



Sermon Series: Confident in the Face of Hard Questions

To be used with Session 2: Are Miracles Relevant?

Sermon Title Possibilities: Miracles: The Works of Christ

Scripture: John 10:22-26; 14:8-14

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the Bible study “Confident in the Face of Hard Questions” this sermon will provide clarity about miracles. Many people in today’s culture, including believers, don’t know what a miracle is. They label every answer to prayer as a miracle or ask for miracles that may not be warranted. According to Merriam Webster a miracle is an extraordinary event manifesting divine intervention in human affairs. Miracles are primarily events that occur when an explanation for the event cannot be made. That’s because the supernatural power of God is the force behind them. Because God and Jesus are One then Jesus also possessed miracle working power.

Introduction: In John 13, the apostle John records Jesus’s conversation between Him and His disciples. It is about the time when His journey on earth will end. He is finishing up the Last Supper with His disciples, Judas has left the table, and the disciples have many questions for Him. These questions are initiated by Jesus’s statement that He is going away. In John 14, Jesus let’s His disciples know they cannot go where He is going at that moment, but He will prepare a place for them. He then shares a statement on how they can go in response to Thomas’ question. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” Jesus also spoke of His unity with the Father. This was an indication that the power of God resided in Jesus as well. And those powerful things that God did and would do were also possible through Christ.

1. Jesus, One with the Father (John 14:9).

Jesus took time to clarify questions that His disciple Philip had. Philip wanted Jesus to show him the Father, after Jesus said, “If you know me, you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him” (v. 7). Jesus spoke to Philip rebuking him for not understanding. Sometimes we are the same. Even though we walk close to our Savior, we still don’t know Him as we should. Jesus wanted Philip to know that just as God loved so He loved.

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Everything they knew about God was also what they knew about Jesus. Especially Jesus wanted Philip to know that the works of God were also the works of Christ.

Jesus is the human representation of God. Though people have not seen God and never will until they reach heaven, Jesus helps us to know what God is like. While on earth, Jesus was a person of great compassion, love, kindness, holiness, peace, understanding, and power. We can therefore trust that God is the same.

2. Jesus in the Father (John 14:10).

Jesus further clarified to Philip the relationship between God and Himself. It was very evident that while He was on earth He depended on God. He once said, “Truly I tell you, the Son is not able to do anything on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, the Son likewise does these things” (John 5:19). Jesus explained that He is completely submitted to the Father’s will. Some people today don’t trust Jesus as the Son of God. They believe Him to be a mere man who is subject to mistakes and sin just as we are. But Jesus provided two reasons we can trust Him. First, we can trust Him because of who He is. The inerrant Word of God presents Him as the Son of God. Inerrant means it is without error and without any flaws. Second, we can trust Him because the works or miracles He performs are because of God who lives in Him.

3. Jesus Doing the Works of the Father (John 14:11).

Clearly Jesus is omnipotent just like God, our heavenly Father. God spoke the world into existence and created all of its inhabitants, including us. The power of God is beyond our imaginations and sometimes difficult for our finite minds to believe. The disciples had a front row seat to the works of Christ. They witnessed Him as He healed the blind and many diseases, made storms cease, winds stand still, and brought the dead to life. He feed 5,000 people with two fishes and five loaves of bread. The works of Christ grew out of who He was and who lived in Him. Jesus encouraged His disciples to believe that He was in the Father. He also gave them an alternative; He said to “believe because of the works themselves.” Jesus is helping all of us to increase our faith so that the same works He did can be a part of our lives. He told His disciples to just believe, and He is telling us the same.

Conclusion: Jesus is the same, yesterday, today and forever. For us that is good news for us, especially when we face difficult circumstances. Sometimes, life just calls for a miracle. We need a miracle when we are sick and the doctor says we cannot get well. We need a miracle when the bills pile up and the money is short. We need a miracle when our homes are ravaged by storms and there is no insurance. We need a miracle when an accident leaves us without hope. Those who don’t believe miracles are relevant today, don’t know Christ. Once we learn that He

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is One with the Father, that the Father lives in Him, and that the works He does are the works of God, we will know that miracles are possible.

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