

Supernatural: Miracles

6-20-10

I. Introduction

II. Whatever Happened to Miracles?

- A. Isaiah 66:1 - *"Heaven is my throne and the earth is my footstool."*
- B. Psalms 24:1 - *The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;*
- C. Proverbs 21:1 - *The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord...*
- D. Proverbs 30:4 – *Who has gathered up the wind in the hollow of his hands? Who has wrapped up the waters in his cloak?*
- E. James 2:19 – *You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that-and shudder.*
- F. John 6:1-13 - *Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), ²and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he had performed on the sick. ³Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. ⁴The Jewish Passover Feast was near. ⁵When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. ⁷Philip answered him, "Eight months' wages^[a] would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" ⁸Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, ⁹"Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" ¹⁰Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." ¹¹There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. ¹²Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. ¹³When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." ¹⁴So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.*

III. Feeding the 500.

- A. God's miracles begin with the awareness of a need, John 6:5 (see above).
- B. The Human Condition – We have become content with the Status Quo!
- C. What is your need?
- D. Matthew 20:29-32 - *As Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. ³⁰Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!" ³¹The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the louder, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!" ³²Jesus stopped and called them. "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked.*
- E. We distance ourselves from the people and places where miracles will move the most. Just as the disciples tried to distance themselves from the people.
- F. Mark 6:35-36 -*By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. "This is a remote place," they said, "and it's already very late. ³⁶Send the people away so they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat."*
- G. Miracles often involve a major test of faith, John 6:5-7 (see above). The test of continuing to trust in God's goodness, faithfulness and control even when we encounter difficulty. The test of taking a Risk and not taking the Easy Alternative. The test of Inadequate Supply, as when Jesus fed the masses with 5 loaves of bread and two fish.
- H. God's miracles often require our participation. Christianity is not a spectator sport. It is a participatory sport.
- I. Mark 6:39-41 - *Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. ⁴¹Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all.*

VIII. Conclusion