

Remnant Life Church  
March 16, 2014  
I Corinthians 12:10

*“The Power of our Miraculous God”*

- Webster defines miraculous as the nature of a miracle; supernatural
- The gift of miraculous power is not about what we do rather it is when we pray for God to intervene He comes and changes the course of natural things
- The gift of miraculous power impacts our physical world
  - As we look at some examples of this it speaks to me...
    - God cares about each of us at a very personal level
      - Pantheism believes that there is no personal relationship with God
      - God demonstrated time and time again His care for us, His creation.
  - Like the gift of healing God will often use us as an instrument of His power

1. Moses

- a. The accounts of Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers records nearly 30 times that God worked in and through Moses to perform some miraculous deed
- b. The first half of these were the call on his life to serve God, the demonstration of God’s power (plagues) bringing about the release of the nation of Israel
- c. In most every other case it was to deal with the Israelites complaining and grumbling
  - i. Even at our worst God still loves us and supplies our needs –
    1. His grace and mercy exceed the judgment we deserve  
**(Rom. 6:23)**
  - ii. The final miraculous event was the bronze serpent in the desert (**Num. 21:9**) – release from a punishment and a forerunner of Jesus being raised up and saving us
  - iii. *“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”*      **John 3:14-15**

## 2. Elijah

- a. While the miraculous power that God showed through Moses was more about the needs of the people, Elijah was about the power and sovereignty of God
- b. An old-testament prophet who prophesied in the northern kingdom of Israel in the 9<sup>th</sup> century BC
- c. Northern kingdom suffered through very evil and God-forsaking kings one of who, in Elijah's time, was Ahab who worshipped the pagan god Ba'al
- d. Ahab had a queen by the name of Jezebel who was determined to wipe out all the prophets of God
- e. Still God showed His mercy to those in need with miraculous power events that God brought through Elijah
  - i. God sends him away from Ahab and feeds him by ravens bringing food (**I Kings 17:4**)
  - ii. Flour and oil do not run out in the widow woman's home (**I Kings 17:14**)
  - iii. Raises the woman's son from the dead (**I Kings 17:22**)
- f. Confrontation at Mt. Carmel - **I Kings 18**
  - i. Elijah confronts Ahab and asks for a one on one battle to "prove" who is really God.
  - ii. Two altars are built; 2 bulls slaughtered, quartered and arranged on the altar
  - iii. Elijah instructs the priests of Ba'al to call fire down to their sacrifice
  - iv. After the altar is saturated with water Elijah prays and God consumes it with fire

## 3. Jesus – a "lesser" miracle but one filled with importance

- a. The priests approach Peter and ask if Jesus pays the temple tax (Turn to **Matt. 17:24-27**)
- b. The temple tax was implemented by Moses to the people to offset the cost of the construction and the setting up and tearing down the tabernacle (**Ex. 30:11-15**)
- c. But by the time of Jesus, the tax was voluntary not mandatory - much in the same way our tithes and gifts are given to God today
  - i. What you give to God is not out of law but out of love
  - ii. What you give at RLC is between you and God
  - iii. Example of the widow woman's offering (**Luke 21:1-3**)

- d. Recognized at the time as a Rabbi Jesus would have been exempt from paying the tax even from the beginning
  - e. Knowing Jesus was not from Capernaum the Priests more than likely were attempting yet again to trap Him in some wrong-doing
  - f. Of note:
    - i. Jesus knew the conversation that Peter had with the priests (*"Jesus was the first to speak..."* v 25) even though He was not present
    - ii. He again affirms that He is the Son of The King (v 25)
    - iii. His heart was never to divide (not offend - v 27)
    - iv. He provided not only for His own need but took care of Peter as well – no matter the circumstances His heart was always to serve
4. In each of these the intervention of God's power was and is...
- a. To demonstrate His power and authority over the natural
  - b. To show His love for His people (the nation of Israel) or a person (Peter)
  - c. To bring relief or resolution to a difficult situation – answer to a specific prayer
  - d. George Foreman story
5. As in all the gifts the same fundamental elements still apply
- a. No matter how great or how small it is done according to His will and in His time
  - b. The person praying and asking for this miraculous intervention is not responsible for it happening
  - c. Pride will disqualify that person from being used of God (either immediately or at some time)
  - d. Every aspect of the miracle and how it is done will point people to God never to a person
6. What event of miraculous power are you believing God for today?