



THE PROBLEM OF JESUS

The Problem of Miracles // Mark Clark // April 25th, 2021

What do we do with the millions of stories held by rational, credible people that defy all logic? Belief in miracles is seen by skeptics as something for the ancient mind - the naive and uninformed - and not for modern, scientific, rational people. But what if miracles are actually probable given the universe in which we live? What if the miracles we read about in the accounts of Jesus' life on earth really did happen? What would those miracles mean to us in our world today? Jesus' miracles weren't an end unto themselves. They relayed messages about God, love, humankind, and life.

Bottom Line: Jesus' miracles aren't signs of what we deserve or how good we are; they are about Jesus and how good *he* is, thus our relationship is to *him*, not his miracles.

Scripture: [Mark 1:16-45](#), [John 2:1-12](#), [John 4:43-54](#)

Getting Started:

1. Name a miracle of Jesus recorded in the Gospels that stands out to you and share why.
2. Have you ever witnessed a miracle in your own life or someone else's life? If so, what was it?

Jumping In:

3. Does it take more faith to be skeptical of miracles or to believe in miracles? Why?
4. What do we do with stories about the supernatural? What are your initial reactions when you hear those stories?

Discuss:

5. Is there historical evidence that miracles were part of Jesus' life and ministry? And if so, what did those miracles mean then?
6. [Read Mark 1:16-45](#). Why do you think Jesus asks for people to remain quiet about the miracles he does for them? From your perspective, when would it be wise to stay quiet about miracles, and when would it be wise to speak up about them?
7. [Read John 2:1-12](#). What would your response have been if you were one of the disciples watching this scene unfold? What is the significance of the new wine Jesus created at Cana when thinking about our lives today? What does that mean for you and me?

8. [Read John 4:43–54](#). What reason does Jesus give for performing “signs and wonders”? How is the same true for Christians and nonbelievers today?
9. How does it make you feel or what does it mean to you to consider miracles as God's intimate participation in our lives?
10. What about when the miracle you are praying for doesn't happen? Spend time with your group praying for peace through the lasting question mark of “why?” Pray that you can trust God is still working when there aren't easy, quick answers.

Looking Ahead:

Jesus is still doing miracles and transforming our lives today. He transforms us from the selfish beings we were into something entirely different. He transforms us so that we use money differently, treat our spouses differently, interact with strangers differently, raise our kids differently, and do our jobs differently. Everything changes when it is put into the hands of Jesus. This week, consider what miracle God could do in your life to change you for the better. Ask him for a miracle of transformation / sanctification.

“Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.” (John 1:30)