miracles. For the last of this three-part series I would like to take this idea just a little closer to home by showing how Jesus expects His disciples to do the same – teaching by word and deed.

Humility and Service:

Jesus did not grapple for power or seek the riches and recognition that humans often seek. His demeanor was to be humble and to serve others. His purpose seemed to be to help others to be more than they currently were.

Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Mark 10:42-45 NIV

In the beginning the kings and priests were to support the people, not the people to support them. The king's position was to provide the necessities of an abundant life for everyone in the kingdom. Not just a few who owned and controlled everything. The priests were to teach everyone to love God and to recognize Him as their only true benefactor.

As human nature and greed seized these positions, the purposes were flipped and the populace was expected to support the King and the priests. Money and power were the top of the heap, everyone else was only there to support this human pyramid.

This was the way that most pagan religions were set up. The (little) people were to support the god and provide everything that the god wanted. From these cultures, Israel came to adopt the same practices and abandoned the way God intended for their culture to operate.

Even in our western cultures this upside-down attitude is becoming the norm rather than the rule. But there are still some small cultures around the world that have held to the original design.

Jesus exemplified His teaching by the way He treated people. Even though He was to be the King of kings, He was always available to help those in need. His many miracles exemplify this attitude.

Many of Jesus' Miracles were centered around healing and exemplified how He was willing to serve them.

Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see. Matthew 12:22 NIV

At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. Luke 7:21 NIV

And wherever he went—into villages, towns or countryside—they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed. Mark 6:56 NIV

Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed at that moment. Matthew 9:22 NIV

Making a Positive Influence in the World

Jesus frequently told His disciples to follow His example and serve others, just as He was doing.

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:13-16 NIV

If this was Jesus' admonition to His disciples, should we expect anything different for His disciples of today? Those who He has called at this time are to be a positive influence in the part of the world that they are in.

He has not only called us but has given us the Holy Spirit to understand spiritual realities. Part of those realities are to be a servant to others.

Maybe we need to do a "reality check" and see if we are truly serving others and making a difference.

- Do we study the scriptures to learn what God has placed there for us and listen to the Holy Spirit?
- Do we discuss with others what God has taught us?
- Do we try to "brow beat" others into our version of truth?
- Do we live out these principles in our daily lives?
- Are we serving others in their needs?
- Are we being a positive influence?

GC Lemon Grove

7963 Broadway, Lemon Grove, CA 91945

<https://www.gclemongrove.org>