

MIRACLES

- **The miracle of forgiveness**

Luke 7:36-50

³⁶Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. ³⁷When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, ³⁸and as she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

³⁹When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."

⁴⁰Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."
"Tell me, teacher," he said.

⁴¹"Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴²Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

⁴³Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled."
"You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

⁴⁴Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. ⁴⁷Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little."

⁴⁸Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

⁴⁹The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

⁵⁰Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

There is only One who can forgive sins. Jesus, God's only son, took our sins upon Himself and paid for them. Anyone who believes in Jesus will be forgiven.

The first step is to become aware of our need for forgiveness.

The second step is to believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that He paid for our sins through His sacrifice on the cross.

The third step is to talk to God and ask to receive the gift of forgiveness.

Luke 23:39-43

³⁹One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

⁴⁰*But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."*

⁴²*Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."*

⁴³*Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."*
It is never too late, nor is one ever too great a sinner.

God does not want anyone to perish. He wants everyone to be saved through faith in Him.

- **The miracle of deliverance**

2 Peter 1:3-11

³*His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.*

⁵*For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. ⁸For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.*

¹⁰*Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, ¹¹and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

Once we receive Jesus as our personal Savior, we now have the resource of His grace to be delivered from everything that would try to keep us down. Habits can be broken. Depression can be lifted. All the things that used to have control over us no longer have the same power. We have available to us the miracle of deliverance.

- **The miracle of provision**

John 21:3-14

³*"I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.*

⁴*Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.*

⁵*He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?"*

"No," they answered.

⁶*He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.*

⁷Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. ⁸The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. ⁹When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

¹⁰Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught."

¹¹Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

God is our provider and He knows where everything is that we need. Trained fishermen had been fishing all night without success. Jesus gave them one word of instruction on where to cast the nets and they suddenly had more fish than they could handle. We need to stay in tune with God and ask Him every day for our daily bread. He is not bound by the failing economy. He can sustain us and show us where to cast our nets for the best results. We need to ask for His guidance and help.

- **The miracle of healing**

Matthew 4:23-25

²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. ²⁴News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and he healed them. ²⁵Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.

He has no limitations. There is nothing too difficult for the Lord. We inhabit a body that is subject to deterioration. Yet as long as we have breath, we have hope in God that He will sustain us and give us health.

It was one year ago right now that I discovered I had a serious health problem. I had been dealing with dizzy spells for a few months not knowing they were related to the function of my heart. After passing out a couple times, I connected with my Doctor. On a stress test my heart went into a bad rhythm and within 45 minutes I was in an operating room getting checked for blockages. It led me to discover that I had a condition that could have taken my life. It was treatable and after a pacemaker/defibrillator and three ablation procedures, I am now completely healthy.

I have been sustained by the hand of God. Having faith gives us the ability to be at peace and trust God for our daily living.

What do you need today? God is able to touch you. Do you need forgiveness, deliverance, provision, or healing? Believe God for your answer today.