

PANORAMA OF THE LIFE OF CHRIST

**Early miracles, Sabbath Day
Controversies, and Choosing Disciples**



Early Miracles

IX. Early miracles, Sabbath day controversies, and choosing disciples

A. Fishers of men – Matthew 4:18-22, Mark 1:16-20, Luke 5:1-11

1. Luke 5:1 – Luke wrote a section about Jesus' second year of ministry during which He began demonstrating His authority over nature, demons, sickness, etc.

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2. Luke 5:2 – The major industry around the Sea of Galilee (Gennesaret) was fishing, which was usually done at night by lowering nets over the side of a boat.
3. Luke 5:3 – Jesus used a boat as a platform for teaching so all could see and hear Him.
4. Luke 5:4 – The fishermen had spent the night fishing with no success.

G

Ptolemais



Note

Early Miracles

5. Luke 5:5a – Jesus' command made no sense to Peter since experience told him the fish were now in deep water far from the reach of their fishing nets.
 - a. Luke 5:5b – Peter demonstrated humble faith by submitting to the Lord's command even though it did not make sense to him.
 - b. Luke 5:5c – Peter did not allow his doubts to interfere with his obedience to Jesus' clear command.

Early Miracles

6. Luke 5:6-7 – This miraculous fish catch firmly established Jesus' authority and allowed Him to call Simon Peter, James, and John to be His disciples.
7. Luke 5:8 – Peter's recognition of Jesus as Messiah resulted from the realization of his own sinfulness (depravity).

Early Miracles

8. Luke 5:9-10 – Instead of snatching living fish to put to death, Jesus called these men to join Him in snatching spiritually dead men from the sea of sin to give them life.
9. Luke 5:11 – This call to be *fishers of men* came one year after Jesus' first call to these men to follow Him. John 1:35-42

Early Miracles

B. Power over the demonic realm – Mark 1:21-28, Luke 4:31-37

1. Mark 1:21a – Mark wrote the shortest Gospel as well as the longest narratives of Jesus' miracles because he was writing to the Romans, men of action.

Early Miracles

- a. Mark 1:21b – Writing to show Jesus' role as a servant, Mark used action words like *immediately* to emphasize the willing service of the premiere Servant of all time, Jesus Christ.
- b. Mark 1:21c – Once again, Jesus went to a synagogue to teach. That they allowed Him to teach shows He was widely recognized as a spiritual authority.

Early Miracles

2. Mark 1:22a – Jesus' teaching struck them with amazement.
 - a. Mark 1:22b – Unlike the teachings of the scribes (Greek: *GRAMMATEUS*), who were the ordained teachers of the Mosaic Law, Jesus' teaching carried *authority* (Greek: *EXOUSIA*).

Early Miracles

- b. Mark 1:22c – The scribes did not teach on their own authority about a particular Scripture but recited the opinions of other learned men.
- c. Mark 1:22d – The *scribes* opposed Jesus.

Early Miracles

3. Mark 1:23 – The demon-possessed man could not resist Jesus' authoritative teaching.
4. Mark 1:24 – The demon's fearful recognition of Jesus as Supreme Judge shows that the demons knew divine judgment awaited them.
5. Mark 1:25 – Jesus' imperative command to *be quiet* (Greek: *PHIMOO*, shut-up, close the mouth as with a muzzle) came from His messianic authority.

Early Miracles

6. Mark 1:26 – The demon's obedience authenticated Christ's teaching and gave further evidence of His divine authority.
7. Luke 4:35 – Dr. Luke noted that the man was unharmmed in this deliverance.
8. Mark 1:27 – This miracle prompted a long discussion about Jesus' authority.
9. Mark 1:28 – News of the miracle spread quickly.

Early Miracles

C. Healing Peter's mother-in-law – Matthew 8:14-17, Mark 1:29-34, Luke 4:38-41

1. Mark 1:29 – Peter was married and had a home in Capernaum.
2. Mark 1:30 – The Greek imperfect tense indicates that Peter's mother-in-law had been sick for some time.
3. Luke 4:38 – Dr. Luke pointed out that the fever was high, indicating a serious illness.

Early Miracles

4. Mark 1:31 – Mark emphasized that the hands-on healing of the Great Servant produced instant and complete recovery. Matthew 8:15, Luke 4:39
5. Mark 1:32-33 – The people waited for the end of the Sabbath so they wouldn't offend the Pharisees and then brought those in need of healing from all over the area.
 - a. The healings in the Gospels teach a theological message.

Early Miracles

- b. Physical death and sickness are results of Adam's original sin. Genesis 3:19
- c. Therefore, physical problems like fever and death are abnormal. Revelation 21:4
- d. Those in the Gospels with physical problems and physical death picture our spiritual problems and spiritual death.

Early Miracles

- e. In like manner, through faith alone in Christ alone, we receive the eternal, life-giving touch of the Master's hand and then go on to serve Him for His glory.

Early Miracles

6. Mark 1:34a – Jesus' healings of physical ailments foreshadowed the great atonement He accomplished on the cross.
 - a. Mark 1:34b – Mark carefully pointed out that illness and demon possession are two separate categories of problems. A believer can't be indwelt by a demon but sure can get sick!

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- b. Mark 1:34c – Jesus silenced the demons because the babblings of the demonic realm were unsuitable testimonies of His position as Messiah. People should have recognized His Messiahship based on His own testimony and work.

Early Miracles

D. A preaching tour in Galilee – Mark 1:35-39, Luke 4:42-44

1. Mark 1:35a – Mark recorded Jesus praying on three different occasions: At the beginning of His ministry (Mark 1:35), in the middle of His ministry (Mark 6:46), and at the end of His ministry (Mark 14:35-39).

Early Miracles

- a. Mark 1:35b – Mark contrasted Jesus' private prayers to the long public prayers of the scribes who prayed to be noticed and admired.
- b. Mark 1:35c – Prayer was an important part of Christ's life.

Early Miracles

2. Mark 1:36 – The disciples had to hunt for Jesus.
3. Mark 1:37-39 – Though many in Capernaum still needed to be healed and delivered, the Lord had other places in Galilee to go and teach. Luke 4:43



Prayer Breakdown

Confession - *Psalm 51:1-8; 1 John 1:9*

Adoration - *Psalm 19; 33; 105; 111.*

Thanksgiving – *Phil. 4:6; 1 Thess. 5:18.*

Supplication – *3 John 2; John 15:7.*

Early Miracles

E. Healing the leper – Matthew 8:1-4, Mark 1:40-45, Luke 5:12-16

1. Mark 1:40a – Leprosy, a highly contagious disease, was incurable by human means. Lepers had to live in isolated communities apart even from their families.
 - a. Mark 1:40b – Leprosy was a physical, visible example of our invisible spiritual sin and wickedness, which are also highly contagious.

Early Miracles

- b. Mark 1:40c – This particular leper recognized Jesus' power and submitted to His will for physical cleansing.

Early Miracles

2. Mark 1:41a – Christ touched the leper even though He knew doing so would make Him ceremonially unclean.
 - a. Mark 1:41b – Jesus never violated any part of the Mosaic Law. 2 Corinthians 5:21

Early Miracles

- b. Mark 1:41c – The Greek grammar indicates that the Lord did not touch the man in order to cleanse him but to demonstrate that he was already physically clean. Telling him to be made clean was an order to go to the temple and follow the Mosaic requirements to prove cleansing commanded in Leviticus 14:1-20.

Early Miracles

3. Mark 1:42 – God’s power in the instantaneous cleansing of the leper is the same instantaneous power used to cleanse us from sin at our new birth in Christ.
4. Mark 1:43 – Jesus warned the man to tell no one except the priest. Why?
 - a. Mark 1:44a – According to the Mosaic Law, only a priest could declare someone a leper, and only a priest could declare a leper clean. Leviticus 13:3

Early Miracles

- b. Leviticus 13 and 14 explained the declaration of a leper and the ritual for declaring a leper clean.
- c. Mark 1:44b – Scripture never records that a priest used the cleansing rituals of Leviticus 14, and no record exists of an Israelite leper being cleansed (healed).
- d. Mark 1:44c – The healing of a leper signaled to the priests that Messiah had come. Isaiah 61:1, Matthew 11:5

Early Miracles

5. Mark 1:45 – The man's disobedience hindered the Lord's teaching and forced Him to leave the area.

Early Miracles

F. Healing the paralytic – Matthew 9:1-8, Mark 2:1-13, Luke 5:17-26

1. Mark 2:1 – Jesus returned to Capernaum to teach the Word of God.
2. Mark 2:2a – The imperfect tense of *to speak* indicates that He taught for a long time.
 - a. Mark 2:2b – Jesus continued in His resolve to proclaim the truth.
 - b. Luke 5:17 – Religious leaders attended, probably because of the cleansed leper.

Early Miracles

3. Mark 2:3-4 – The large crowd prevented entry through the door so the men removed the roof to make a hole so they could lower their friend into Jesus' presence.
4. Mark 2:5a – The boldness and creativity of those carrying the paralytic showed their faith (Greek: *pistis*) in Jesus.
 - a. God uses our faith in the content of the Gospel to save us from the penalty of sin.
Romans 1:16

Early Miracles

- 1) Faith allows the positionally righteous to live righteously. Romans 1:17
- 2) Faith comes from hearing the Word of Christ. Romans 10:17

Early Miracles

- b. Mark 2:5b – The Lord did not heal the paralytic immediately but told him that his sins were forgiven. 2 Chronicles 7:14, Psalm 32:1-2

Early Miracles

5. Mark 2:6 – The religious leaders thought within themselves that only God could forgive sins. They were correct.
6. Mark 2:7 – If Jesus was not God, He blasphemed; however, He was and is God eternally. Luke 5:21
7. Mark 2:8 – The Lord knew their thoughts. They thought He could not forgive sin.

Early Miracles

8. Mark 2:9 - Christ proved that He could forgive sin by doing something equally impossible. He made the lame man walk. Jewish logic said that a man proved he could do one difficult thing by doing something else equally unlikely.
9. Mark 2:10a – The purpose of this miracle was to show the religious leaders that He was the Messiah.

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- a. Mark 2:10b – Jesus called Himself *Son of Man*, His favorite name to support His claim to be Messiah. Daniel 7:13
- b. Mark 2:10c – Anyone humbly searching for Messiah recognized Jesus, but most arrogantly searched for a political Messiah to deliver Israel from Rome.

Early Miracles

10. Mark 2:11-12 – Christ performed the miracle quickly with instantaneous results. Still, most of the crowd rejected Him as Messiah.