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Chancellor's Update

The Miracles of Jesus

In the previous issue we published testimonies by Jesus Himself and by some of His contemporaries that He is indeed the Christ. Yet, many others believed in Him. What caused the multitudes to follow Jesus?

Matthew tells us, *and Jesus went about all Galilee...healing every disease and every sickness among the people. And his fame spread into all Syria; and they brought to him all the sick suffering from various diseases and torments, those possessed, and lunatics, and paralytics; and he cured them. And large crowds followed him from Galilee and Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan* (Matthew 4 v. 23-25).

In another place Matthew relates, *and Jesus was going about all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and infirmity. But seeing the crowds, he was moved with compassion for them, because they were bewildered and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd* (Matthew 9 v. 35-36).

Again in Chapter 12, verse 15 Matthew writes, *and many followed him and he cured them all.*

In Chapter 14 he writes, *they came to the land at Genesar. The inhabitants of that place, as soon as they recognized him, sent into that whole country, and brought to him all the sick, and they entreated him to let them touch but the tassel of his cloak; and all who touched it were saved* (Matthew 14 v. 34-36).

And great crowds came to him, bringing with them the dumb, the blind, the lame, the maimed, and many others; and they set them down at his feet, and he cured them; so that the crowds marveled to see the dumb speak, the lame walk, and the blind see. And they glorified the God of Israel (Matthew 15 v. 30-31).

The more famous healing miracles of Jesus included Peter's mother-in-law, the leper made clean, the paralytic, the woman with the issue of blood, the two blind men, the dumb man who spoke, the withered hand that was restored, the stooped woman made straight, the ten lepers cured, and the healing of Malchus' ear.

One interesting miracle is the healing of the servant of the centurion. Jesus offered to go and cure the man, but the centurion said, *Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed.* Amazed at his respect and his faith, Jesus granted his request. *"Go thy way; as thou has believed, so be it done to thee."* *And the servant was healed in that hour.* In this case Jesus did not touch the sick person, nor did the sick person touch him; rather he cured from a distance (Matthew 8 v. 5-13).

Deliverance of Demoniacs

The Gospel writers also tell us that Jesus cast out spirits. *They brought to him many who were possessed, and he cast out the spirits with a word* (Matthew 8 v.16).

When Jesus went to the country of the Gerasenes, he met two men who were possessed, whose ferocity scared people from passing their way. The devils within them asked of Jesus, *“If thou cast us out, send us into the herd of swine.” And he said to them, “Go!” And they came out and entered into the swine; and behold the whole herd rushed down the cliff into the sea, and perished in the water* (Matthew 8 v. 28-32).

Mark describes an unclean spirit in a man, who cried out to Jesus, *“What have we to do with thee, Jesus of Nazareth? Hast thou come to destroy us? I know who thou art, the Holy One of God.” And Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Hold thy peace, and go out of the man.” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, went out of him. And the people were amazed, saying, “What is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority he commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” And rumor concerning him went forth immediately into all the region round about Galilee* (Mark 1 v. 23-28).

And he was preaching in their synagogues, and throughout all Galilee, and casting out devils (Mark 1 v. 39).

The Canaanite woman came to Jesus saying, *Have pity on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is sorely beset by a devil.* After a dialogue because she was not of the house of Israel Jesus complimented her faith *and her daughter was healed from that moment* (Matthew 15 v. 21-28).

Other Miracles

In addition to healing and casting out devils, Jesus raised three people from the dead: the daughter of Jairus, the son of the widow of Naim, and Lazarus, who had already been dead four days and was in the tomb.

Jesus worked numerous miracles in nature. He changed water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana (John 2 v. 7-10), had two miraculous draughts of fishes, calmed the wind and the raging waters, multiplied the loaves and fishes twice, feeding five thousand and four thousand, walked on the water, caused a coin to be found in the fish's mouth, and cursed the fig tree so that it withered.

To further confirm the belief of Peter, James and John, Jesus gave them a glimpse of his future glory when he was transfigured before them in the presence of the most illustrious representatives of the Law and the Prophets, namely, Moses and Elias (Mark 9 v. 1-7).

Seeing these miracles and believing that they were a direct intervention by God, many people accepted Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God.

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