

LESSON THREE

MIRACLES OF SUPPLY

In this lesson we shall be studying six miracles performed by our Lord. These miracles prove Jesus to be the great Provider for the needs of man. We see Him in this lesson as the JEHOVAH-JIREH.

A. JESUS TURNED WATER INTO WINE:

1. SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES: John 2:1-11.
2. CIRCUMSTANCES:

This miracle was the first miracle that Jesus performed in His ministry. It took place in Cana, a village about four miles northeast of Nazareth. It took place on the third day following the conversation of our Lord with Nathanael.

The occasion for this miracle was a marriage feast. It is quite possible that Mary was a close relative or friend of the bride for she seemed to have some responsibility concerning the wedding. Jesus and His disciples had been invited to the wedding.

We conclude that Joseph had died some time before this for (a) there is no mention of him being present at the wedding; and (b) in the time of need Mary turned to Jesus. If Joseph had been deceased before this, Jesus the eldest son would be the head of the home, and Mary was accustomed to turning to Him in times of need.

3. NEED:

The supply of wine ran out. There may have been more guests than had been planned for, and it is possible that the family was poor and had an inadequate supply. At any rate it would have been a great shame and disgrace to the family.

4. HOW WAS THE MIRACLE PERFORMED?

The miracle was performed through an act of OBEDIENCE. Mary had instructed the servant to do whatever Jesus told him. He was told to fill six waterpots with water and then draw out and give to the governor of the feast. The servant did and the miracle was performed. Complete and explicit obedience took place for the pots were filled to the brim.

A firkin is around nine gallons, and it has been estimated that there were about one hundred and twenty gallons of wine created.

The quality of the wine was excellent which the governor of the feast testified to.

4. RESULTS AND LESSONS TAUGHT:

It was fitting that Jesus should begin His ministry with a miracle of this nature. This miracle ministered to the crowd gathered at the marriage but it also manifested forth His own glory. This drew the attention of His disciples to His true identity and their faith was

increased in Him. *"We beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father"* (John 1:14).

The miracle revealed Jesus as the Creator. Someone has written, "The water saw the face of its Creator and blushed."

B. THE DROUGHT OF FISHES:

1. SCRIPTURAL REFERENCE: Luke 5:1-11.

2. CIRCUMSTANCES:

Peter, James and John were already disciples of the Lord's. They had begun to follow Jesus after the scene that took place at the River Jordan. They had been present at the first miracle at Cana. However, they had not yet made the dedication of forsaking the occupation of fishing to follow Jesus in full time ministry.

As Jesus was ministering on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw his disciples washing their nets after they had been fishing all night. Very likely, they were very tired and discouraged. Jesus was aware of this and knew that this was an opportunity to bring the need of full dedication to them.

He sat down in Peter's boat and taught the people. He then told Peter, *"Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets."*

3. NEED:

There was the need to supply these fishermen with fish for they had toiled all night and were greatly discouraged. However, the greatest need was to convince Peter that Jesus would supply his every need if he were to forsake all to follow the Lord.

4. HOW WAS THE MIRACLE PERFORMED?

The miracle was performed by the act of complete OBEDIENCE. Peter thought it was wholly in vain, but yet he had sufficient confidence in Jesus that he was willing to obey. Certainly he would never have done so for anyone else. He obeyed because Jesus asked him. *"Nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net"* (verse 5). Peter was called upon to do two things: a) Launch out into the deep; b) Let down his nets. In spite of the fact that he was weary, had washed his nets, and was about to hang them up to dry, he obeyed.

5. RESULTS AND LESSON TAUGHT:

The drought of fishes was so miraculous that Peter called James and John to help him. Both boats could not hold all the fish that had been caught. Peter was smitten with the realization of his sinfulness, and cried out, *"Depart from me; for I am a sinful man."* Peter was convicted and astonished.

Jesus now called them to forsake their occupation to give full time to their ministry. Peter was told to, "Fear not." There would be no reason for uneasiness or fear. Instead of fearing he should trust. Through the ministry of this miracle they were able to have sufficient faith to forsake all to become "fishers of men."

C. FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND:

1. **SCRIPTURAL REFERENCE:** Matthew 14:15-21 & John 6:5-14.

2. **CIRCUMSTANCES:**

A great multitude of people had followed Jesus into the desert. Jesus looked upon the multitude and was moved with compassion. His disciples wanted Him to send them away that they might go into the villages and buy food.

3. **NEED:**

There were five thousand men gathered besides all the women and children. They were hungry. The only food available was a little boy's lunch of five loaves and two fishes.

4. **HOW WAS THE MIRACLE PERFORMED?**

The little boy gave what he had to Jesus. Jesus looked up to heaven, blessed the food, broke it, and gave to His disciples. The disciples now were instructed to minister to the crowd. The food multiplied to meet the need as the crowd ate. They all ate and were filled.

This miracle took place by a boy bringing what he had to Jesus, which was blessed by the Lord. Again it called for OBEDIENCE upon the part of the disciples.

5. **RESULTS AND LESSON TAUGHT:**

Everyone was fed with twelve baskets of fragments left. This lesson points to Jesus who is the BREAD OF LIFE.

Secondary lessons are taught: a) Bring our all to Jesus; b) Our food should be blessed and c) There should be no waste.

LESSON THREE

SELF HELP TEST

- A. What was the quantity of wine created in the first miracle?
- B. What was the lesson taught by the miracle of the drought of fish?
- C. Why did Mary turn to Jesus at the moment of need in Cana?
- D. Give an example for each to show how the following are necessary before a miracle was performed:
1. Obedience -
 2. Dedication -