

**August 15, 2021 Amos Dodge     We All Want a Miracle!**

**Mark 4:35-41** *On that day, when evening came, He said to them, "Let's go over to the other side." After dismissing the crowd, they took Him along with them in the boat, just as He was; and other boats were with Him. And a fierce gale of wind developed, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling with water. And yet Jesus Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Hush, be still." And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm. And He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?" They became very much afraid and said to one another, "Who, then, is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"*

Three parts to a miracle. First, there is the beginning when your faith is strong and you know God will do it. The third, the miracle has come to pass. The disciples saw Jesus do crazy, good things as they saw miracles. But the middle of the miracle is different...

Know that Jesus will not start you on a journey and leave you halfway. The disciples questioned whether Jesus cared for them in the storm while He is sleeping. Sometimes it feels like we are sinking in the middle of the miracle but Jesus is never surprised by our storms and He will be with us through it to the other side. This is a miracle to prove that Jesus cared. He solved the problem. Do we think Jesus has forgotten us? Then we've forgotten who God is. Between the beginning and the end, the devil will try to sink our boat in the middle of the storm.

The miracle of Jonah... God prepared a great fish. But did Jonah think it would turn out good? In the middle of our miracle, everything looks and smells bad but it is God's provision for His ultimate salvation. The lesson - the miracle didn't look like a miracle.

The miracle in the fiery furnace... three men don't bow to the idol of the king and are thrown into a fiery furnace. Sometimes in the middle of our miracle, things go from bad to worse as in the heating of fire times 7. Sometimes He won't save us from the fiery furnace but will be with us in the fire. The lesson - He will give us His presence through the difficulty - the 4th man in the fire.

The miracle of the catch of great fish... the fisherman fish all night and catch nothing. Jesus says throw it over to the right side. Peter questioned but said he'd do what Jesus said. There is not a lot of difference in the sides, but obedience is the difference. What is Jesus asking us to do? The lesson - there are some miracles we won't see because we aren't doing what Jesus asked us to do.

The miracle of water to wine... Jesus says to fill the jugs with water and take them to the master. We don't know at what point the water changed to wine. The lesson... you'll find a miracle when you do what He asks us to do. This is a miracle for a marriage - listen to Jesus' instruction and you'll know what to do.

The miracle at the Red Sea... The Israelites had a problem and were trapped with the water in front of them. God parted the waters and the Israelites crossed on dry ground. Then the water came down on Pharaoh and his army. The lesson - the problem (water) can become the solution.

The miracle of Lazarus... Jesus didn't come right away and the sisters didn't understand but yet Jesus raised Lazarus to life. The lesson - it's always too early to say it's too late. God is not limited by time and circumstances or anything.

The secret in all of these miracles is that Jesus is in all of the miracles. So the closer you get to Jesus, the closer you get to your miracles. Don't seek miracles, but seek Jesus. When you seek Jesus, you'll discover miracles you never knew could happen.

Pray for a miracle. Also, pray to be a miracle. It is more blessed to give than to receive. **Acts 20:35** *In everything I showed you that by working hard in this way you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*

Don't stop at the end of **Mark 4**. Go to **Mark 5:1** *They came to the other side of the sea, into the region of the Gerasenes.* God will get us to the other side no matter what we are going through. The middle of a miracle doesn't always look too good, but we are on our way and He will get us through.

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What is your understanding of the difference between the right and left sides of the fisherman's boat?

What's the secret to these miracles?

Which is your favorite miracle and why?

Do you have a "middle of the miracle" lesson for your life today?