



Sunday, September 20, 2020
“A ‘Simple’ Miracle”



Man's perspective versus God's perspective-

Living in the miraculous involves living in God's perspective not your own.

God is a God of miracles. There is a lot of debate on the subject on miracles.
(Super conference November – The Power of the Holy Spirit)

We live in a difficult world and we need the power of God in our lives.

Creation shows the power of God

There's glory all around,

And those who see must stand in awe,

For miracles abound.

Refrain.

I believe in miracles

I've seen a soul set free,

Miraculous the change in one

Redeemed through Calvary;

I've seen the lily push its way

Up through the stubborn sod

I believe in miracles

For I believe in God!

The Love of God! Oh power divine!

'Tis wonderful to see
The miracles that He has wrought
Should lead to Calvary.

Refrain.

I believe in miracles
I've seen a soul set free,
Miraculous the change in one
Redeemed through Calvary;
I've seen the lily push its way
Up through the stubborn sod
I believe in miracles
For I believe in God!

2 Corinthians 4:7 -But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.; 1 Corinthians 1:24 - but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.; 2:5 -that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.; Romans 15:19 -in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.; Acts 26:18 -to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified[a] by faith in Me.'; Ephesians 3:20 -Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,---

The Making of Elisha's 'Simple' Miracle

✦ 1. There is a problem without a human solution

Now Jehoram the son of Ahab became king over Israel at Samaria in the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned twelve years. 2 And he

did evil in the sight of the Lord, but not like his father and mother; for he put away the sacred pillar of Baal that his father had made. 3 Nevertheless he persisted in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin; he did not depart from them. 4 Now Mesha king of Moab was a sheepbreeder, and he regularly paid the king of Israel one hundred thousand lambs and the wool of one hundred thousand rams. 5 But it happened, when Ahab died, that the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel. 6 So King Jehoram went out of Samaria at that time and mustered all Israel. 7 Then he went and sent to Jehoshaphat king of Judah, saying, “The king of Moab has rebelled against me. Will you go with me to fight against Moab?” And he said, “I will go up; I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses.” 8 Then he said, “Which way shall we go up?” And he answered, “By way of the Wilderness of Edom.” 9 **So the king of Israel went with the king of Judah and the king of Edom, and they marched on that roundabout route seven days; and there was no water for the army, nor for the animals that followed them.** 10 And the king of Israel said, “**Alas! For the Lord has called these three kings together to deliver them into the hand of Moab.**”

Jehoram came from a family that was far beyond dysfunctional. His father Ahab was one of the worst kings the Northern Kingdom of Israel ever knew and his mother Jezebel was certainly the worst queen Israel ever knew.

But not like his father and mother: Jehoram was better than his father and mother, but he was still a wicked man. He was the ninth consecutive bad king over the Northern Kingdom, which never had a godly king.

What is your problem you are facing apparently with no human solution?

- > Financial, emotional, physical, relational, addiction

✦ 2. There is a God that is able

11 **But Jehoshaphat said, “Is there no prophet of the Lord here, that we may inquire of the Lord by him?”** So one of the servants of the king of Israel answered and said, “Elisha the son of Shaphat is here, who poured water on the hands of Elijah.” 12 And Jehoshaphat said, “The word of the Lord is with him.” So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him. 13 Then Elisha said to the king of Israel, “What have I to do with you? Go to the prophets of your father and the prophets of your mother.” But the king of Israel said to him, “**No, for the Lord has called these three kings together to deliver them into the hand of Moab.**” 14 And Elisha said, “As the Lord of

hosts lives, before whom I stand, surely were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I would not look at you, nor see you.

I've had many tears and sorrows
I've had questions for tomorrow
There's been times I didn't know right from wrong
But in every situation
God gave me blessed consolation
That my trials come to only make me strong

Through it all
Through it all
I've learned to trust in Jesus
I've learned to trust in God

Through it all
Through it all
I've learned to depend upon His Word

I've been to lots of places
I've seen a lot of faces
There's been times I felt so all alone
But in my lonely hours
Yes, those precious lonely hours
Jesus lets me know that I was His own

Through it all
Through it all
I've learned to trust in Jesus

I've learned to trust in God

I thank God for the mountains

And I thank Him for the valleys

I thank Him for the storms He brought me through

For if I'd never had a problem

I wouldn't know God could solve them

I'd never know what faith in God could do

✦ 3. There is a song to be heard

15 But now bring me a musician.” Then it happened, **when the musician played, that the hand of the Lord came upon him.**

i. “This he requires, that his mind, which had been disturbed and inflamed with holy anger at the sight of wicked Jehoram, might be composed, and cheered, and united within itself, and that he might be excited to the more fervent prayer to God, and joyfully praising him; whereby he was prepared to receive the prophetic announcement.” (Poole)

“This nameless musician was endowed with God-given talents and he used them for the good of others. Surely it never occurred to him that by his music he would help win a military victory and have a dramatic effect on history. But when he shared his God-given ability, the power of God came upon the prophet.” (Dilday)

Thank you all so much for your flexibility through all of the last several months and for continuing to be leaders to our church family who need some stability and normalcy! I believe that you are a really good reason our church is so unified right now! Keep up the good work!

1 Chronicles 15

✦ 4. There is a word from the Lord

**16 And he said, “Thus says the Lord: ‘Make this valley full of ditches.’
17 For thus says the Lord: ‘You shall not see wind, nor shall you see**

rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, so that you, your cattle, and your animals may drink.'

Go wash in the pool; tell the people to sit down, cast your net on the other side of the boat, cast the salt in the water, etc.

Step out of your comfort zone!

They had to dig the ditches before the water was apparent, so they could benefit from it when it came.

Ill. Noah's ark

This demonstrates the principle that God wants us to prepare for the blessing He wants to bring. Listening to Him, we are to anticipate His working and to get ready for it.

✦ 5. There is a profound truth stated

18 And this is a simple matter in the sight of the Lord; He will also deliver the Moabites into your hand. **19 Also you shall attack every fortified city and every choice city, and shall cut down every good tree, and stop up every spring of water, and ruin every good piece of land with stones."**

"If we expect to obtain the Holy Spirit's blessing, we must prepare for his reception. 'Make this valley full of trenches' is an order which is given me this morning for the members of this church; make ready for the Holy Ghost's power; be prepared to receive that which he is about to give; each man in his place and each woman in her sphere, make the whole of this church full of trenches for the reception of the divine water-floods." (Spurgeon) Act not on the mere strength of what you have, but in expectation of that which you have asked." (Spurgeon)

For with God nothing shall be impossible—Is anything too hard for the Lord

✦ 6. There is the exact moment of the miracle

20 Now it happened in the morning, when the grain offering was offered, that suddenly water came by way of Edom, and the land was filled with water. **21** And when all the Moabites heard that the kings had come up to fight against them, all who were able to bear arms and older were gathered;

and they stood at the border. 22 Then they rose up early in the morning, and the sun was shining on the water; and the Moabites saw the water on the other side as red as blood. 23 And they said, "This is blood; the kings have surely struck swords and have killed one another; now therefore, Moab, to the spoil!" 24 So when they came to the camp of Israel, Israel rose up and attacked the Moabites, so that they fled before them; and they entered their land, killing the Moabites. 25 Then they destroyed the cities, and each man threw a stone on every good piece of land and filled it; and they stopped up all the springs of water and cut down all the good trees. But they left the stones of Kir Haraseth intact. However the slingers surrounded and attacked it. 26 And when the king of Moab saw that the battle was too fierce for him, he took with him seven hundred men who drew swords, to break through to the king of Edom, but they could not. 27 Then he took his eldest son who would have reigned in his place, and offered him as a burnt offering upon the wall; and there was great indignation against Israel. So they departed from him and returned to their own land.

The whole account of God's provision in the desert gives many principles that apply to Christian ministry.

- Like digging ditches, ministry is hard work.
- Like digging ditches, ministry is done with faith in the future.
- Like digging ditches, ministry is blessed beyond reasonable expectation.
- Like digging ditches, ministry must use delegation.
- Like digging ditches, ministry matters nothing without a miracle.
- Like digging ditches, the work of ministry often feels like work without reward.
- Like digging ditches, the work of ministry will be criticized or doubted.
- Like digging ditches, ministry means not accepting the present state of dryness.
- Like digging ditches, the work of ministry often seems unimpressive or unspectacular.

Will you give your problem today to a God that sees it as a simple matter?

