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Words of Encouragement

Oct. 14, 2020

Do you believe in miracles?

Do you believe in miracles? Wherever you are and whoever you are with or even if you are alone with God right now, let me encourage you to acknowledge miracles that you have witnessed.

- Maybe it's a miracle that happened in your own life.
- Maybe it's a miracle you witnessed in the healing in another person's life.
- In addition to miracles that come to mind for you, let me ask you, *Did you consider the miracle of a sunrise or a sunset?*
- Have you considered the miracle of stars that you have seen a star-filled night?
- I believe you will agree that we can all testify to miracles. The miracle of creation for instance. One might even call these miracles, ***Miracles of Grace***.

Let me share a story with you of a miracle we read in the Bible.

From Matthew 8:23-27, hear now these words:

Jesus Stills the Storm

23 And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. 24 A windstorm arose on the sea, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. 25 And they went and woke him up, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" 26 And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, you of little faith?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a dead calm. 27 They were amazed, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?" Matthew 8:23-27

This is just one such miracle we see in Scripture. But you know, we see miracles all around us. You may have witnessed several cars passing on this road even as I was sharing this Scripture passage with you. How easy it is for us to miss miracles because we get so busy in our way of life. If you want to go on our website (holytrinitykingsport.org) you will see 41 miracles of Jesus that I have listed there.

There are miracles all around us and how easily we miss them. Every day that passes, we look past so much. We get use to the world being what it is. Here we are living in the midst of this COVID-19 pandemic and I believe every day that continues to pass by, we learn just how much there is we've yet to learn about this virus. It's become a political illness in some ways.

Let me encourage you today to be in earnest prayer; to *pray without ceasing*, as Paul says, to be in earnest prayer for answers. I pray will we all be in earnest prayer for healing as well. And so let us all continue *praying without ceasing*, looking for answers for COVID-19 and looking for healing

in our lives so that we may continue living day by day. I'd like to close our time together praying together right now.

Let us pray:

*Gracious God, we thank you for the gift of this creation you have made and made us a part of. God as we stand here we acknowledge the Holy Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We know the miracles that we see around us in healing and in the stars in the sky and the sunrise and the sunset. And for changes we see in the weather. We acknowledge the miracles of your creation we see everywhere. And we pray right now, Lord, that you will bring healing into our community, into our world; healing of this COVID-19 and more; mentally, physically, spiritually, that you bring the healing into our lives. And that we develop what we need to work against this virus in order to remain safe and healthy. It's in awe, God, that we look to you acknowledging that you are the miracle worker; that you are the source of our healing and so we lift all of these prayers to you right now in Jesus' name. And all God's people said, **Amen***

Again I thank you for tuning in today. I am Pastor Scottie Burkhalter of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church *Helping Transform Lives in Christ!*

Our numbers for COVID-19 were up into the 60s again on Sunday, October 11th. And we continue to learn more and more about this virus we really do not have all the answers for yet. Let me encourage you today to be an earnest prayer that our world may be healed from COVID-19. Remember...

Jesus Stills the Storm

23 And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. 24 A windstorm arose on the sea, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. 25 And they went and woke him up, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" 26 And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, you of little faith?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a dead calm. 27 They were amazed, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?" Matthew 8:23-27

Listed below are 40 + 1 miracles of Jesus:

- 1. Born of a virgin** Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:26-38
- 2. Changing water into wine** John 2:1-11
- 3. Healing of the royal official's son** John 4:46-54
- 4. Healing of the Capernaum demoniac** Mark 1:21-28, Luke 4:33-37
- 5. Healing of Peter's mother-in-law** Matthew 8:14-15, Mark 1:29-31, Luke 4:38-39
- 6. Healing the sick during the evening** Matt 8:16, Mark 1:32, Luke 4:40
- 7. Catching a large number of fish** Luke 5:3-10
- 8. Healing a leper** Matthew 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-15
- 9. Miracle of healing a centurion's servant** Matthew 8:5-13, Luke 7:1-10

- 10. Healing a paralyzed man** Matthew 9:1-8, Mark 2:1-12, Luke 5:18-26
- 11. Healing a withered hand** Matthew 12:9-14, Mark 3:1-6, Luke 6:6-10
- 12. Raising a widow's son** Luke 7:11-17
- 13. Calming the stormy sea** Matthew 8:23-27, Mark 4:35-41, Luke 8:22-25
- 14. Healing the Gerasene man possessed by demons** Matthew 8:28-32, Mark 5:1-13, Luke 8:26-33
- 15. Healing a woman with internal bleeding** Matthew 9:20-22, Mark 5:25-34, Luke 8:43-48
- 16. Raising Jairus' daughter** Matthew 9:18-19, 23-25; Mark 5:22-24, 35-43; Luke 8:41-42, 49-56
- 17. Healing two blind men** Matthew 9:27-31
- 18. Healing a mute demon-possessed man** Matthew 9:32-33
- 19. Healing a 38 year invalid** John 5:1-17
- 20. Feeding 5000 men and their families** Matthew 14:16-21, Mark 6:35-44, Luke 9:12-17, John 6:5-14
- 21. Walking on water** Matthew 14:22-33, Mark 6:45-52, John 6:16-21
- 22. Miraculous healing of many people in Gennesaret** Matthew 14:34-36; Mark 6:53-56
- 23. Healing a girl possessed by a demon** Matthew 15:21-28, Mark 7:24-30
- 24. Healing a deaf man with a speech impediment** Mark 7:31-37
- 25. Feeding the 4,000 men and their families** Matthew 15:29-39, Mark 8:1-10
- 26. Healing a blind man** Mark 8:22-26
- 27. Healing a man born blind** John 9:1-41
- 28. Healing a demon-possessed boy** Matthew 17:14-20, Mark 9:17-29, Luke 9:37-43
- 29. Catching a fish with a coin in its mouth** Matthew 17:24-27
- 30. Healing a blind and mute man who was demon-possessed** Matthew 12:22-23, Luke 11:14
- 31. Healing a woman with an 18-year infirmity** Luke 13:10-13
- 32. Healing a man with dropsy** Luke 14:1-6
- 33. Healing 10 lepers** Luke 17:11-19
- 34. Raising of Lazarus** John 11:1-44
- 35. Healing Bartimaeus of blindness** Matthew 20:29-34, Mark 10:46-52, Luke 18:35-43
- 36. Jesus curses the fig tree with no fruit** Matthew 21:18-22; Mark 11:12-14, 20-25
- 37. Restoring a severed ear** Luke 22:45-54
- 38. The resurrection of Jesus** 1 Corinthians 15, Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20
- 39. Catching 153 fish** John 21:4-11
- 40. The ascension of Jesus** Acts 1:1-11

<http://www.aboutbibleprophecy.com/miracles.htm>

- 41. "...many follow [Jesus], and he healed them all"** Matthew 12:15