



Melodies of Miracles – Week 2 “The Meaning of Miracles”

Luke 5:17-26 (NIV)

One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick. ¹⁸ Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. ¹⁹ When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

²⁰ When Jesus saw their faith, he said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.”

²¹ The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, “Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

²² Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? ²³ Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? ²⁴ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the paralyzed man, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” ²⁵ Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. ²⁶ Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, “We have seen remarkable things today.”

1. Miracles provide glimpses of the Kingdom.

2. Miracles move us to compassion.

- Miracles can motivate us to carry mats.

Galatians 6:2 (NIV)

Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

- Without community we often stay stuck on our mats.

- We can't produce miracles, but we can position people in the presence of the miracle worker.
- It is not enough to have deep commitments or deep convictions; you need deep connections found in community.

3. Miracles are a result of "Big Faith."

Luke 5:20 (NIV)

When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

4. Miracles give us a proper perspective.

Luke 5:23-25 (NIV)

Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? ²⁴ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." ²⁵ Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God.

- Miracles remind us that our ultimate need is not healing from God, but holiness before God.
- Jesus didn't come to save us from this life; He came to save us from death.

Matthew 16:26 (NIV)

What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

5. Miracles reveal identity.

- Miracles remind us that we are not defined by our mats.