



# God the Son

## He performed works of power

**Luke 4:31-36**

### Setting the scene

People were astonished at Christ's 'mighty works', but it was not to provoke wonder that they were performed.

His mighty acts:

- were allied to His teaching,
- revealed His compassion and
- showed Him to be the Son of God.

The four instances below tell us much about the nature of Christ. They also pose questions which we cannot answer. That is not surprising, for Jesus is greater than our understanding.

***“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:8-9***

### An answer to those who doubted

Read Matthew 11:2-6. Crowds pressed to hear John the Baptist: then, suddenly, Herod Antipas had him arrested and imprisoned, for John had dared to rebuke his immoral way of life. Meanwhile, the popularity of Jesus grew, but John had only heard about it since he was in prison. What he heard did not match his expectations for he anticipated that the Messiah would come with power and judgement. Doubts arose in his mind as to whether Jesus was the Promised One or not. He sent his messengers to ask, ***“Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?”***  
***Matthew 11:3.***

The answer Jesus gave was, ***“Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor.”*** Matthew 11:4-5.

They didn't see judgement, but healing and restoring power at work. The disciples of John, who had seen for themselves the miracles that Jesus did, were convinced that Jesus was the Messiah and this provided John with the answer.

### **Demons were defeated**

*The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him." Mark 1:27*

We should rid ourselves of unhelpful 'pictures' of demons and think of real and mysterious forces that delude and destroy. The Apostle Paul tells us clearly in Ephesians 6:12 that spiritual forces in the heavenly realm are warring against Christians.

*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Ephesians 6:12*

We cannot stand alone against them for we would fail. Our only answer is to put on the whole armour of God as recorded in Ephesians 6:13-18.

Jesus has complete command over the powers of darkness, and can set free anyone who has been ensnared by Satan and these demons.

### **A storm is stilled**

*He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. Mark 4:39*

The disciples found themselves in the midst of a storm and were afraid. They should have remembered that Jesus was in control of their circumstances but their faith was still weak. Their problem was not the storm around them but the unbelief within them. They failed to look up by faith. The disciples' fears were natural enough, but quite needless for Jesus had said, *"Let us go over to the other side" Mark 4:35*. Jesus delivered them from fear by showing Himself to be master of the threatening forces. Notice their first reaction on landing, *"Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!" Mark 4:41*

They learned through the experience.

### **The dead are raised**

*He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum!" (which means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). Immediately the girl stood up and walked around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat. Mark 5:41-43*

Amid scornful laughter, broken hearted grief, and the formality of hired mourners, Jesus revealed a life-restoring power in tenderness and understanding. "Do not make a public event of it" He said, "and do not forget in your rejoicing that she needs food". This is one of the events Mark underlines by recording the very words that Jesus spoke. His informant (was it Peter?) was there, and could

never forget the sound of those syllables, ***“Talitha kum”***. They were part of the revelation of Jesus, life from the dead!

There are other recorded instances of Jesus raising the dead:

- The raising of the son of a widow in Nain is recorded in Luke 7:11-17. Those who witnessed the incident were all filled with awe and praised God saying, ***“A great prophet has appeared among us, God has come to help his people”*** Luke 7:16.
- Perhaps the best known incident is the raising of Lazarus, recorded in John 11. When Jesus arrived at the tomb, Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days and decay had already set in. When Jesus called Lazarus back from the dead, what was the response?

***...many of the Jews ... put their faith in him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done John 11:45-46.***

- Finally, Christ Himself rose from the dead to settle for the disciples once and for all the question of Who He really was. John 20:24-29 shows us how Thomas was convinced.

John's Gospel tells us why the miracles were recorded.

***... Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:30-31***

Jesus was God the Son and His mighty acts of power clearly showed this to be the case.

### Discussion

- What is a miracle?
- Jesus refused to do some things that would merely have made onlookers gasp with wonder (e.g. during His time of Temptation). He did not heal all the sick folk (Mark 6:5). Why was this?
- Are there modern miracles of the kind Jesus did? Perhaps the church itself is the greatest of miracles since Jesus rose from the dead.