

MIRACLES

Why and Why Not?

Part 2



GRACE AKALONU

Miracles: Why and Why Not

Part 2

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. Acts 10:38

The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. Matthew 11:5

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the King James Version of the Holy Bible

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To Elohim, who teaches and reveals His mind to His people, be glorified forever and ever. Amen.

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Introduction

I started studying the miracles of our Lord Jesus with an open mind and curiosity. The miracles of our Lord Jesus are not new. While some experience miracles, some do not and wonder if miracles are real because they have not experienced one. The key scripture that struck me is

And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen. John 21:25.

Why did Jesus allow just a few miracles to be recorded from the innumerable He performed? A light-bulb moment came to me to search no further. The answers are in the lines of the scriptures we have not paid attention to or been taught. The messages on the church bulletin and some famous preachers have narrowed our perspectives. We have not read the Bible for ourselves and allowed the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us. There are things very peculiar with each of the miracles, and everyone who receives them will live in the miraculous. If you have not experienced miracles in your life before, get ready for them.

- A diligent look at each case will reveal more:
- The attitude of those who received miracles.
- The conditions of the miracles.

- The reactions and responses of those who received miracles.
- The scenarios.
- Why were some particular people chosen for these miracles?
- What were their circumstances?

Miracles are not just physical ones. Spiritual miracles are even weightier. Receiving Salvation in Jesus is a huge miracle. It takes the grace of God to set us free from Satan. It takes a miracle to break a hardened heart. Finding peace is a miracle. The world has been looking for peace, yet it is far-fetched. It has not happened even with all the alliances and unions of nations and peace missions. To have faith is a miracle. Many are not able to break free from unbelief and doubt. Waking up in the morning is a miracle; many die in their sleep. Surviving each day is a miracle. Food and clothing are a miracle, as many live in lack.

Miracles are still happening today. The power that quickened the feeble is as potent as ever. The compassionate care of our Lord Jesus Christ never ceases. The purpose of His coming is outlined in: *Isaiah 61:1-7 and Luke 4:17-21*. They are for everyone who believes.

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek. Receiving the good tidings of the Gospel is the greatest miracle of life.

To bind up the broken-hearted. Christ was sent to bind up every broken heart. Anyway, you were disappointed. Things have not worked out as planned through the months and years. You cry when you remember them. Now is your time to be healed.

To proclaim liberty to the captives. No chain will keep you in captivity any day longer, in Jesus' name. They will be broken, and the siege is over! Be it being demon-possessed, alcoholism, drugs, immoral lifestyle, anger, bitterness, hopelessness,

disdain, whatever the captivities are. Have the faith that Yeshua Hamashiach, Jesus the Messiah, came to proclaim liberty to the captives, anything that has held you. You may have fasted and prayed, or you don't know how to pray; the Lord will set you at liberty.

And the opening of the prison to them that are bound. The bounds of sickness, bad habits, and behaviours, near-success syndrome, untimely death in the family, and witchcraft will be loosed in Jesus' name.

To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord and the Day of Vengeance of our God. You will live to declare the acceptable year of The Lord. To get the privilege of knowing the day of judgment is a miracle. Many are still walking blind to the consciousness that we are only here for a while. No argument can stop that day. It is appointed unto a man once to die, and then judgment follows. It helps us order our steps, live our lives, and carry ourselves along.

To comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes. Your tears will be wiped away, and you will be comforted. You might have been through a lot in life and endured pain, emotional distress, and depression that have put you off balance. Get ready. The Lord is here to comfort you. Hold on to the Lord for the healing.

The oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. Hallelujah! You can repeat this proclamation. "I will receive the oil of joy for all the mourning of my years. The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness". Speak this out with a loud voice. There shall be the oil of joy, and you will be filled with praises and testimonies. You will be amazed at what the Lord will do in your life.

That they might be called Trees of Righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified. Being called righteous is the pinnacle of all. There will not be inconsistency in your life. Sin will not have dominion over you anymore, but you will rise above Satan, the world, lures, temptations, and trials. God will be glorified in your life.

And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations. All the desolations of life will be restored. The Lord will repair all the years that locusts, the palmerworms, the cankerworms, and caterpillars have eaten.

And strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the alien shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers. Every alien situation shall bow to you. All those things that hissed at you will praise the Lord on your behalf.

But ye shall be named the Priests of the Lord: men shall call you the Ministers of our God. Adversarial situations will turn around to call you Ministers of God. Your faith will astonish them.

Ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves. We will eat the riches of Gentiles.

For your shame you shall have double, and for confusion they shall rejoice in their portion: therefore in their land they shall possess the double: everlasting joy shall be unto them. It is time to have double grace for your shame, all failures, and disappointment. Did you lose a job? A better one is on the way.

Can you believe the Lord as you read this book? You can write all the impossibilities in your life, address them with these scriptures, and see great things the Lord will do.

Mary said, "Oh Lord! How can this be? Knowing that I know no man. And the Lord said to Mary, For with God nothing shall be impossible." Luke 1:37.

But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible. Matthew 19:26.

With men, you can't swim across the ocean because you can't get far, you can't fly, you need an aeroplane, the disease condition is incurable, you can't get a particular job as you are not qualified, you didn't go to university. With men, you can't go to that country if you don't have a visa. You can't have some privileges because your family is poor. You can't read because you're blind. Men will not hear you because you don't have a voice. You are short, and they needed tall people. You are slim, but big people are required. All rules and criteria are against you with all the unending bottlenecks and setbacks. With God, all things are possible!

Just Touch The Hem

This miracle is not for those who swim in the pool of indecision with double-mindedness as a life jacket. It is for those who take things headlong.

And Jesus went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him. And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse, When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole. And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague. And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes? And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing. But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth. And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague. Mark 5:24-34; Luke 8:43-48

For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole. Matthew 9:21

This lady was intentional. She was purposeful, and she made up her mind. “She said within herself”. It was a conscious decision. This is one of the very steps to receiving a miracle. Don’t do things because others did them; be intentional. She knew what she wanted, decided, and went for it. Do we know what we want? Some of us rely so much on others to pick our brains. Pick yours first. You have a fantastic brain if you know what you want. The decision to touch Jesus was hers. She took herself. Please, take the bold step to Jesus!

She has suffered in the hands of physicians, yet didn’t get better. She spent all, having suffered a lot, yet the issue grew worse. Is this your case? Things are getting worse despite every effort you have made. Have you been told that your illness gets worse with age? Instead of being happy about getting older, you loathe upcoming birthdays. Each day is a countdown because you have been given weeks to live. Has your situation lingered for years, with top-ups each year? It is not over. Just one touch of His garment, you shall be delivered.

She made a move

This woman was not supposed to mix with the crowd. She was unclean and should have stayed away from everybody.

And if a woman have an issue of her blood many days out of the time of her separation, or if it run beyond the time of her separation; all the days of the issue of her uncleanness shall be as the days of her separation: she shall be unclean. Leviticus 15:25.

Rachel sat on her father’s idol and pretended the custom of women was upon her, and she was not touched. You can imagine how no one had approached this lady for twelve years.

And she said to her father, Let it not displease my Lord that I cannot rise up before thee; for the custom of women is upon me. And he searched, but found not the images. Genesis 31:35

When this lady heard about Jesus, she came in the press. She will not let the lady-like attitude of standing off come in between. She needed to touch His hem, and it had to happen. She has bled for twelve good years. It was not an easy situation, emotionally, psychologically, physically and socially.

It can be very demoralising. The smell alone and isolation could be humiliating. She defiled all rules and regulations. She was the one suffering, so being politically correct around it will not work this time. It was all about her, and she must do something.

She made a move. If the crowd runs away because of her, that is even better. She will have the attention of Jesus all to herself. The good thing was that they could not touch her, or they would be defiled, so she took advantage. She came in the press; she cannot continue this way. You must press into the promises of God. You must press into His will, holiness, and righteousness. She did it, and you can.

She heard how the blind saw, the lame walked, the dead rose again, five loaves and two fishes feed five thousand. Why will she hear all this and remain faithless? No way! She will touch His hem. She heard of the wisdom He spoke, and all men marvelled. This man who knew all men, challenged the Scribes and Pharisees, and made water become wine? This is serious! She will not throng; she will touch His garment, which will be enough. She was not as influential as Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue. She was not Peter's Mother-in-law, who had relative advantage. She was not known, but that was ok. She does not need to be known. She was only going to touch His hem. She will do it in her own simple way.

She was not ordinary

This lady was different. She wasn't like any other person in the crowd. She was not moved by the opinion of men. We cannot carry on being ordinary, just moving in the direction of the wind. Don't be ordinary. When you are ordinary, you will be by Jesus with no intentions. There was a reason she was in the crowd. She has tried all, and they failed her. She had come to her end and had no other option. You can still play the game of chance when you have not tried all, but you will mean business when you have attempted to all. Miracles have not come to some people because they have not come to their wits' end. They have alternatives, consultation to make, money to travel, comfort, and other things they rely on. We might not be bothered with touching Jesus as long as we trust these alternatives.

You grab a cup if you have water at home and are thirsty. If you have the money, you buy extra bottles. When you travel in the desert and have emptied your can in thirst, you will drink mud if you find one. When you have the experts to solve your problem, family to help you, and colleagues that can be by you, you will not ask for help because you still have some change to spend. Even in prayers, you will be thanking God for all the provisions. When all is gone and you are left with the star to gaze on, you have no choice but to trust Elohim.

Who touched me?

Unbelievable, Lord! How could you ask such a question? Look at the crowd thronging you, and you are asking who touched you? The disciples didn't understand that a strong faith drew virtue out of Jesus. Is your faith that strong? Many thronged Him, but he noticed one. Wow! Have you touched Jesus?

People touched Jesus, but hers was outstanding. This action

should challenge us. This woman is of like passion as we are. We can exercise this strong faith. She is like Ruth, who did not see but believed and wouldn't allow Naomi to talk her out from following her. She said to Naomi, don't tell me to go back. I will not. *Ruth 1:15-18*. Esther said to Mordecai, pray with me. I am going to see the king. If I perish, I perish. *Esther 4:16*. Their faith pulled through. These ladies trusted the Lord, and so will you and I. We will not be fearful. Some people will need Pastor's hands laid on them before they can believe. Telling them to touch the hem will not do for them. They will ask if that is all? Of course, this woman knew the tiniest touch of Jesus' garment was bigger than her problem. She doesn't need twenty-one days of fasting and prayers. Only the touch was enough.

We might not see Him physically today, but through the eyes of faith, we can touch the hem of His garment. Some people want Jesus to touch and hold them, fair enough. That is going too far, all I need is to touch a bit of His garment.

The big question is: "How can my hands reach out and Jesus will know that somebody touched Him"? Food for thought.

She was a woman of great insight and understanding

This woman is a strategic thinker and qualifies to work as an Executive in any industry. She also recognises the power of Elohim, and she said, "If I but touch, that will be enough". She will not press like others, shout for his attention or beg others to tell him of her. She knows in Him is power flowing even to the hem of His cloth. She recognises that. Sorry to those who do not know, as that delays their miracle. She does not need to come to his face and hug him. She will not even get an appointment with this number of people. Please, stop waiting for an appointment; touch Jesus. She decided to do it her way, touching His garment's hem.

There is an overflowing power in Elohim, and she knew it. Can we reach out to touch this moment? Can you say, yes, Lord, I touch the hem of your garment?

By faith, reach out, don't allow anything to alienate you. Maybe you failed and are told you cannot continue your education. It may be a disappointment. Have you been told the disease is incurable, your dreams cannot be achieved, or your job is gone? Recognise the power in Jesus. The Lord honoured her for recognising the power of Elohim. She knew Jesus in the spirit.

The blood stanch

Everything presenting a flow of the fountain of blood in your life will stanch. She acted her faith. Faith draws out virtue, and yours should be put into action, in Jesus Name, Amen. It is not enough to read this. Take a pause and draw out the list of everything that has marginalised you, taken everything you have, issues that have lingered, given you sleepless nights, brought pain and sorrow, kept you in one place with no favour, limited your life expectancy, brought failures to you, name as much as you can remember. Have you suffered many things in the previous years and to the present? This is your time of miracle and testimony. You will touch the hem of His garment. Every life issue that puts you in a cage, sicknesses, emotional traumas, psychological problems, mental illness, drugs, alcohol, prostitution, bad manners, disturbing and troubling you will stanch. They will congeal and rise no more. Today is their expiry date. Decree that they stanch in the name of Jesus, Amen.

All the near-success syndrome you are stanch in the name of Yeshua. All the voices of faithlessness stanch in the name of Yeshua. All impossibilities, sicknesses, discouragement, closed doors, over-powering forces of limitations, stanch in Jesus Name Amen. All principalities and powers, depressing, oppressing and possessing, stanch in the name of Jesus Amen.

She was a woman of truth

She had the right heart and was happy to testify. Don't keep back your testimonies. Some eat and swallow theirs, and some hide theirs in napkins with the excuse of being men of few words. May we be thankful.

When we hide miracles, those who will benefit from them to build their faith will be deprived. Her case was spectacular. If she had not declared herself, millions whose faith had been built up over the centuries would not have happened. Everyone needs to hear and know. People may not know what she has been through, and she needed to let them know what happened. That was how she came to Jesus. She heard of Him.

Why will she hide the tormentor? It has to be publicly shamed. She is healed, free, and can talk like any other in the crowd. Her siege is over. She is redeemed. Her past is no more and cannot trap her future. It is time to sing out loudly.

*It's been difficult my Lord
I smell because of the blood issue
My tears soaked my pillows
Everything I tried failed*

*How can I sit still
I have suffered and lonely
The great Healer is here
I know what to do.*

*I don't need to cry out,
I don't need to fall at his feet
I will make a move
I will be intentional*

*Stream overflowing with grace
If the dead could rise, the blind saw,
The lame walked and lepers healed
Why would the blood not stanch?*

*Touching His hem is enough
And that is what I will do,
The siege is over, Praise the Lord
I am whole, HalleluYah, done deal!*

*Who touched me, who touched me
I did Lord, my reproach is gone
My faith drew out virtue from you
HalleluYah O praise the Lord*

This woman had faith. Strong faith. She was purposeful. She was intentional, and she cannot continue to suffer. No, not anymore.

Be of good comfort

Thy faith had made thee whole. Go in peace. It is a done deal.
Go in peace.

If you can Believe

This miracle is dedicated to two sets of people. First, those who believe all things are possible with God. Secondly, it is dedicated to those who will invest in fasting and prayers. They will show their faith by not settling with middlemen and press on to receive their miracles.

And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not. He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me. And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming. And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child. And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do anything, have compassion on us, and help us. Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief. When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of

him, and enter no more into him. And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead. But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose. And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out? And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting. Mark 9:17-29; Matthew 17:14-21; Luke 9:37-42

He was an only child

Master, I beseech thee, look upon my son: for he is my only child. Luke 9:38

This is a case of an only child who had a dumb spirit. The child's age was not given, but the spirit had tormented him from childhood. It doesn't matter how long you have suffered or how many years of problems and sicknesses have not allowed you to exercise your liberty as a human. Jesus has power over every demon and will cast them out.

You know what an only child is and how they are pampered and looked after because there are not two of them. Everything runs around an only child. If anything goes wrong, the parents are devastated. This man had taken his son to so many places it must have been very traumatic for them. In his case, he was tormented by devils, and what can you do to devils? They are spirits. The surgeons could have helped fix it if it was a broken leg. If it is a stomach problem, medications will help him, and with eye problems, the optician will offer glasses. In this case, it was principalities and powers that were beyond them. What is the only thing you have slipping off your hand, the only hope dashed, the loved one sick in the hospital, unsure if they will return home?

Is it a long-term condition, and you question where your hope will come from?

This man had done what he could do and tried what he could have tried. This is not what doctors can help with. Engineers cannot fix it, nor can it be solved by a philosopher's wisdom. This is the time to latch your faith to Jesus and believe Him.

This is a four-fold wicked spirit. *And wheresoever he taketh him he teareth him, he foameth and gnasheth his teeth and pineth it away.* You can imagine what his condition was. One of these is enough torment, but to have four is too much. Is Satan tormenting you with sleepless nights and terrible dreams, whispering into your ears, scaring you, and haunting your home with witches and wizards? Some people are emotional wrecks with instability. They shake with anxiety at every little thing. Jesus is here to defeat all, for all things are possible with Him. You might have been seeking respite and refuge, but to no avail as the demons come after you. I have seen people tormented by demons, which is horrible. Psychiatry may call it mental illness, but these cases are different. They do strange things, and the demons speak through them. Principalities and power exist, as well as occultic men who wreck people's lives. Wicked people can turn people's lives into hell. If they are managers in the office, their subordinates will be working in a hellish environment. If they are Presidents and Prime Ministers, their nations live in anguish and fear. Whatever discourages and brings you down will be cast out in Jesus' name. Amen.

If thou canst believe

Miracles are real. It is as simple as believing. You don't need to travel to Mars or Jupiter to get it. Many in search of help have been deceived by false prophets with all sorts of points of contact, the red, green, and yellow colours of clothes, 'special' water and

such. People prefer the drama out there, screaming in front of a television for an hour to convince people, pouring water and drinks on people. Miracles are not happening because people do not believe and prefer to live in doubt. The false prophets are being fostered by those who seek a sign. They need you to touch them before they think that they are healed. This results in pushing and hitting them hard to cast out devils. Those things are not necessary. The only key is believing with all your heart.

You lose absolutely nothing believing, not after years of suffering, pains and torments, looking for a solution and finding none. Miracles are for every day if you believe. I have seen prayers answered immediately, the chain of darkness broken, provision made, and lives turned around. God is awesome, and we can sing of His mercies to all generations.

And straightway the father of the child cried out

Can that be my cry? Can that be your cry? Can you shout and say, “Yes! Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief even if my heart does not want to believe”. Can you present the problem, the emotional upheaval, psychological sting and physical pain to the Lord and say, “Yes, I believe!”

When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit. Saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.

That is it! He charged that dumb spirit. There is a charge now against every spirit tormenting you, in Jesus’ name. Amen. All foul spirits, spoiling your life, eating you up like a canker, are destroyed in Jesus’ name. Amen. The spirit of foolishness, oppression, lack, unforgiveness, inferiority complex, forgetfulness, loneliness, and worthlessness are bound and cast out in Jesus’ name. Amen. The spirit of fear, near success, vagueness, anger, family disunity and faithlessness are bound and cast out in Jesus’ name. Amen. The

spirit of immorality, idolatry, pride, murder, selfishness, racism, and worldliness are bound and cast out in Jesus' name. Amen. And the Lord rebuked the evil spirit. Brethren, there's power in that name. The spirits of madness, drugs, disillusion, grandeur, drunkenness, Satan worship, and deceit are bound and cast out in Jesus' name. Amen. The siege is over. Jesus has paid the price. He alone rules in your life. There is dominion in that name. There is authority in that name. Who can stand when the Lord is there? All authority is on His shoulder, and no demon can stand.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this. Isaiah 9:6

But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him! Matthew 8:27

The turbulences seen in your life, the waves raging against you, the billows rising against you, have no choice but to obey the authority and the power in the name of Jesus, Amen. He has power over the sea

And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off: and he shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth. Zechariah 9:10

His dominion is from sea to sea and river to river; no demon will stand.

And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church. Ephesians 1:22

This is the power of Yeshua Hamashiach: dominion over everything so that situation will surely bow. Amen. Christ Jesus has the power.

*Christ Jesus hath the pow'r;
The power to forgive,
The pow'r to quicken whom He will,
And make the sinner live.
Christ Jesus hath the pow'r;
O tell it far and near!
O bring to Him your guilty heart,
And grace shall banish fear!*

Chorus:

*Christ Jesus hath the pow'r;
The pow'r of God He wields!
Christ Jesus hath the pow'r;
My heart surrender yields!
Christ Jesus hath the pow'r;
I trust Him evermore!
Christ Jesus hath the pow'r;
I worship and adore!*

*Christ Jesus hath the pow'r;
The power to renew,
The pow'r to cleanse your heart from sin,
And make you wholly true.
Christ Jesus hath the pow'r
For evermore to keep;*

*O none can pluck you from His hand,
Or rob Him of His sheep!*

*Christ Jesus hath the pow'r,
The power to console,
The pow'r to carry all your care
On Him your burdens roll.
Christ Jesus hath the pow'r,
To wipe the tear away;
O place in Him your confidence!
O trust Him, and obey!*

*Christ Jesus hath the pow'r,
The power to destroy,
The pow'r to bruise your enemy
Who would your soul annoy.
Christ Jesus hath the pow'r,
When on your dying bed,
To give your soul the victory,
The pow'r to raise the dead!*

That power belongs to him, hallelujah. Elohim is mighty to save us. He's mighty to rebuke the enemy. He's there for us over nature. You will enjoy the freedom and eternal life that comes from Him.

Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. Isaiah 63:1

As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. John 17:2

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. Acts 10:38

It doesn't matter what is posing against you. All we need is the name of Yeshua Hamashiach. Every knee bows.

Now listen, Satan is wasting his time with you. God has given Jesus a name above Satan, Lucifer, demons, and rulers of the darkness of this world, and they must surely bow. You better believe it to stop the drama in your life.

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name. That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:9

Powerful. Absolutely powerful, and that is the confidence we have in the name above all names. Power and might are in the hands of Elohim.

Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. 1 chronicles 29:12.

He divideth the sea with his power, and by his understanding he smiteth through the proud. Job 26:12

God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this that power belongeth unto God. In Psalm 62:11

Which by his strength setteth fast the mountains; being girded with power. Psalm 65:6.

The demons fled

The Lord will rebuke that difficult situation and demonic spirit. They have no choice but to go. The spirit left the child. Do not be discouraged. The Lord will raise you.

Why were the disciples unable to cast out the demons

The disciples asked Jesus why they were powerless and could not cast the spirit out. The child was brought to them first. The same question is posed to us today. What makes a Christian powerless?

In addition to faithlessness, sin will render a person powerless when engaged in it. It takes away your boldness and authority. The demons will not recognise you. The seven sons of Sceva were challenged when they tried to cast out demons in the name of Jesus. They failed because Satan did not recognise them. *Acts 19:13-16*

Unbelief and compromise will make a Christian powerless. A life of rising and falling in inconsistency can make a Christian powerless.

And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Matthew 17:20

It takes faith

A lack of faith can take away your power. Although we can see the thunderstorm coming, we keep pressing on because our faith is strong. We are calm and cool in the midst of the fire because we remember the three Hebrew children in *Daniel 3*, knowing the fourth man will appear in the furnace as long as we do not bow to the graven image. The faith required is not the big one but the size

of a mustard seed, which is the tiniest of all the seeds. If you have that ‘tiny’ level of faith, you will say to this mountain, “Move yonder to this place”. It will go.

All mountains that have stood before you, whether demon possession, lack, sickness, loss of joy, trials and temptations, shall move in Jesus’ name. Amen. It takes total trust and hanging on to the blood of Yeshua and His name.

This kind can come forth by nothing but by prayer and fasting

We must engage in the spiritual exercise of fasting. We cannot overemphasise the power of fasting and prayers. Some demons cannot stand it. Those who avoid or deride it will not experience the miracles that come through it. Remember, fasting differs from starving. If you deny yourself food, do not pray and don’t have faith, you are starving yourself. Fasting and praying goes with a burden for it to be effective. There is no need to do it casually. When you meet the lion on the street, you will scream, so if there is a need for fasting, you will naturally lose your appetite for anything.

Some people make a joke about it. They skip watching television, give up ice cream, gym and all sorts of things. This is because devils do not torment their only child. It is about a burden and its significance. Fasting and prayers take you out of your comfort zone to do the battle right. It takes away distraction and positions you to war against Satan, which he hates. No wonder he attacks people with hunger when fasting to see if he can cut it short. He keeps people too busy when fasting to ensure they don’t pray. Shun him by faith.

The Deaf and dumb Healed

They brought to Jesus one possessed with a devil, blind and dumb. Satan must be very wicked to go into a person who had impediments already. What was he trying to achieve? Anyway, that is Satan for you. He doesn't care who you are as long as he can have his way. The good news is that Jesus has zero tolerance for him. Jesus cast him away and healed the man. Glory!

Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David? But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils. And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: and if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand? And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges. But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house. He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad. Matthew 12:22-30; Luke 11:14-16.

This man is not alone. There are people with complications of all sorts. They are diabetic, hypertensive, impending heart failure, kidney failure, lung congestion, all in one person. As you read this miracle, know that Jesus is nearby. You may not have physical ailments, but things like depression, loneliness, family break up, loss of loved ones and uncertain future. Jesus is close by. Tell the ugly situation that Jesus is close by. He is a present help in time of need. *Psalm 46:12; Hebrew 4:16*

Oppositions don't give up easily

While some were amazed, some were filled with bile and spoke evil of the good done to this person. It is not a strange thing even in our days. Everybody will not rejoice at your progress, but in any case, carry on. The most important thing is the good you have received.

If you read this text closely, the attack was on Jesus, not the man. *Isaiah 53:4-9* is playing out here. Christ Jesus has borne our grief and carried our sorrows. He has more than a big shoulder to take all our pains. Calling Him names and accusing Him of casting out devils with Beelzebub is a rat case. That is how much Satan can do.

Jesus put them right

Words of wisdom are usually a blow to the opposition. No army on the war front turns against themselves. Any house that divides against itself shall fall. Satan cannot cast himself out. A divided kingdom is a fallen kingdom.

It takes a stronger man to enter a strong man's house to spoil his goods. Devils know that and give way when Jesus is in the ring. Please be encouraged. Rejoice and be glad; that situation will not stay a day longer when you believe that with God, all things are possible. God created the demons and can do with them whatever

He wills. Do not be afraid nor lose hope. Jesus is alive forever, and His mercies are new every morning. All power belongs to Him, and He is compassionate. Your bit is to look up to Him and confess with your mouth that He is Lord over your life, and it will be a done deal.

At Thy Word

This miracle is dedicated to the crowd who will come to Jesus for the word of life. It is also dedicated to all who will give what they have for the benefit of others.

There is more to this miracle to build our faith than what we commonly hear from the pulpits. We centre on the draught of fishes without looking at Peter's action that brought the miracle. Missing that is like trying to get to a summit without the means to get there. Here was a case of a man who toiled through the dark night in a breezy, cold lake without sleep and caught nothing. Nobody would have expected him to be joyful, but he was a man with a difference.

And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret, and saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets. And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship. Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.

And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of

fishes: and their net brake. And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken: And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him. Luke 5:1-11

The crowd came for the word, not miracles

These crowds pressed to hear the word of God. They were not there for their bellies, skyscrapers, or any carnal thing. They came for the bread of life and not for the meat that perishes.

Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled. John 6:26

They were thirsty for the water of life, unlike people in church today who cannot endure any sermon lasting more than 30 minutes. They will look at their watches and start leaving the church. May we recover the crowd that is happy to sit at Jesus' feet and hear the words of eternal life. Our prayers are to be simple enough to hear him gladly. No complicated life.

David therefore himself calleth him Lord; and whence is he then his son? And the common people heard him gladly. Mark 12:37

Peter's attitude

Peter had a disappointing night. He had toiled all night and caught nothing. There was no money for the day and probably no food. He had to leave, at least to catch some sleep. Here comes this man who had the audacity to climb into his ship before asking for permission to use it, which was against the social norm. It probably would have been okay if he could roll it himself, but he asked Peter to thrust it. The natural thing would be to get angry. Peter could have vented his ordeal at Jesus as he asked at the wrong time. He could have said, 'Excuse me, that is my ship. Why did you go in before asking? Are you okay?' Couldn't Jesus see that the tide turned against him, everything had gone wrong, and he had lost his earnings for the night?

Alternatively, Peter could have seized the opportunity to discuss the price and do some hard bargaining with the Lord. 'So, Lord, what will you pay me?' He could have calculated the cost of his boat, time, net and logistics. What a lucky day it could have been as, at least, he would not have gone home empty-handed, and his family would have something to eat. Transactional Christianity. Many negotiate for the grace of God given to them. They do nothing for nothing. They give God £10 to get £20. Casino Christianity. Peter would have gone for his right, defending himself.

We live in a society where there is no more room for kindness, no room to live the ordinary life. Everywhere is closed. People are so tight because of hunger. Some charge for everything they do for the Lord. Some see churches as cash cows. Some come to church to do business. It should not be so. If Satan can withstand a church's finances to stop spreading the gospel further, he will do it. Forget about the false preachers whose god is their belly and who think godliness is financial gain.

Peter was happy for the Lord to use his ship, with no negotiation, no excuse or display of anger. ‘It was a bad night, but that’s fine, Lord, use my boat. I will even thrust it out for you. I surrender, Lord!’ . Wow! What a man! A man of generosity. We can see why miracles are not happening when we close up to kindness and ask for every right and every reward. May the Lord help us to loosen up from all the tightness around us.

Miracles will follow those who are kind and willing for the Lord to use their boat, resources, intellect, and time and those willing to sacrifice all.

What is our reaction when things don’t go our way, and we feel disappointed? What do we do? You might be like Peter right now. You have tried your best, done everything right, and put in all effort, yet things didn’t work out, and you are devastated. The Lord knows about it. You are about to receive a miracle that will be told as this miracle with Peter.

Patience

Peter was patient enough to wait for the Master to finish. He did not look at his watch or remind Jesus how far time had gone as he should have been sleeping at home. Doing fifteen minutes would have been manageable, but to take a whole lot of time was taking it beyond the limit. Jesus usually kept the crowd for longer. An example was when they were with Him for three days, and he ended up feeding them. Peter was not sure if this time would be the same. Peter did not say, ‘I am afraid, Sir; I have to go now’. For Peter, he had an assignment that had to be done, and he was willing to wait on the Master until He finished and endured hunger and tiredness. He persevered, allowing the eternal word to get through to the hungry crowd.

Peter’s patience was a blessing to the crowd. He facilitated and made the conference happen.

Launch out into the deep

It was time to reward Peter's faithfulness, generosity, and patience. Our God is more than faithful to reward our labour of love. He allowed the crowd to get spiritual food, and it was time to bless him with physical food. We are in for a huge miracle when we yield or surrender our vessels.

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. Galatians 6:9

For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour. Hebrews 6:10.

Lord, use my boat. My feelings and current situation cannot get in the way. There is a miracle to tap into. I cannot be stopped. I will wait for the visitation of the Lord. God is not unrighteous to reward the deeds that you've shown toward his name; you minister to saints, and the Lord will reward you for everything you've done. Be it in giving, follow-up, or a phone call to encourage a brother or sister. You must surely reap in Yeshua's name. Amen.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. I Corinthians 15:58.

Don't allow the things of the world to move you. Don't allow any distraction to move you. Don't allow events coming up to move you. Don't allow physical pain to move you. Don't allow what you think you can or cannot grab to move you. Make sure you're steadfast and consistent with no slackness. You may not see any reward coming and may not even be expecting one, but one thing is sure: you will indeed be blessed.

But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the

children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Luke 6:35

Keep doing good. Don't stop because others are not doing it. There were other boats on the shore, but Peter's was chosen.

Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free. Ephesians 6:8.

There are spiritual laws that follow every good action. People who give and show charity get blessed with no condition attached to it.

We have toiled all night

"We have toiled all night." This is an experienced fisherman talking. 'Look, Lord Jesus, thank you, but you need to understand where I'm coming from. I have toiled all night. I am an expert in this field, Peter would have said in this mind. 'You may not know, this is our family business. Fishing runs in the family.' Peter knows which fish comes out in the day or night. He knows the big ones go back into the deep when the noise of the day gets louder. What is the Lord trying to tell him? This is his area of expertise. Peter knew what he was talking about.

What Peter said could be related to some situations. The experts and scientists may have conducted the best research on a sickness and it is incurable. The Professor has said it is irreversible. The best technology has been used, yet there is no solution. Have you been given six months to live? You can trust God to launch out your faith. We have attended the best business seminars yet cannot break even. We have hired the best teachers yet failed the exams. We prepared as best as possible but did not pass the interview. I am too old to marry; even if I do so, I have passed the childbearing age. We can put all the scary and impossible things we have heard

down at the feet of Jesus. Peter would have had them competing in his head, yet he obeyed. You might even say you have prayed and fasted, and the church has done the same. There is a miracle coming your way. God will come through for you.

Man of obedience.

“Nevertheless, at thy word”. ‘I am going to do it, Lord! I am going to step out in faith! I believe. Yes, my net will be filled with fish. The Lord has spoken, and so shall it be.’

Peter was a man of obedience, earning him a place among the twelve. The ball is now in our courts. Can we believe the Lord? “At thy word, Lord, I will thrust my net out in faith. I am healed, delivered and will live in abundance.”

Peter caught fish, as he had never caught in his life. It was by grace and favour and not by our power, what we knew or the opinion of men.

Team Player

He beckoned on his team members to come and help. Pulling the net out of the water would have been tough if he had been alone. We should not run alone. A lone star ministry can only leave us in the wild without help.

Peter confessed the Lord

“Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” Peter was a sincere man. No wonder his boat was chosen. The Lord will use those who will confess Him, and they will enjoy miracles. The miracle of the fishes revealed to Peter his inadequacies and limitations. He saw that his strength and experience were subject to failure. There was nothing to boast about. Our strength, as we know, will fail us. Jesus never fails.

He left earthly gain for eternal gain

He got the miracle and remained humble; he didn't allow the miracle to get to his head. It was not time to register Peter and Sons Fishing Ltd. He didn't go to get a limousine with an open roof to display his wealth. A lesson for all of us. In your wealth and prosperity, can you remain humble?

Some people pray for cars and wealth, and when they come, they remember their great grand uncles they have not visited, and it is time to go. Before then, they were always present at every church activity, no excuse. Of course, they can't go to parties because they don't have the gown, but once the miracle arrives, Hurray! Time to go to Marrakesh! It means it was a fake commitment. Some people are better off without wealth as it has taken them far from the Lord.

No wonder we ask, and the blessing doesn't come. The Lord knows that the miracle will destroy the person, so it would be better for them to remain with just what is sufficient and make heaven than have wealth and go to hell. Wealth has brought arrogance, pride, and disrespect, sweeping some people off.

Peter forsook all and followed Jesus. He left what he had toiled for all night for the very essence of life.

And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.

Peter was promoted from catching fish to catching men. Miracles will be for those that the things of this world will not move. Peter was looking for a better city whose builder and maker is God. He went for the food that he would eat and hunger no more and water that he would drink and thirst no more. We brought nothing into this world, and we'll take nothing out. The fish will go through the drought afterwards, but the word of God remains forever. Money

cannot satisfy anyone. It cannot buy peace, joy or salvation. Are we willing to let go and follow Yeshua?

Those who, like Peter, are generous, make no complaints, persevere in patience, have faith, walk in obedience and forsake all for the Kingdom's sake will have signs and wonders follow them.

Peter's Mother-Inlaw Healed

This miracle is dedicated to all with a serving heart. Mothers-in-law can also glean from it.

And forthwith, when they were come out of the synagogue, they entered into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. But Simon's wife's mother lay sick of a fever, and anon they tell him of her. And he came and took her by the hand, and lifted her up; and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them. Mark 1:29-31; Matthew 8:14-15; Luke 4:38-39.

They told Him

He entered Simon's house, and they told Him of Simon's Mother-in-law. Do you tell Jesus of all your trials, sickness, lack, persecution, loneliness, and difficulties you are going through? Did you bear them alone? People may not keep your confidentiality if you tell them and may talk about it, but have you told Jesus? Did you tell Jesus you lost someone? Did you tell Jesus your relationship broke down? Did you tell Jesus you lost all your money or facing false accusations? Have you told him about those difficulties, the opportunities you missed?

I have heard people say that God knows their problems, so there's no need to ask. Some take it for granted because they serve in the church, and God should do it, anyway. Give God a call, His web

coverage is over the universe. Tell Him the impossible situation. It takes faith and strong belief in Him to tell Him.

Remember this song by E. A. Hoffman in 1894.

*I must tell Jesus, all of my trials,
I cannot bear these burdens alone,
In my distress, he kindly will help me,
He ever cares and loves, his own,*

*I must tell Jesus,
I must tell Jesus,
I cannot bear these burdens alone,
I must tell Jesus,
I must tell Jesus,
Jesus can help me,
Jesus alone.*

*I must tell Jesus, all of my troubles,
He a kind and compassionate friend,
If I but ask Him, he will deliver,
Make of my troubles, quickly an end,*

*Tempted and tried, I need a great saviour,
One who can help my burdens to bear,
I must tell Jesus, I must tell Jesus,
He all my cares and sorrows will share.*

*O how the world to evil allures me!
O how my heart is tempted to sin!
I must tell Jesus; He will enable,
Over the world the vic'try to win,*

Tell Jesus about the raging tempest before you, the lingering sickness, the red letter of home repossession, the tough subject you are not passing, the misery yelling at you. Also, let these situations know that you will tell Jesus about them. They will have no choice but to flee.

Exceptional Mother-in-law

This is the only place in the scriptures that gives us a sneak peek of Peter's private life. One would have thought he forsook all because he was single. He had a wife and probably children also. That is too much of a price to pay. This is typical of total surrender to Jesus. Many of us are laden with family excuses for not serving the Lord as required. Peter sought first the kingdom; all other things became his inheritance. He had followed Jesus; healing for his family was guaranteed.

This Mother-in-law must have been a gem. Traditionally, we know what Mother-in-laws are like and known for. The mother-in-law syndrome is the same across cultures, tribes, and people. They have nagging, domineering and critical behaviours. This lady would have nagged Peter about why he left her daughter to follow Jesus. In some communities, she would have taken her daughter home with her. She would make life miserable for Peter for neglecting his family. This lovely lady moved house to stay with her daughter and supported her while Peter was away. No wonder she got her miracle.

Jesus lifted her up

Jesus lifted her up. The Lord will lift you up from every oppressive situation. He has the power. He rebuked the spirit and will rebuke every oppressive situation in Jesus' name, Amen. It is that simple.

When Jesus comes into your home, business, affairs, studies, and

ventures, he will lift up every ailing condition. Can you bid him enter? Don't close your door at Jesus. Allow Him in, and every sick situation will be lifted. Lift up your hands and say, Lift me up, Lord. You lifted up Peter's mother-in-law. Lift me up, Lord."

When Jesus comes in, the withering will be lifted. The collapsing business will be lifted. The demons will be rebuked, the depression will go. Open up to Jesus for the light to shine in.

She had a serving heart

She got up and ministered to them, and that speaks a load. Wow, what a generous lady. She took her place. She must have been a gracious woman. A woman with a large heart and a servant to all. With a spirit of gratitude, she ministered to them. In this age and time, she would have taken her time to recuperate, packed her bag for some sunshine by the seashore, and picked up chores when she returned.

She was unlike the people who do not have the heart to serve, who put conditions to their services. They look for a reward before they can serve. They serve out of constraint and out of fear of man, not out of grace.

The Lord is not unrighteous to forget our labour of love. He will reward us. The Lord will take care. The peace and joy you will gain cannot be quantified.

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap Galatians 6:9.

When Dorcas died, the church cried and sent for Peter because of her good deeds;

Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did. And it came to pass in those

days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber. And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them. Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them. But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up. And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive. Acts 9:36-41.

Can anyone tell Jesus about us? This will depend on our relationship and attitude. If our attitude is negative, people will keep their distance from us. They would be happy when we are not at the meeting because we will be a thorn in their flesh. You argue, discourage others, talk a lot, gossip, whisper, backbite, and add no value to the church. If our attitude is positive, they will always want us in the meeting because we will not disrupt but make good contributions. If we delay in coming, they will wait for us. Everyone will feel bad if we go away on transfer or move home.

The gains of being in the right place

If this lady had been in her house, she would not have been healed and probably have died, but she was at Peter's house with her daughter while Peter went with Jesus. She stayed back with no complaining, murmuring, or name-calling. Be at the right place, and miracles will surely happen. Amen.

Don't be in the wrong place. Wrong things happen to people who are in the wrong places. No wonder David said, "*That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life*". May you dwell in His presence. May you be where Jesus will easily find you. In Yeshua's name, Amen.

Give Them To eat

This miracle is a lesson not to walk by sight or despise the small things in our hands. Also, those who will go after Jesus for who He is and not what they can get will be looked after.

When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little. One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many? And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would. When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost. Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten. Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus

did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world. John 6:5-14; Matthew 14:13-21; Luke 9:10-17; Mark 6:32-44

The people ran to Jesus and the team

And the people saw them departing, and many knew him, and ran afoot thither out of all cities, and outwent them, and came together unto him. And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things. Mark 6:33-34

They ran afoot to Jesus to hear Him. He thought them the kingdom, and they took in the word. Like David, *Psalms 23:6*, they want to dwell and hear the word. Their heart panted for the Lord.

As the hart panteth after the water brooks, So panteth my soul after thee, O God. Psalm 42:1.

They sat with Jesus for three good days in a desert, taking in His word and presence. What a crowd! We pray The Lord will restore such a crowd in our days.

In 2001, when we visited Israel, our tour guide said, "I am Jewish and not a Christian. I want to ask: the crowd in Mark 6 was hungry for the words of Jesus in those days. Can you Born Again Christians do the same today? I doubt it." That was an inditement, but he was very true. I reflected on that throughout our visit. The Lord asked me a question that remained with me until today. Can we put in such effort, strength, speed, and zeal in pursuit of Elohim? No wonder the Lord could not let them go hungry. When we seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, all other things shall be added to us.

These people were not bothered that it was a desert place. They stayed. They had children with them but were so engrossed they did not think about food. In these modern times, people leave before dawn to go shopping, make food for their children, and get them ready for bed. For this crowd, their children need the word, too. They need Elohim. Don't leave your children behind. Don't be at church; your children are at home watching television or playing games. You have not done them well. Go along with them. Miracles are for them, too.

And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away. Matthew 14:15

The desert is dry with nothing, hence the name desert. You might think your condition is worse, no one communicates with you, and nobody understands you. Remember, Jesus promised us the Comforter. You are not alone.

You might have a sickness you are ashamed to talk about, but keeping to yourself, you feel the walls around you are caving in because it is a desert place. Jesus is there. Are your paths filled with pythons, hyenas, and the road seem so dark? Remember, Jesus is the light of the world and has conquered Satan on our behalf.

By the grace of Elohim, we have had the privilege to live out challenging experiences, and Jesus came through for us. We can testify to anyone that Jesus is Lord. We have seen Him in the air, on the water, in the valley and on land. God is faithful. A present help in time of need, a Mighty deliverer. He is amazing and absolutely gracious, even in things like the freezer, pushing out food and not running out. I tell my children not to use the phrase, "I can't". *Philippians 4:13* says, *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.* We can do all things through Christ. We

are able to take and possess the land from Jordan to the sea and take the country for Christ.

The five pounds in your hand will never run out. The old clothes you have been using will never get torn. It will last. Will you believe the Lord? Jesus knows what he will do for you. He knows you by name. He knows what you're going through.

He had compassion

This was a crowd of those who hunger and thirst after righteousness. The crowd stayed with Jesus in the desert and were not bothered about food and drink. This reassures everyone who has remained in righteousness that you will never be left alone. The compassion of Elohim will go with you. You will be provided for. You might be in a desert place right now. Everything looks bare, and nothing is fascinating or inviting. Jesus is right there with you. Rejoice. Take no thought about the situation.

Have you been after the Lord with all your heart? Be assured that He has seen your diligence, perseverance, endurance, and what you have suffered for the Gospel's sake. God is not unrighteous as not to reward us for the labour of our love. You will see the salvation of the Lord.

Give them to eat

The Lord said to Philip, give them to eat. Provide for the people and see to their needs. It is not enough to gather people to church and do not care for their welfare. Taking care of brethren is integral to church fellowship. It is not Christly for anyone at church to go hungry. Find out what job they do, help them find a suitable one, support their application, and encourage those who have at church to help those who do not. Let us be the one family of God that shows love to all. Anyone who is faithful, standing in faith, deprived of the things of this earth, looking up to Jesus,

and caring about nothing will surely be provided for in abundance with remains. They will gather twelve baskets in excess.

Walking by sight

He said to Philip, give them to eat. Philip would have wondered if he heard well. “Give what to this multitude? Was the Lord pulling his legs or what? This is five thousand men besides women and children.” Poor Philip, who knows what was going on in his mind. He busts out, “Three hundred pennyworth of food cannot feed these people”. He didn’t give himself time to reflect and remember. Most of us do this because we are used to how things work and can’t imagine upsetting it. Some individuals are also wired with the attitude to kick off immediately anything that doesn’t agree with them without giving it a trial. He has left whatever he was doing to follow the Lord. Where will he get the money? He might have felt embarrassed. Philip did exactly what anyone at church who had not understood the power of Christ would do. Philip saw water become wine and many diverse diseases healed and yet overwhelmed. Philip was tried, but he didn’t pass the test because he was seeing things from the limitations of our eyes. The grace of God now abounds to us. We should not repeat Philip’s mistake. Never assume impossibility at anything, not when Jesus is there. You might have been told that the letter has been signed and cannot be recalled. God is able to overturn any judgment.

In our eyes, this situation might seem huge; the disease runs in the family, and you cannot escape. You failed your exams and cannot attend any university. With Elohim, all things are possible.

He knew what to do

I want to say to someone Jesus knows what to do. Yeshua Ha Mashiach has seen you, the gritting of teeth, wetting of pillows, the crying, the wailing and the suffering.

Jesus knows what to do in your situation. He is not a man and cannot be compared to the Princes and Kings of this world. He has seen your consecration and commitment. He knows you have stood strong in the face of opposition. The Lord will use the little things around you to do great miracles.

*Does Jesus care when my heart is pained
Too deeply for mirth or song;
As the burdens press, and the cares distress,
And the way grows weary and long?*

Refrain:

*O yes, He cares- I know He cares!
His heart is touched with my grief;
When the days are weary, the long nights dreary,
I know my Savior cares.*

*Does Jesus care when my way is dark
With a nameless dread and fear?
As the daylight fades into deep night shades,
Does He care enough to be near?*

*Does Jesus care when I've tried and failed
To resist some temptation strong;
When for my deep grief I find no relief,
Though my tears flow all the night long?*

*Does Jesus care when I've said goodbye
To the dearest on earth to me,
And my sad heart aches till it nearly breaks —
Is it aught to Him? does He see?*

Does Jesus care about our troubles, wounds, tears, and the strong things beyond us? He will deliver as He did to the Hebrew children. *Daniel 3:17*: our God whom we serve is able to deliver us.

There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes

A young person in the crowd brought his lunch with him: five loaves and two fish. Andrew told Jesus of it. We do not know if this lad offered his lunch or was asked. What stood out here was his willingness to hand in his food. That was a fantastic character. Many young people will not do so, but he did. He facilitated the miracle. Through his benevolence, the crowd was fed. This young man secured himself a place in the Book of Life. He didn't keep back what he had. He deployed it to the use of the kingdom. This is a lesson to those who keep back what they have and do not share. Don't let the church or anyone around you go hungry because of stinginess. Don't look away from the needs of others. You might have enough for yourself and your family, but what of others. May the Lord help us distribute to the necessities of others.

But what are they among so many?

Our God is an expert in using small things to confound the wise. He can do all things. He knows to turn the rod in Moses' hand to snake to swallow the snakes of Pharaoh's Magicians and divide the Red Sea. *Exodus 7:11-12*. Don't despise the little things. Your five loaves and two fish will feed five thousand men besides women and children beyond your imagination. You will gather plenty. Out of the carcass will come forth scoops of honey.

Samson destroyed the host of Philistines with a jawbone. *Judges 15*. So that little thing is what the Lord will bring about your miracle.

The widow's handful of meal in a barrel and a little oil in a cruse fed her, her child, and Elijah throughout the famine. *1 King 17*. The little you have will last the time.

Like a man's hand, the little cloud out of the sea brought abundant rain. *1 King 18:44*. So shall you be filled from the leftover drops in your cup.

Do not despise the day of small beginnings. Zechariah 4:10

Don't despise the five loaves and two fish. The mustard seed is the tiniest of seeds but grows into a giant oak tree when planted. Hold on to the small thing you have that looks like nothing compared to others. If you have thrown it in a bin, return to pick it up; your miracle lies with it.

No waste

They were told to gather every remaining fragment. This is being accountable. Many of us do not think it necessary to account for things, especially the grace of God in us. We do not evaluate what we do and hence do not recognise when things have gone out of the loop.

This miracle is to show us God's goodness in abundance. The remaining baskets were to encourage and reassure us that God is able to provide more than we need. Also, tell us that what we have, though it might look small when put to use, is more than we need. Don't despise the little things in your hand. They are your miracle. We don't need more than we have. Please, don't go by sight as Philip but understand as Andrew. Jesus knows what He will do for you. Those who follow and stay with him shall be looked after.

Four Thousand Fed

This miracle is to encourage us not to forget too soon. Feeding the four thousand is similar to feeding the five thousand. There would not have been any reason to repeat it to give room for the record of other miracles. Reading through, we discovered profound lessons to learn from this miracle.

Insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel. Then Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way. And his disciples say unto him, Whence should we have so much bread in the wilderness, as to fill so great a multitude? And Jesus saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? And they said, Seven, and a few little fishes. And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake them, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets full. And they that did eat were four thousand men, beside women and children. And he sent away the multitude, and took ship, and came into the coasts of Magdala. Matthew 15:31-39; Mark 8:1-9

The compassion of our Lord Jesus

Jesus had compassion on the multitude because they had been with them for three days. This revelation debunks all suggestions of Satan that God is far from us and cannot help us. We serve a Father Who has our interests at heart. His compassion and love fail not. He is faithful and just.

For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. Hebrews 10:6

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Jeremiah 29:11

He sees every affliction. He saw the distress of the Israelites for 430 years. He told Moses that the cry of His children had come to Him. He rewarded them in one night at the Passover. *Exodus 11:2-3*. He is the best banker. He saved up their wages for when it would be most needed. They asked and took from the Egyptians all their prized possessions. Be encouraged, Jesus has heard your cry and all you do in His name. He will not leave or forsake you. Don't allow Satan to tell you hunger will kill you because you refuse to compromise your faith, cheat in your business or do fast things others do to get by. God will honour those who commit themselves to Him.

They had continued with The Lord and had nothing to eat

This statement could connote so many things we can relate to:

- They left a good job to go on missions.
- They left extra pay to dedicate that time to the Lord.
- They spent time working with me and earned no salary,
- They gave me their savings and had nothing left.

- They gave me their time and had none to rest.
- They served me with their strength and are now tired.
- They gave me their talents and had made no gain from it.
- They left the comfort of their home and now wonder why they are being killed.
- They left the world for me and have no friends to chat with.
- They preach my words with passion and are not popular with the community,
- They chose to be with me rather than enjoy the pleasures of Egypt for a while.
- They have kept the faith.

Surely, Jesus has rest and everlasting joy for them. He will comfort and shield them, for they are His. He will hide them in His name, fight their battles, and before they call, He will answer. They will run into Him and will be saved. He will heal their diseases. He will make a way for them and will surround them with His glory. Goodness and mercy shall follow them. In blessing, He will bless them, and they shall never see the second death. They will be with Him in glory. You will be taken care of and will not be less than your peers.

He knows how far you have come in life

And if I send them away fasting to their own houses, they will faint by the way: for divers of them came from far.

God's steadfast love does not cease. Jesus knows how far the journey has been and how far you have come. He knows whether you came 6,000 miles in life, 2,000 in life, or twenty miles. He knew us before we were born. He knows you have endured the lingering sickness and delayed promises for several years. Your life has been very eventful with all manner of issues.

Our limited thoughts tell us Jesus is unaware of what we are

going through, especially as we don't see Him physically. We live in a world of self-help, and every resource for it is at our disposal, so the tendency to allow our environment to affect us is there. Knowing this, we can ask the Lord to increase our faith. Now we know he will not let us back without provision, healing, deliverance, grace, favour, goodness and guidance. It might look like nothing is happening, but Jesus will not let you go without a blessing. He knows where you are coming from and will not let those troubles consume you. They will end in Jesus' name, Amen.

They forgot too soon

And his disciples say unto him, Whence should we have so much bread in the wilderness, as to fill so great a multitude?

This is unbelievable! Can you imagine? The day before, they fed 5,000 men besides children and women with five loaves and two fish. How could they have asked such a question? Don't throw eggs at them yet. Look inward first. Will you do the same? This is typical and common. We forget too soon when we get overwhelmed, and the hardness of the heart, blurred vision and lack of comprehension kick in.

Don't allow your problem to becloud you. Don't allow the surrounding things to take away your sense of reasoning or put the blindness on you. No, don't give in. Remember what God has done for you in the past.

Good things have happened to us and keep happening. We should not allow a little pain, discomfort or problem to wipe off the goodness of God in our lives. Pressure is pressure and can press hard on anyone. The disciples forgot. It can happen to anyone. The expectation would have been that they would jump to look for who had anything in the crowd for another miracle to happen since a like of it happened the previous day. It is natural for man

to look at things that have not worked and complain. We are never satisfied; we want some more at all times.

Satan wants us to be in doubt, but we can pause to think about the good things God has done for us. Life, healing, deliverance from accidents, theft, fire, falls, journey mercies, provision, the four seasons: summer, spring, autumn/fall and winter, , harvest, rainy and dry times. We have been through things that killed others, but we were spared. We can see, while many are blind. Many have died of cancer, and we are healthy. Many lost parents early in their lives, and our great-grands are still alive. Let's not forget God's goodness. He has delivered us even from the hands of wicked people. He has delivered us from near air crashes and shipwrecks. Let us raise our hands in worship and glorify Him, saying Thank you, Lord!

Many miracles linger because people do not count their blessings. We would have been gone if it had not been for the Lord. We can ask the Lord to forgive us anyway if we have not counted our blessings or forgotten too soon and complained. Don't give up. Build up your faith through this miracle. The popular question people ask is why God allowed bad things to happen to them. They forgot that they are still alive, which is a miracle. Many atheists and agnostics were once Christians but left the faith because they didn't count their blessings. They were weighed down because they could not see clearly what was in front of them.

*When upon life's billows, you are tempest-tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.*

Refrain:

*Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;*

*Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.*

*Are you ever burdened with a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings, ev'ry doubt will fly,
And you will be singing as the days go by.*

*When you look at others with their lands and gold,
Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold;
Count your many blessings, money cannot buy
Your reward in heaven, nor your home on high.*

*So, amid the conflict, whether great or small,
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.*

The disciples had five loaves and two fish for 5,000; here, they had seven loaves and some fish for 4,000. This is what faithlessness, worry and anxiety can do to anyone. The sense of reasoning will jump out of the window. This scenario is too low a hurdle not to have jumped over, but they still failed. We have to banish doubt, double-mindedness and unbelief to receive our miracles.

Please do not forget that Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever. Hebrews 13:8 He cannot change and does not fail, He's right there by your side. Remember His goodness, loving-kindness and His keeping. Remember all those strange situations that came to destroy you in one go and the winds that came to blow you off, and the Lord kept you. So don't despair. Don't talk too quick. Just say, "Lord, you did it for me before; you would do it again".

The feeding of the Four Thousand is to let us know Jesus can never change, and He is a present help in time of need.

We are reminded that He still looks after us. We may not believe in Him, but His rain still drops on the righteous and the unrighteous. He loves us as a father loves the children.

He has been fighting battles on our behalf. Satan will wipe us out if given a chance, but God has prevented him. May we remember what He has done for us and have faith that he will do it again. Believe the Lord, for now, He will open all closed doors and roll away every stone that has kept you in the dark.

The crowd was obedient

The crowd were obedient to the instructions and sat quietly. The word had gone into them and removed every resisting spirit. This is the benefit of being in the presence of Elohim for us. The miracle of obedience happens: self and ego disappear, and we are renewed in the inward part.

If The Lord asks us to sit, will we sit without agitating? Will we prefer to run around for self-help? They sat down to watch seven loaves and some fish being divided to give them. That must be a joke. "They are adults, man!" as the children will say in slang. It is okay to sit for piping tureens of pounded yam. At least that will befit a 3-day wait on the Lord. To be asked to sit for seven loaves does not make sense when the hairs have been twisted by hunger.

Be calm. God told Jehoshaphat not to worry. The battle is not his but the Lord's. The people sang praises while God did the fighting for them. Hallelujah. He created the Red Sea and will divide it for you. You will pass on dry land, while the enemy will get swallowed up.

Jesus is the powerful one, the miracle worker. The men ate and remained seven baskets. Amazing. Your vessels will be filled to

overflow. He is the King of kings and has the power to do wonders. No case is too difficult.

Can you tell the Lord you are sitting patiently for Him? Although what you are seeing doesn't seem to solve the problem, you know you are already sorted out, you are healed, your blessing and miracle are just at the door, and the delivery Angels cannot be delayed by traffic or any flight cancellation. It is impossible to please Him if you don't have faith. You are not one of those who draw back or lose faith. You will gather seven baskets full of goodness out of every hunger, delay, trouble, sickness, lack, or whatever. You will eat in plenty, jobs will run after you, marriage will come, children will come, life will come, war will cease, peace will come, and promotion will come. Your children will not die of hunger, and you will not die in prison.

I am excited in my spirit. The Lord knows how far we have come and will not let us go empty-handed, not on an empty stomach. We will gather seven baskets in excess.

For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. Habakkuk 2:3.

Today settles everything. Every faithfulness shall be rewarded. You have been waiting for the will of God in marriage, and it seems days are going too fast. Grey hairs cannot be hidden. You are staged for a Ruth and Boaz case *Ruth 4*. Remember the great things the Lord has done so you can believe Him for the next. It is our turn now.

The Man Sick of Palsy

This miracle is dedicated to all with a compassionate heart who will go out of their way to ensure people get helped. Blessed are those who have such people around them. They may be family members, neighbours, colleagues or even strangers.

And he entered into a ship, and passed over, and came into his own city. And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer thy sins be forgiven thee. And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth. And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house. And he arose, and departed to his house. But when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men. Matthew 9:1-8.

Be of good cheer. A day will come when all the problems, sicknesses, and sorrows will end. One day, the Lord will put all things to an end.

Standing in the gap

People brought the paralysed man to Jesus. They were helpers. They did it then because Jesus was physically present with them. We don't see Him today, but He is spiritually present with us. Intercessors take people to the throne of mercy, presenting their sins and sicknesses to the Lord for healing. We still need those who will stand in the gap of prayers for others, our nations, our kings, and those in authority. The work of intercessors facilitates miracles. We are part of anyone's miracle if we point them in the right direction.

He saw their faith

The helpers uncovered the roof where Jesus was, broke it and let the sick man down. That was incredible! It is not enough to pray and not believe in your prayers. Yeshua saw their faith. When you declare your faith over a nation, believe it. The media may be saying the contrary, but continue in faith. The people believed that he would be healed. Believe in God for your children, church, community and everything you have asked for.

Some sicknesses and conditions of life may seem irresolvable to the ordinary man. Still, if we believe, it shall be resolved for us. Believe that Jesus answers prayers, and it shall be so. If you are unsure that your prayers will be answered, there is no need to pray. Don't doubt; be strong in your heart.

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. Mark 11:24

When you ask, believe it will be yours. We lose nothing by believing. Believe it shall be well. Believe you will be healed. Believe your business will thrive. Believe you shall live and

declare the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Believe the oppressive situation will be gone.

Addressing the root cause

They brought him to be healed, but Jesus saw beyond the physical illness. He addressed the main cause of the illness. When we go to the doctor for a headache, they don't just give us a painkiller tablet. They will want to know the root cause of the headache and treat it so we don't come back with it again. We should follow our Lord Jesus's example and discern the root causes before praying for people. It might be they are hungry, and we have the food. There is no need to pray, just give them the food. Many who come for miracles just want to be healed without mentioning sin. Their intent is to get the miracle and go. People will be impatient if the preacher talks about sin when they come for miracles.

Preachers are often busy with miracles and forget the souls of men. They're busy with white handkerchiefs, red handkerchiefs and all the Bible's promises and forget that people are on their way to hell. Yeshua knows that sin is the killer disease rather than palsy. Sin will take you to hell, but with palsy, one will be renewed on the day of rapture when we shall shed this mortal body to put on immortality.

And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the

kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. Mark 9:43-48.

While the people came for the man's physical healing, Jesus dealt with what mattered most. It is better to go to heaven with one eye than hell with two eyes, where worms do not die, and the fire is not quenched. It is better this man goes into heaven as a paralytic man than to hell as a healthy man. Eternal life is a greater health.

There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. Luke 16:19-25

This rich man had everything he could afford but went to hell. Lazarus had sores all over, and dogs were licking him, but he went to heaven. What matters is making it to heaven.

The emphasis here was on forgiveness of sin. Some miracles took place when their root causes were addressed. Salvation is the greatest miracle anyone can receive. We are here on earth for a short while, but in eternity forever and ever. Sin comes with

torment, distortion of being, a dead conscience, and all evil work. Taking away sin is total healing. When salvation comes, all other things follow.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Matthew 6:33.

We are all after physical sickness and not spiritual sickness. Let's preach salvation and stop giving promises to people heading to hell. Let's point them in the direction of liberty. Jesus knew the need of the man was the salvation of his soul. Those who brought him only knew about the physical, but the all-knowing Almighty knew what the man needed. May we ask for wisdom and discernment to do things 'The Jesus Way'. Sin cripples, kills, and chains men in bondage and can cause many kinds of sicknesses.

The root cause must be dealt with, as this was the case for this man. Jesus was addressing the root cause. There is no need to pray for someone on drugs to receive healing when you can preach the word to them to get saved. The word is quick and sharper than a two-edged sword. It breaks the hardest heart asunder. A man on drugs needs his sinful nature to be addressed. A prostitute, murderer, or thief needs their sin to be forgiven as the greatest miracle.

The Scribes were offended

The Scribes were those who thought they knew their rights and could argue. They were forward in finding faults, analysing every message of Jesus, accusing Him as much as they could, and lying in wait to oppose Him. The mention of sin hurt them because they live in one they do not want to give up. They are hypocrites in every sect, so their consciences are pricked when sin is mentioned, and they take offence.

In our time, they complain that preaching is hard to accept, is aggressive, and cannot draw in people. They prefer motivational preaching and itchy-ear messages that don't talk about sin and hellfire. Such hinder miracles. When they fill up a church, miracles will not happen because it will be a congregation of complainers, murmurers, backbiters, evil speakers and faultfinders. Do you belong to a church filled with Scribes? Miracles won't happen in such a place because their words eat like cankers. Move away to get your miracle. The Scribes are found in older religious places, where saving souls are no longer the focus, and people are satisfied with their high seats, debate, church politics, position-seeking and titles in church. Self-righteousness creeps in, and they become dormant and the chief judge of the word. From such, go away.

Good news

Jesus has the power to forgive sin. You shall be saved if you confess the Lord Yeshua with your mouth today. He is compassionate and forgiving. Look around, you may see what brought about the sickness. Others may not know, but you know it is a sin, whether you are indulged in habits or cravings, you do not want to give up.

Ask the Lord to forgive any open or secret sin, and you shall be healed. The power of salvation is lasting. He forgave the man and said to him, "Arise, take up thy bed, and go home". The Lord will have mercy.

The Impotent Man Healed

This miracle is for those who will not continue in the old way of doing things in the new dispensation. The days of the Angel moving the waters are gone. Jesus is here. We just need to touch the hem of His garment, give him a shout or ask Him.

After this, there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole? The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me.

Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the Sabbath. The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed. He answered them, He that made me

whole, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed, and walk. Then asked they him, What man is that which said unto thee, Take up thy bed, and walk? And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place. Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee. The man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus, which had made him whole. And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day. John 5:1-16

Jesus Saw him

The Lord saw this man at the pool of Bethesda. A great multitude of impotent folk, of the blind, halted and withered, lay by the corner waiting for the move of the water. The first to go in gets healed. This man had been by this pool for thirty-eight years. It's a sad story. There was no one to help him. Others have got relatives, friends, well-wishers, neighbours, colleagues, and classmates. He had none.

You or someone you know might have been in a long-term condition for many years. You crawl to your kitchen and around the house with no help. Some die and are not discovered until they smell; neighbours will call the police. You have no help, hence the lingering condition. No Health Insurance, no relatives or neighbours. Life has been unimaginable. Jesus, the great helper, has seen you. You are not hidden from him. He knows your suffering, the desertion, loneliness, the all-night weeping and sighing.

Unnecessary answer to a simple question

The man was asked if he would be made whole. He went on to tell stories. Unlike the two blind men who said yes, Lord, and that was it, they got their sight. He was waiting for an Angel to turn the water at the time of Jesus. The fame of Jesus has been noised abroad this time, yet these folks didn't hear. They still reside at the bank of the pool.

These people decided to remain on the porch of Bethesda's pool. They remained in the old while great things were happening. Salvation is happening; people look up to the Lord and grow in faith, but they are kept back. As with this man, so many things can keep us in the old, such as ignorance, beliefs and sickness.

Some pride themselves on their religion, culture, and race. They are happy to remain in what has not profited them for life. That was this man's case; Christ was everywhere, going about doing good, but these people decided to remain where they were because they believed in the old miracle, waiting for an Angel to come when that era had finished.

Check what has hindered your miracle. Some will not go to a place of worship because of the race of the Pastor. They want to identify with the people of their race. They will miss out on the grace given to that Pastor. To some, it is a belief in old magic, witchcraft and diabolism. Jesus is passing this way. You can be made whole.

The Lord asks us the same question: Will thou be made whole? Some will go on rhetoric rambling of insidious alcoholism, drug abuse, and struggling with academics and will not simply say, Yes, Lord! No more excuses. No more stories. Believe the Lord. It's time for action.

Jesus is right at your door to heal you. Will you accept Him right away or tell the stories of this man? Open the door of your heart.

Salvation is here, redemption is here. The old depravity is over. Enough is enough. Jesus will make you whole. Amen.

Rise, take thy bed and walk

Rise and take your bed and go! That was a command. All powers belong to Jesus. Sickness and disease must obey Him. Nothing created can withstand His power of Elohim. He is The Almighty. The man rose, took his bed, and left. Can you rise in faith and take your bed? Rise, child of God, rise. You have suffered too long, Arise! Satan has laughed for too long, rise. The pain of failure has bent you over, rise. Take your bed; it is done!

The contentions of the religious

This miracle happened on a sabbath day. It is a day of rest when men should rest both physically and also from the torment of Satan. This man got his rest, but the religious who do not understand spiritual things held on the carnal. The creator of the Sabbath is right there with them doing what should be done on a Sabbath day, but religion held some bound. Many people have their cultural beliefs and doctrines of men above the word of God. Nothing is written that good should not be done on the Sabbath day. These religious men turned the Bible upside down to have their way. People misquote the Bible when they are trying to be contentious. Don't twist the scriptures. It will keep people chained.

He knew not Jesus

He doesn't know who Jesus was. He was beside the pool, hoping for the old miracle. That beclouded and shut his ears at the fame of Jesus. When you settle into tradition and bondage, you won't know about liberation and be saved.

Are you kept back by religion, unbelief, settled where help cannot come from? Rise and take up your bed. You can't continue

in blindness. No way will you remain in pointless contacts that do nothing for anyone. All your hope is in red and white and all colours of handkerchiefs, holy water, candles, and salts without knowing Jesus. Don't belong to places where shows of affluence and beauty steal the knowledge of Christ from people. They preach sermons that lack the power to convict men of sin, yet attendees do not know Christ.

If you go to places where the preacher has not encountered Yeshua, you will not know Jesus. No wonder things are not happening. No wonder miracles are not happening, which can sometimes be down to ignorance. This man doesn't know and has not heard because he has remained in the old.

At the time, Jesus was a household name, and a man was ignorant of Him. We can throw barbs at him, but hold on a second. If you are in church, compromising, living in secret sin, drinking, hating and laden with an unforgiving spirit, you will not know Christ. If you are fervent at church, but your colleagues at work hardly believe you are Christian, then you do not know Christ. Those who are ashamed to preach the gospel do not know Christ. The rocks and mountains will not deny him if we deny him. The ocean will not deny him. The winds will not deny him. The trees will not deny him. The galaxies out there will not deny him. The whole earth declared the glory of the living Elohim. And this man said, 'I do not know him.' that's why miracles are not happening.

Go and sin no more

Jesus knew the heart and secret of every man. We do have compassion for people for their suffering, not knowing if the suffering is a consequence of their wrongdoing. Cleansing this man's sin might be the paramount need rather than just asking him to take his bed and go. May the Lord give us the insight to know the needs of the people, though they might present us with another

issue. Holistic well-being is far better than physical healing. Our bodies will rot away one day, but our spirits will live forever.

Go and sin no more. The churchgoer may look okay to the eyes, but his inner man is sinful as with the Pharisees. The greatest miracle such needs is salvation.

Let the wicked forsake his ways and the righteous man his thoughts. And let us come to our Father for he would abundantly pardon. Isaiah 55:7.

If we confess our sins, he's faithful and just to forgive us of all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9.

He went back to tell

He didn't learn his lesson. He didn't tell the crowd that will benefit but the crowd that will prosecute. He was impotent for thirty-eight years and paid back by laying a trap. Now we can see why Jesus told him to go and sin no more. He doesn't have the right heart. This is why miracles tarry with some people, and we wonder why.

Let us learn the lesson from this miracle and ensure we do not stall the flow of miracles in our lives. The man looked at his limitations and the help he didn't have while Jesus was right before him.

Healing of The man with Dropsy

This miracle is dedicated to those who will not settle for bad situations because of opposition. Miracles will not stop with you. Jesus will do for you what He did for others.

And it came to pass, as he went into the house of one of the chief Pharisees to eat bread on the sabbath day, that they watched him. And, behold, there was a certain man before him which had the dropsy. And Jesus answering spake unto the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath day? And they held their peace. And he took him, and healed him, and let him go; And answered them, saying, Which of you shall have an ass or an ox fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the sabbath day? And they could not answer him again to these things. Luke 14:1-6

This miracle is the fifth where the opposition stood to see what Jesus would do. Satan will stop at nothing. The good news is Jesus has defeated Him. Don't think that when one trouble goes, Satan will leave you alone. He persists, and we should be vigilant, not resting on our oars. Satan walks about like a roaring lion. As long as he is not giving up, the Lord is not giving up on you. The Lord will keep winning over him. God's mercies have been stretched out for the rest of our lives. Amen.

Satan lays traps at every opportunity. He watches to see if any good will happen to anyone and has no respect for anyone. He

doesn't care; as long as you are created in the image of God, you are a victim. He is our common enemy. Here was a man with dropsy, dragging his legs as he walked and unable to do what others could. He should be pitied, but that is none of Satan's business. He watched to see if this man would be healed. He is wicked.

There are people whose stories you hear look like their cases are the worst on earth. They are sick with multiple conditions: hypertension, diabetes, kidney failure and all sorts of complications. Some are single parents with delinquent children living in poverty and crime. Some have lost everything they have and are fed up with life. It could be a mental illness with a disability, death in the family, and a host of misfortune. If Satan gets a captive, he chains the person and throws away the key. He pulls down anyone he can.

Satan and his demons may have been watching you for years to ensure no good comes to you, to ensure you don't receive your deliverance. Again, the Lord has an answer for Satan in Yeshua's Name. Amen.

The wisdom of Christ is more than Satan's

Jesus knows more than the Pharisees. He knew their hearts and took them on their devices. He asked them if it was lawful to heal on the sabbath day. They could say nothing. The poor man was there and probably didn't know the Pharisees would oppose. People get shocked that their friends fight the good coming to them. Don't worry; the opposition is coming to a halt. Jesus is watching, and every hindrance shall be quietened. Every spirit stopping you from moving forward will hold its peace in Jesus' name. Amen.

Don't give up when Satan troubles you. The Lord didn't give up. If the Lord didn't give up but healed the man, we should not

give up on doing good works. There may be banana peels, nails, and broken bottles on our way, don't give up. The journey may be tricky. You may have prayed but have not received a miracle, don't give up.

Jesus shut their mouth with well-doing. Jesus delights in well-doing, and our miracles are included.

For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men. 1 Peter 2:15 .

But the king shall rejoice in God; every one that sweareth by him shall glory: but the mouth of them that speak lies shall be stopped. Psalm 63:11

Lies shall be stopped through your faith, belief, and the miracle coming.

Jesus answered and said unto them, I have done one work, and ye all marvel. Moses therefore gave unto you circumcision; (not because it is of Moses, but of the fathers;) and ye on the sabbath day circumcise a man. If a man on the sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken; are ye angry at me, because I have made a man every whit whole on the sabbath day? Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment. John 7:21-24

Now, the people waiting to catch him out practised circumcision on the Sabbath day. Circumcision is a more rigorous process than healing a man. This shows the hypocrisy of Satan. Certain things are allowed, and certain things are not allowed. I have seen such hypocrisy in various facets of life. One rule is made for Mr A and another for Mr B; everything is lies and deception.

The opposition against you will not have its way. Satan can double or triple it; Jesus has made a provision for you. As Satan tries, the Lord will keep defeating him.

We should come boldly to the Throne of Grace and Mercy to receive our blessings. Come in boldness, knowing that no demon can stand against God. Look up in the faith. Resist every whispering of Satan. He might whisper fear and impossibilities; shun him.

The Lord healed the man. The Lord stood for this man and will stand for you, be assured of that. It doesn't matter what you went through, do as Jesus commanded and stand before Him. You will be healed.

The Unconventional Miracle

This miracle is for those who will lay down all we know and allow God to do the unpopular in our lives. Miracles can be missed if we keep expecting them to happen in a certain way. One of the secrets to receiving miracles is to be open. Don't clutch at anything you have known or seen in the past. There is no one-size-fits-all in miracles. God's ways are beyond us. God can do anything.

And again, departing from the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, he came unto the sea of Galilee, through the midst of the coasts of Decapolis. And they bring unto him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech; and they beseech him to put his hand upon him. And he took him aside from the multitude, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spit, and touched his tongue; And looking up to heaven, he sighed, and saith unto him, Ephphatha, that is, Be opened. And straightway his ears were opened, and the string of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain. And he charged them that they should tell no man: but the more he charged them, so much the more a great deal they published it; And were beyond measure astonished, saying, He hath done all things well: he maketh both the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak. Mark 7:31-37.

People brought this man to the Lord, and he got his miracle. They did it with compassion. They pleaded with The Lord to heal him.

Many still await those who will take them to Jesus for salvation and deliverance. May we be one of such people, seeing the day of The Lord is coming so close. Bringing men to Jesus is the greatest miracle.

Jesus took him aside from the multitude

In the previous cases, Jesus would cast out the devils, speak to or touch them, but this time, He took the man away from the people. One may ask why, and the answer is He knew all men and every crowd. *John 2:24*, although they brought the man to be healed. He also knew the impediment and what to be done to cure it. He wants to do something the crowd will agitate or make a fuss with. He needed a shift from where he was.

The man followed Jesus. He didn't ask where Jesus was taking him, as we may ask today. Many people have not allowed the Lord to move or redirect them forward. They are so used to the conventional. The crowd that followed Jesus was mixed. Some came to oppose him, others to doubt, and there were the sincere ones also. The man was tongue-tied, and Jesus will loosen it His own way.

Jesus knew how to heal him and knew how to heal us. The Lord knows our problems and where to touch us, but he will need to remove us from the crowd to do it. The masses can confuse and probably shake his faith. They can take you out of Elohim's will. The Lord knows when the crowd can be a hindrance to our miracles. May the Lord open our eyes and let us allow him to have his way.

The surrounding crowd can be work, busyness, friends, relatives, or our culture. Multitudes around us can speak discouraging words to our hearing. There are so many theories, both right and wrong. These days, the truth is blackmailed as a conspiracy, and people are dying in fear. The media are not helping matters; many have

gone mental because of breaking news.

The influence of the surrounding multitude can be enormous. Sarah laughed when she was told she would bear Isaac. This is because of what the crowd will say. She was past the conventional age of bearing children and will be laughed at. She laughed at the miracle she had waited for twenty-five years because of the opinion of the crowd and was happy to lose it.

Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my Lord being old also? And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old? Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son. Genesis 18:12-14.

Moses saw the burning bush alone in the wilderness. If he had been with people, they would have screamed in fear and ran to get water. Moses was alone and approached the mystery to see the incredible sight, and God spoke to him.

And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. Exodus 3:2-4.

Mary was told The Holy Spirit would come upon her, and she would bear a child. She wondered how because there is a conventional way to have a child. With God, all things are possible.

Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? Luke 1:34.

It is unconventional for the Sun to stay still, but it happened when Joshua asked. He needed to win the fight, and he called for extra time. We, too, can look away from the popular and call forth things that are not as they were.

Then spake Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; And thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon. Joshua 10:12.

Jesus took him aside, put his hand in his ears, spit and touched his tongue. It loosened up. That is the most unhygienic thing to do. What! Who would have allowed that in this age of social distancing and masks not to talk of His spit? Yucky! In the old world, before COVID-19, if you sneeze, people around would say, “Bless you”, but now, you will get a dirty look and temporary isolation if you do it in public. The crowd would not have taken that. How dare He do that? He needs to go to a School of Hygiene to be trained. They will remember He was a carpenter’s son and would not known otherwise. The crowd would have mocked or even stoned him. They would not have allowed the man to exercise faith. The screaming alone would have put everything off. This was why the Lord took him aside. Would you let the Lord to take you aside? He knows how to do it.

The only thing that could melt away that string was the spit from Elohim, the Creator of heaven and earth. It may look yucky, but remember, He created our being and knows what he made us out of. He knows what will destroy cancer, cure heart disease, remove the water in the legs and make the best mixture for every ailment. Believe The Lord. Please don’t allow our usual ways to put God out of the way.

The multitude may be within us. The mirage of thoughts flying through our minds can also represent multitudes that will not allow

our miracles: doubts, faithlessness, and harsh experiences. Also, when we thrive amid people who doubt everything and hinge on man's knowledge, their perception will take us out of the way.

The Lord may impress you to drink water, and the illness will disappear. Don't refute it by saying you have been drinking water all your life. Why will this be different? It may just be to rest, and you will be okay. Please obey. Peter obeyed when he was asked to launch out into the deep. He did, though he had tried all night and caught nothing. He put his knowledge aside and did as was commanded.

Jesus sighs at every trouble we go through

The Lord is touched by every pain we experience, and it is His pleasure to see us through them. Satan has dealt with human beings, and our disobedience has also caused us trouble. We have given Demons licence to torment us. When drugs and alcohol make us feel good, our brains will be messed up, and our liver will calcify. As little as laziness and stubbornness can stop anyone from actualising himself, which can make the Lord sigh.

He sighed at the disorganisation of the world. We have polluted the good life, beautiful skies, oceans and good air God gave us.

We have done many things that have caused various diseases and reduced our life span. He sighed because it is not his will that any should perish. He knows Satan is fighting us, and we are playing into his hands.

He wants to take us away from the crowd to show us mysteries, great and mighty things, and to do the unconventional in our lives. Follow Jesus. He is the way, the truth and life. He will wash us from the old and do something new in our lives.

The Lord uses the foolish things of this world to confound the wise. He needed to do it unconventionally and took him out from

distraction. The Lord needed his faith to be still, and he knew the way. Jesus spoke the word, the man's ears opened, and his tongue loosed. Jesus is still doing the same through the written words of the scriptures. His words are still as potent.

I Need to be Touched Again

This miracle is dedicated to those who need an extra touch. It is another unconventional miracle where the Lord used the unusual to heal someone. The emphasis in both cases is to remind us that the Lord may want to take us out from the crowd to do what He wants to do with us. The influence of the crowd may affect miracles.

And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him. And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought. And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking. After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly. And he sent him away to his house, saying, Neither go into the town, nor tell it to any in the town. Mark 8:22-26

The other miracles were instantaneous, but this was unusual. The Lord touched the blind man again to fully restore his sight. It may look like the healing is lagging, the promise is hanging, and the delay is weighing in. Jesus is still on the throne.

Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul. Hebrews 10:35-39

There is a reward coming; all we need is a bit of patience.

He took him by his hand

Jesus took him by the hand and led him out of the town. I can imagine Jesus taking my hand. I can imagine walking with Jesus the King. What a privilege, an honour, and a secure place to be. The assurance, hope, relief, confidence, fellowship, protection, security, liberty, comfort, and love it brings will be incomprehensible. I mean, this is mind-blowing. Imagine a President holding your hand and walking in the crowd, but this time, the Creator is. Instead of speaking to or touching him, the Lord went further to another level of intimacy. Wow! What a hope. What a relief it would bring me.

The blind man must have felt out of this world. He couldn't see Jesus but would have felt a special touch of comfort. With his Saviour ever to guide him, he is safe. The Lord may be holding somebody's hand, walking him to the place of a miracle. Will we recognise it? He walked the man to a place of safety, away from the crowd of distractions.

He followed the Lord in obedience

The blind man didn't know how far they were going or the road on which they were travelling. As long as the Messiah was leading, it was okay. He was content whether by car, aeroplane, ship, or bike. All he was concerned with was if Jesus was holding him. That settled everything.

The blind man didn't ask where Jesus was taking him. He may have heard relatives, or the crowd telling Jesus to touch him or asking where He was taking him. He was blind and not deaf. We will want to know where anybody is taking us before we can follow. It is common sense to do that. How would he find his way back? We will demand the miracle happen there, and then, especially with the fraud happening worldwide, you can hardly trust anyone.

He didn't mind the journey. As long as Jesus was leading, he was rest assured. Many of us ask the Lord how far the journey is and how long it will take. We are sick of uncertainty, watching others with their lands and gold while being the pauper down the street, watching others celebrate their degrees. At the same time, we have not passed high school, others are changing good jobs like pocket tissues, and we have failed every interview. When others say, "I can't complain," and your middle name is "complain",

Whatever the journey is, how far you go with Jesus will lead to redemption. The Lord led the blind man away from the place that had not helped him: the distractions and the humiliating environment. If you don't see this, you may not endure.

Have you wondered what the Lord is trying to lead you away from? It might be to sanctify, purify, teach, deal with some issues, and bring you to a place of perfection. The Lord might need to walk you away from sin. Will you submit to the process? Some things may keep us in check. Without them, we will not make it.

The blind man had no clue where Jesus was taking him, but he followed. We pray to follow the Lord wherever it pleases Him to take us. Some of us are telling the Lord how we want a miracle but keep a blind eye to our senses and follow the Lord, irrespective of being a pilot by profession and knowing the true North. He will do you good, and it shall be well with you. We are experts in our fields of operation: Doctors, Lawyers, Nurses, Engineers,

Carpenters, Economists and the best at what we know to do. We can take all that off and submit to the leading of the Holy Spirit, who knows more than we can ever imagine. It is a sweet thing to follow Jesus in trust. The blind man wanted a miracle and was happy to follow Jesus anywhere.

The Lord was about to do an unpopular thing that the public would not agree with. The Lord may want to do something we are unfamiliar with but is good for us. It may even be bespoke, and we do not see it because we expect it to happen conventionally. He spat in His hand and put it on the blind man's eyes. Society would not approve of this, so the Lord took the blind man away from them to avoid him being dissuaded by the opinions of men.

When the Lord touched him, he saw men as trees. He had been touched, but the healing was not entire; things were still hazy, and he could not see clearly.

The symptoms were still there, although he felt much better. He could see an amber light but not the green light. Maybe that's where you are in life. You can see the Lord is doing something but are not yet there. During the months I was severely ill, the Lord came to lift me and told me He had healed me. I knew my healing had happened, but the following weeks were hell. I held on to the revelation. I was sure He came to me, and no devil would convince me otherwise. My heart was flipping like a paper, but I knew who I believed. He is able to keep me. This miracle helped me to hold on to God. Here, I testify that Jehovah is God.

The blind man was patient

There was no complaint from the blind man about why his sight was not fully recovered; instead, he waited patiently, knowing that he who had begun a good work would finish it for him.

Your healing may be at this stage; wait on the Lord, and don't walk away with murmuring and complaining. Be patient.

You may have been prayed for, but recovery has not yet fully come. All we need is a second touch. Someone needs to ask the Lord to touch them one more time, one more time in their business, career, infirmity, depression, besetting sin, academics, family, health, uncertain situation, anxiety, worry, or difficulty. Our Father is compassionate and does not stop halfway.

All we need is one more touch. We may not require physical things because we are well off, but our hearts may still need a new touch. You can ask the Lord to renew your heart in sanctification and righteousness and purify you. The lost axe head must be recovered.

The children of Israel were promised a land flowing with milk and honey, but why was it taking forty years to get there? They were being taken through that route to see wonders that would help them stand firm amid the people they would encounter. The first thing they saw was the Red Sea and then came hunger and thirst. They murmured and complained throughout the journey and wondered why they were going through all those hardships. The Lord wanted them to experience miracles and to know He could and would do everything for them. They met wars, and the Lord wanted to show them He could fight their battles. Just as He gives strength to the weak, He could deliver and drive away all their enemies.

Amazingly, they saw the Red Sea divide, manna drop from Heaven, and even bitter water turned sweet, so they would know that Jehovah is the Jehovah Rapha, Jehovah Shekinah, Jehovah El Roi. They know him by all His names because they experienced Him through the way of the wilderness. The Lord may have allowed adverse situations so that we could experience His miracles, but we want the quick fix. We want a “drive-through” Christianity.

For ye have need of patience, Hebrews 10:36

The promise will not tarry after we have waited on the Lord. It will surely come. When you experience the Lord in His might, Satan cannot talk you out of Him. Nothing will separate you from Him. Romans 8:32 will work for you. No trials or temptation, even death, will take you away from God. The Lord may want to show us His way, knowing we will encounter the Anakim, the Jebusites, the Hittites, and the Amorites on the way. When we have a genuine experience of Him, we will not deny Him. May our eyes be opened.

The Leprous Healed

This miracle is dedicated to those who will not allow stigma and societal perception of their situation to hinder them from getting their blessing. It is also dedicated to all who will not be ashamed to ask for help.

And there came a leper to him, and saying unto him, If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean. And as soon as he had spoken, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed. And he straitly charged him, and forthwith sent him away; and saith unto him, See thou say nothing to any man: but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing those things which Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them. But he went out, and began to publish it much, and to blaze abroad the matter, insomuch that Jesus could no more openly enter into the city, but was without in desert places: and they came to him from every quarter. Mark 1:40-45

And it came to pass, when he was in a certain city, behold a man full of leprosy (who seeing Jesus fell on his face, and besought him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And he put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will: be thou clean. And immediately the leprosy departed from him. And he charged him to tell no man: but go, and shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing, according as Moses commanded, for

a testimony unto them. But so much the more went there a fame abroad of him: and great multitudes came together to hear; and to be healed by him of their infirmities. Luke 5:12-15; Matthew 8:1-4.

How is leprosy perceived?

This gentleman was full of leprosy, as described in the scriptures. This means his case was dreaded more than others. Leprosy is perceived as an omen in biblical days.

A symbol of sin

When Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses, she was stricken with leprosy. *Numbers 12*. She was put outside the camp until she was healed. Leprosy is contagious, and no one should be in contact with anyone infected. People were banished from the village once they contracted leprosy. There will be no contact with family and friends. It could be quite depressing and isolating. One cannot rule out that the person will suffer from some sort of mental illness. It is a miserable life with no one to visit. This man would have been in the wild, exposed to danger.

Some situations around us are more intense than the leprosy of old. You may live in a neighbourhood where nobody talks to you or knocks to say hello. During festive holidays, others travel to families and friends, and you have no one to go to. No card, no gift from anyone. You remain at work so that the loneliness will not loom over you. After some years, suicidal tendencies weigh in. Others chat and talk about loved ones, the food and parties. You are alone, with no family members.

Command the children of Israel, that they put out of the camp every leper; and every one that hath an issue, and whosoever is defiled by the dead. Numbers 5:2.

I am not sure who is out there, alone in despair and shame. Feeling more leprous than leprosy. You have been rejected and have lost your esteem. You have been beaten and abused. You are in prison for a false accusation. You have lost all you have. You watch others in their gold and embellishments, and life seems so unfair. Others succeed in their ventures; you awake to failure. You have been battling with alcoholism and drugs, and the fear of dying like a rat grips you. Depression has taken hold of you because of fear of the unknown. Your childhood experience was traumatising. Disappointments have pushed you to the edge of the cliff. You find yourself in a rabbit hole and feel alienated from the rest of us. An unhappy marriage is holding you in life imprisonment. Others show off their wedding rings, but you are still single and feel the most unfortunate. You feel thrust outside the camp, full of leprosy.

A scary sign

Leprosy is a scary sign *Exodus 4:6-8*. For the Bible to describe him as “full of it” signifies a lot. Have your problems scared you? Jesus is here today to deliver and heal you.

Leprosy is very unclean

And the leper in whom the plague is, his clothes shall be rent, and his head bare, and he shall put a covering upon his upper lip, and shall cry, Unclean, unclean. Leviticus 13:45.

Leviticus 13 explains the ordeal of being leprose. This man beseeched Jesus, kneeling. A broken and contrite spirit the Lord will not despise. Leprosy doesn't just go then. It can only take a High Priest to cleanse it. Christ is our high priest. His blood can cleanse all leprosy, disease, and illness. Leprosy is not something anyone should carry with pride. The condition humiliates, it reduces and takes away self-esteem. Tell Jesus about it.

Uzziah the King in 2 *Chronicles* 26:16-21 was leprous because of his disobedience and was thrown out of the congregation. Though he had fame and money, leprosy is indeed leprosy anywhere.

I don't know which camp you have been put out from. You have been made redundant, fired from your job, and excluded from meetings cliques. Others meet up, but you are not invited. I met a man who told me all his family members died. He is the only one alive. He wanted to kill himself. I am unsure who stands out there alone in shame and despair.

All the days wherein the plague shall be in him he shall be defiled; he is unclean: he shall dwell alone; without the camp shall his habitation be. Leviticus 13:46

He knelt and asked to be healed

The leper beseeched Jesus, kneeling, and said to Him, "If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean". A broken and contrite spirit God will not despise. Yes, Jesus can! He will be moved with compassion and will clean. Christ is our Chief Priest.

He had suffered a lot, and enough was enough. For him, a leper to walk through the crowd to Jesus takes a lot of courage, strength, boldness, and faith. He swallowed his shame, the mocking, names, abuse, swearing and cursing. For him, it did not matter what people would say. He went for his healing and could be stopped. He could not miss the opportunity, the only hope on earth, the light in the tunnel and the hope of salvation. He resolved to move ahead. If crowds ran away because of his leprosy, that is fine; it would clear the way for him. He had to get to Jesus. I will answer the altar call and will not mind who will be mocking me. I will be cleansed today.

The good thing about this man is that he had an insight and was aware of his situation. He knew when and where to seek help.

Sadly, many are not aware of their leprosy, especially when it is spiritual or psychological leprosy. Leprosy is not what you carry in pride. The disease humiliates and reduces one to nothing. In *2 Kings 5:8-14*, pride would have prevented Naaman from being cleansed, but he knows what counted the most.

The leprose man realised the power in Yeshua. He had the boldness to barge into the crowd. He had faith that Christ would heal him. Many of us have problems and issues we do not want to identify. Do not live in denial. If it is there, it is there. No denial will take away leprosy. The white patches will be seen, and you will be sent out of the gates, so pretending is unnecessary. You know, sometimes we over-spiritualise things. Sometimes, saying “It is well” may not suffice, and we must speak out. It is good to have a positive confession, but make sure your mouth aligns with your heart. This man spoke his faith.

The Lord had compassion on him

And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean.

Jesus will make us clean. Be it infirmity, social leprosy as a shortcoming, behavioural defect, unpleasant manners or anything taking us outside the natural course of being. Spiritual leprosy as in; anger, bitterness, an unforgiving spirit, malice, envy, covetousness, and hatred.

You feel like the leprose man outside the camp. Jesus knows what you are going through and will have compassion on you. He knows the loneliness and all the nights of crying. He knows that disease you are suffering, which you cannot tell anyone about. Cancer, HIV, tuberculosis, psoriasis. He knows what is going on in your heart. Jesus knows all you have been deprived of. He knows all the dirty and derogatory looks. He is still compassionate. You

will be made whole if you can reach out to him like the leprous man did. If life has put you in a locked cage, Christ Jesus has the key.

His blood can clean every form of leprosy. The cleansing is not a prescription for several weeks. There is no next appointment scheduled, but it is immediate. Yeshua Hamashiach is passing your way right now. Shout out for help – deliverance and hope are in Him.

Go, don't tell anyone

How can anyone keep back this testimony? He was full of leprosy. He would have died. He talked to no one outside the camp, had been in social prison, and was now made free. He will scream on the rooftop of his redemption. Now, he can get a job, live in a decent house, get married, buy a car and pursue his purpose in life. There is no way to contain this testimony. Others have to hear and come for their healing, too. Do not keep back your testimony, nor share it in a way it that it takes away the essence of Christ's power. This man would have remained ashamed that he had once had leprosy. He would have gone straight to look for a job to work 24/7 to recover all he lost over the years. He would have rested and taken time to calm himself down, having been out for years with emotional and physical trauma. He did none of that, instead, he proclaimed the good news.

Unveiled potential

This man alone went round the whole city and set it ablaze, so much that Christ could not enter the city but stayed out. One man alone! Who is more evangelical than this man? He did not stop in his neighbourhood or down his street, he stirred up a city. This man made me feel little. I wonder how he did it, door to door,

shouting on the streets with a microphone or just his voice, social media, television, which I am sure had not been invented then. Anyhow, he did it. May we do the work of an evangelist, as Paul admonished Timothy. *2 Timothy 4:5*. He proclaimed the goodness of God, His mercies and His faithfulness.

Miracles are still happening to those who will proclaim the goodness of the Lord and not to those who will hide their testimonies under the bushel or napkin or dig the ground and put it underneath. We have no excuse not to proclaim Jesus. We need whatever wisdom he applied. We need the grace he had. This is the potential of someone who was bound by leprosy. This energy and grace would have been wasted outside the camp. Everything that has kept your potential in prison will be broken, in Jesus' name, Amen.

The Ten Leper

This miracle is dedicated to the grateful and those who would be happy to present themselves to the house of the Lord. It opens up a great insight into the ways of our all-knowing God. If you read it hurriedly or flip through it, you will not get to the meat of the matter.

And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole. Luke 17:11-19

The Samaritans in 2 Kings 17 were a mixture of Israelites who remained when the rest were taken captive. The King of Assyria brought people from various nations to replace them. They were regarded as defiled because they intermarried with strangers,

which they were warned not to do due to their idolatry.

They called out for help

Leprosy is hard to bear. Suffering the disease is one thing, and being an outcast is another. Some life situations are worse than leprosy. You suffer alone with no sympathy. Being isolated, where nobody wants to talk or associate with you, can make you feel like a leper. Lepers are thrown out of society. They can't intermingle with people and can't live in the usual neighbourhoods. It is a miserable life. They are given things from afar.

The ten lepers would not miss the golden opportunity of having Jesus come their way. There was usually a crowd of thousands following Jesus. These men could not come close because they were outcasts without contact with anyone. It was miserable.

They made a great effort and lifted their voices. With the crowd then, they would have shouted their lungs out. I can imagine the shouting. Did they use a microphone, as others with problems would have been shouting out, too? I know what large meetings are like with all the noise, and I can imagine what cry would draw the attention of Jesus. Some of us are too shy to discuss our problems and keep to ourselves. These men could shout so loud that Jesus heard them despite the crowd. Leprosy had already put them to shame, so there was nothing to lose. Please share, don't die in silence. Leave all the shyness and political correctness and call on Jesus. Please don't die in silence.

Their attitude showed eagerness and zeal

When in need, don't keep quiet. Speak out. Many are too shy to ask and die in silence because of what others will say. If you don't ask, you cannot receive. There is no shame about it. These men have been shamed by leprosy, and there is nothing to hide again. Well, if the lepers had kept quiet, their leprosy would have

remained. The questions are: have we called out on God enough to be heard? Have we told the brethren and the church to pray with us? There may be a crowd of things surrounding us to mute our voices. Have you done enough praying?

Leprosy can be likened to sin that separates us from God. No sin is too big or too small. Whether it's drugs, murder, alcoholism or just lies. Sin is sin. Deception is a sin. Ingratitude is a sin. We can keep naming them. It takes one away from Elohim. It ostracises man from the Kingdom. This was where these lepers were. When they heard that Jesus was passing through, they shouted for help. They did their bit. Shout to Jesus today, He is our maker and Lord. We can also call for redemption today. The man in *Mark 10:17* ran to Jesus and said, 'What must I do to be saved?'. So, please run to the Lord. These lepers were real men. They knew what they wanted and went for it. If you are ashamed to go to man, don't be embarrassed to go to Yeshua.

Go and show yourself to the Priest

The ways of God are past searching. This miracle is another style of healing. I pray we will be open to the ways of the Holy Spirit in exercising our faith. They asked Him to have mercy on them, and he told them to go and show themselves to the Priest. Other miracles were different. He touched them, spoke to them, and cast out evil Spirits. Why did Jesus ask them to go and show themselves to the Priest? This is a thought-provoking question.

A great revelation came to me: 'Go and commit yourself'. Go to the church, the Tabernacle, and the Lord's presence. Fire goes before Him to burn up our enemies. The hills of leprosy will melt like wax in the Lord's presence. *Psalms 97:3-5*

His presence is full of joy, healing, cleansing, deliverance, hope, and victory. Hallelujah. In His presence is life. Jesus said He is the

way, the truth and the life, so there's no other way than through Him.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. James 4:7.

Go and occupy for the Lord. Go and consecrate yourself. Go and dwell in the House of the Lord. Go and present yourself as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable. Go to the altar of sacrifice. You will be taught the way of righteousness.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. Romans 12:1-2.

Go before the Lord, the Priest will tell you what to do when you get to the church. God's salvation will be revealed at the place of worship. Go and confess your sins for remission.

The Pastor will know what to do. The Pastors will teach us how to live the victorious Christian life. They will teach us God's word to learn more about Him and His ways. They will teach us how to pray and live a holy life.

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. James 4:10.

There is no greater miracle than to be in the presence of the Lord, to submit and humble yourself. Those who run away from the church and activities and make all kinds of excuses will not have their leprosy healed.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: And I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever. Psalm 23:6

Staying away from God means going closer to Satan

There are no two ways about it. When you are facing the north, your back is to the south. When you are facing the east, your back is to the west. The Lord told them, go and learn of me so that your miracle will be consolidated.

Renewal happens in the presence of the Lord and the Word. Go and discover your ministry and fulfil it. Make your calling and election sure. One of the secrets of a miracle is to go and show yourself to the Priest. Serving God with half-heartedness is not suitable for anybody. Playing a 'Christian' your way has no benefit. The lepers went before the Lord and were healed. They had been out there with leprosy; it was time to draw nearer to God. Wow! May you be healed today as you turn around from all the distractions and dwell on the word.

Obedience

To show oneself to the Priest is to confirm leprosy or the healing. They were known as lepers, so it was not to confirm the disease but the healing.

When a man shall have in the skin of his flesh a rising, a scab, or bright spot, and it be in the skin of his flesh like the plague of leprosy; then he shall be brought unto Aaron the Priest, or unto one of his sons the priests: and the Priest shall look on the plague in the skin of the flesh: and when the hair in the plague is turned white, and the plague in sight be deeper than the skin of his flesh, it is a plague of leprosy: and the Priest shall look on him, and pronounce him unclean. Leviticus 13:2-3

Jesus did not tell them they were healed, nor did He touch them. He sent them on a mission of faith. They obeyed without seeing. Whether the miracle took place immediately on their journey or when they showed up, we cannot tell. What we know is they went.

May we go at the command of the Lord. May we believe Jesus to our last breath.

Gratitude

One out of ten people came back to give thanks. Those who complain about people's ingratitude, please settle knowing that only 10% of some crowds are likely to be grateful. And who was the man? A Samaritan, a stranger, the unbeliever. A man deemed to be dirty and an outcast. The Samaritan might have thought,

"Who am I that God is mindful of me, a Samaritan? Who am I that you healed me, Lord?".

Maybe he would not have been accepted in the synagogue, so he turned to Yeshua.

Probably, he remembered where he was coming from. He had been in the wilderness all this while, thrown away, and had not met with his family. He was denied everything and had a miserable life, and he returned to give thanks. Ordinarily, he shouldn't be in the synagogue because he was a stranger. If he ventured in, he would sit in the court of the Gentiles. To double his trouble, he had leprosy, so he would be shooed out.

Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger? Ruth 2:10

We can learn from Ruth. She was thankful. We did nothing to deserve God's grace. Have we thanked the Lord for provision, the job interview we passed, deliverance in childbirth, the new house, the car and healing? We are alive and well. We would have been on the hospital bed or like any other person on the street. He has kept us and shown us His goodness and salvation. We are here in the land of the living. God has given us life, and we should be

grateful. Sometimes, we concentrate on what we don't have and forget what we have.

I owe my life to God. He brought me through struggles in life, and here I am by the grace of God. There are lots of things to glorify God for.

By him, therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. Hebrews 13:15

It is by the mercy of the Lord that we are not consumed. May we be people that give thanks.

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. Psalms 100:4.

Being unthankful is not taken lightly, as it is among the things listed in *Romans 1:21* that will hinder people from entering the Kingdom of God. May the Lord give us the heart to praise and glorify Him. We should not allow Satan to take away the spirit of gratitude from us.

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Colossians 3:15.

Ingratitude

The other nine who didn't come to give thanks were the bona fide children of Israel. It was not a big deal to heal them. They went their way. Christ was their kinsman. Some everyday things that make people ungrateful are:

Familiarity- The nine that didn't come back may have taken things for granted. People born in religious homes are not usually as fervent as those who met the Lord on their journey to hell. They forget so quickly because Mum and Dad will pray. They can sing all the hymns, know the scripture verses, and become

familiar with the things of God. We can all learn a lesson from this miracle. Do we give thanks for the food, rain, air, and safety, to mention a few?

Complain- Some people complain about almost everything. It is too hot in summer, cold in winter, and rains too much in Spring. In the more developed countries, citizens complain so much about the Government. At the same time, the foreigners are so grateful for what they can get. At church, Christians are so proud of religion that you wonder if their salvation was of themselves. They complain about what they don't have but have not thanked God for what they have. The complaint takes away the spirit of gratitude from us, rendering us unthankful.

Hardness of heart- There are naturally ungrateful people. It is not because they are complex, they simply have no regard for anything. It doesn't matter what you do to them. They will not say thank you.

Pride- Some think that saying thank you is a weakness. You see these people everywhere, even at church. They don't recognise people's help and are too proud to accept it.

Culture- Some cultures and families are very economical with the word "thank you". This is common among spouses who expect everything but will not give back. In cultures where women are regarded as burden bearers or children as enslaved people; a 'thank you' is hard to come by.

The other nine, the Sons of Promise, did not return to the Lord. It was their right, and they went away to celebrate their freedom, to enjoy. They forgot the source, and so has everyone who gets their miracle and moves away. At church, brethren see things done to them as an obligation by others and do not say thank you. They don't give testimonies or give an offering at church. They grumble

at Bible study and evangelism and do not take part in anything.

Rewards of gratitude

It is so amazing what Jesus said to him, *“Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole”*.

I wondered what happened to the other nine because they didn't get this blessing to seal their miracle. They will fall into the category of *“go and sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee”*.

Ingratitude is one of the reasons people get their miracle, but it fizzles out like a fizzy drink. People get healed, and the condition comes back after a while. Ingratitude might be looming behind them.

Do you remember where the Lord has taken you from? Please don't get into what you do and don't have. You will be grateful for life if you hear other people's stories. You will wipe off the tears of having no shoes because you see those without feet. Please count your blessings; it will shock you what Jesus has done for you. Be grateful.

The Fig Tree Withered

The miracle of the withered fig tree has more to teach us than just a sign. The disciples had seen the blind regain their sight; the lame walk, the dead rise, withered hands healed, and the issue of blood healed. It is now their turn to do miracles.

Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered. And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away. And when the disciples saw it, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away! Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. Matthew 21:18-22

And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, he was hungry: And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find anything thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet. And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it.

And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away. And Jesus

answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain. Mark 11:12-16, 21-23.

Jesus was hungry and, coming to the fig tree, found no fruit and proclaimed that it bears no fruit forever. The next day, as they walked past it, the disciples saw that the fig tree had withered. They marvelled, and Jesus said to them, “If you have faith”, and doubt not, you can do the same. This is for everyone, not a sect or title holders, but whosoever. Do you believe you have the power? A good deal of us may say, “No, don’t get me there; who am I to do miracles?” This notion had hindered many and given Satan the boldness to intimidate us.

This miracle echoes one word: Faith! Faith! Faith! We can’t just sit and watch. It is time to do it, but only by faith in Christ Jesus.

Unfortunately, we tend more to doubt than have faith. Our natural disposition is to first “err” on the side of caution or doubt. Jesus wants us to be delivered. All we require is simple faith, and we can move the mountains.

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1.

When Doctors tell you to go home because there is nothing to do for you anymore, you wonder where your help will come from. You lose nothing; look up to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. Man has limitations, but God is everlasting. Can you trust Him?

The evidence of things you have not seen is your faith. The faith, you will pass exams, you will be healed, you will bear children, the troubles will cease, the war will end, you will recover all you lost, you will have food, your child will be healed, and you will see tomorrow. We have to stand firm and push through every obstacle by faith.

The fig tree was looking okay but had no fruit. Any aspect of your life that is not bearing fruit should be cast off. Tell it to get withered, and it will. It could be character flaws, addiction struggles, hindrances, or situations that look like an ocean you cannot cross. You have the power to command them to wither. It is time to recreate our being, our Christian journey, situations, and everything about us that is lying waste. Check what is in you that looks green but barren. You have first-class but no job, you are married but no children, you have everything money can afford but no peace. You are a nice person but do not have favour with people, to mention a few. Tell them to wither.

As a Christian, you have not been growing in grace, and your spiritual gift is not manifesting. You are ashamed to identify with God, do not participate in activities, and do not win souls for Christ, just lukewarm. Pray that the unfruitfulness will wither in Jesus' name, amen.

But without faith, it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Hebrews 11:6

It displeases God when we do not have faith, and Satan is aware of that. He uses the opportunity to wreak havoc. Have faith that God will heal, keep and raise you from the deathbed. If you have been told you will not make it in the next two weeks, you lose nothing but to hang on to him, hold his feet so tightly and say, Jesus, I know it shall be well with me. I believe you, Lord.

Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it? Jeremiah 5:22

There is a boundary set against every wave tossing towards you. God created them and set limits for them. He has made provision for our safety. All we need is to trust. The earth was without form or void. God spoke them into being, how much more our lives.

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. Ephesians 6:16

The shield of faith is the only armour against diseases, calamities, earthquakes, tornadoes, the heat of this life, all depression, all mental illness, loneliness and evil of this life. Pick up your faith; do not waver.

For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. James 1:6.

We don't want to be tossed to and from like the wind. No. God has said it; believe it, and it is settled. He will not allow your foot to be moved. He created heaven and earth.

Faith brings victory. Isaac asks Abraham in *Genesis 22:8*, the lamb of sacrifice. Abraham told him by faith God would provide, though he knew there was none, and Isaac was the lamb. He spoke out his faith, and God provided.

At Eighty Five Caleb was strong enough to go to war to possess what Moses promised. People at that age are celebrated for living up to a ripe old age but not strong enough to do much. *Numbers 14:10-12.*

Don't give in to the suggestions of Satan to wrap up at Forty. There is still more to do for the Lord. Have faith that you will live and finish strong. There may be suggestions that you have done your bit, laboured, and achieved as much?

Jonathan spoke faith to his servant in *1 Samuel 14:6*. He asked him to come with him to fight the Philistines. Jonathan told him that fighting with many or few is nothing with the Lord. The

young man had no spear to fight with, just the two of them. They went and conquered.

David displayed faith in action when he told Goliath he would cut off his head and give to the fowls of the air. He went in the name of the Lord and victoriously.

Job's flesh was going in disease, but his confession of faith was in *Job 19:25 For I know that my redeemer liveth.*

Jesus is alive forever, Amen. Faith in Christ Jesus has worked for me. I would not have been alive to write this. I know God is able, and Jesus is the resurrection and life, as He told Martha and Mary.

He that believes in Him, though he was dead, yet shall he live again. You might wonder if all it takes is to believe; yes is the simple answer. Believe Jesus died to take away your sins and trespasses, alcoholism, pornography, drugs, witchcraft, necromancy, idol worship, and wickedness. Jesus will renew your heart and take away all the burden Satan had put on you. You will be a new man.

That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:15

We have to ask for things in faith he will do them. Solomon asked for wisdom; in *1 Kings 3:9*, He got it. Elisha asked for a double portion and got it. The blind man asked that he may receive his sight, and he got it.

Ask the Lord to deliver, keep your heart pure, and heal you. He will do it.

And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. Matthew 21:22

You shall ask this mountain to be removed, and it will move yonder. Your eyes may not see it, and your body may not feel it. Just believe. Satan may bring doubt, trials and temptations to

shake your faith; stand firm. It is our turn to exercise faith and call those things which be not as though they are.

Speak faith into your situation. The fig tree withered at Christ's word, so shall all unfruitfulness in your life wither in Jesus' name. Amen.

Malchus Ear Healed

This miracle is dedicated to all those who will let go and forgive every wrong done to them. It is also a learning for those who wish their enemies dead not to do so.

When they which were about him saw what would follow, they said unto him, Lord, shall we smite with the sword? And one of them smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear. And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far. And he touched his ear, and healed him. Then Jesus said unto the chief priests, and captains of the temple, and the elders, which were come to him, Be ye come out, as against a thief, with swords and staves? Luke 22:49-52.

Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it? John 18:10-11.

Malchus came with a stave to arrest Jesus for crucifixion. As we all would assume, Peter was right to cut off his ear because he was an enemy. Why should his cut ears be replaced? Jesus asked Peter to put back his sword and fixed back Malchus's ears. Even at death, love was still flowing from Jesus. Miracles will happen when we love. Love brings both physical and spiritual healing.

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. Matthew 5:44-45.

When we are vengeful and retaliatory, miracles will not happen. Offences will come, but let's allow the Lord to heal us. Forgiving people is a miracle because not everyone can forgive. Jesus asked us to forgive as our heavenly Father had forgiven us.

Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. James 5:14-16.

Pushing and shoving, biting and devouring one another will not bring healing to the church. Healing comes when we allow the Lord to deal with our hearts. If you are bitter with the congregation as a preacher, they will not be healed through your preaching.

But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you. Luke 6:27.

Forgiveness is not just for those who love us but for everyone, even in persecution.

Miracles are hung in the air by retaliation and vindictiveness. Forgiving one another will bring them down. Release everyone you have ought against so that they can get their miracle.

And he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck, and wept; and Benjamin wept upon his neck. Moreover he kissed all his brethren,

and wept upon them: and after that his brethren talked with him. And the fame thereof was heard in Pharaoh's house, saying, Joseph's brethren are come: and it pleased Pharaoh well, and his servants. And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Say unto thy brethren, This do ye; lade your beasts, and go, get you unto the land of Canaan; And take your Father and your households, and come unto me: and I will give you the good of the land of Egypt, and ye shall eat the fat of the land. Now thou art commanded, this do ye; take you wagons out of the land of Egypt for your little ones, and for your wives, and bring your Father; and come. Genesis 45:14-19.

Joseph's forgiveness saved the entire family from hunger that would have killed them. They did wrong by selling him. Joseph let go, and a miracle came to his family, and the Lord kept them.

We pray to let go of hurt so that miracles can flow in our families. Pharaoh's heart was touched, and he gave Jacob and his children the good of the land because Joseph forgave his brethren.

And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam became leprous, white as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous. And Aaron said unto Moses, Alas, my Lord, I beseech thee, lay not the sin upon us, wherein we have done foolishly, and wherein we have sinned. Let her not be as one dead, of whom the flesh is half consumed when he cometh out of his mother's womb. And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee. And the LORD said unto Moses, If her Father had but spit in her face, should she not be ashamed seven days? let her be shut out from the camp seven days, and after that let her be received in again. And Miriam was shut out from the camp seven days: and the people journeyed not till Miriam was brought in again. Numbers 12:10-15.

Moses and Aaron cried out to the Lord to heal their sister, Miriam. Aaron and Miriam spoke evil against Moses, and God smote Miriam with leprosy. The natural thing is to say,

“Serves her right. Next time, she will learn her lesson”.

Moses did not say that but prayed that God would heal her. His forgiveness brought the miracle of healing to Miriam. Do not let offence shut your bowels of mercy. People you are ministering to may despise you. Forgive them.

And it came to pass, when David had made an end of speaking these words unto Saul, that Saul said, Is this thy voice, my son David? And Saul lifted up his voice, and wept. And he said to David, Thou art more righteous than I: for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil. And thou hast shewed this day how that thou hast dealt well with me: forasmuch as when the LORD had delivered me into thine hand, thou killedst me not. 1 Samuel 24:16-18.

Saul was deeply convinced and confessed to David, “Thou art more righteous than I”. We quote this statement as a slogan and laugh, but it came from somewhere. David had an opportunity to kill Saul, and the people with him asked him to take the chance. Saul has been chasing to kill him. He has been running away for years into many dangers and fighting. David had been anointed King, but Saul was still on the throne. Killing him will get David to the throne with no hassle, but David refuses to do so. He forgave him, and that touched the heart of Saul to stop chasing him. Saul called him my son. A soft answer turns away wrath.

And the King of Israel said unto Elisha, when he saw them, My Father, shall I smite them? shall I smite them? And he answered, Thou shalt not smite them: wouldest thou smite those whom thou hast taken captive with thy sword and with thy bow? set bread and

water before them, that they may eat and drink, and go to their Master. And he prepared great provision for them: and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their Master. So the bands of Syria came no more into the land of Israel. 2 Kings 6:21-23.

Powerful. Jesus says, *If thine enemy hunger, feed him.* Feeding your enemies will disarm them. Elisha smote the armies that came to fight them with blindness. The King of Assyria trusted in his arm of the flesh, and Elisha showed him there is a God in Israel who has all powers. They were led to the King of Israel, and their eyes opened to see where they were. It would have been shocking to them. The King asked if he should smite them.

“No”, Elisha said, “No, you can’t.” How can you kill those that have been put under your trust? How can you pray a dangerous prayer to destroy those under you? How can you have such a vengeful and malicious spirit against those under you? Elisha said to give them food and send them back to their Master. That was a great miracle to them that they were not killed. Surely, these men will talk about their experiences for the rest of their lives. Offences do come, but leave it with the Lord. Do not pray that your enemies should die. It is not a New Testament prayer. Jesus said to forgive Seventy time Seven (70x7). *Matthew 18:22*

When things are going wrong in our cities and nations, keep a heart of forgiveness and pray so that our land will be healed. Do not rail as others do.

See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men. 1Thessalonians 5:15.

Do your bit in forgiving and leave vengeance with the Lord. Jesus did a miracle right on the battlefield for the enemy, teaching

us to do the same. Some miracles are hanging out there, not yet down, because we have kept them hanging. Forgive, do good and miracles will happen.

He is Not Here but Is Risen

The miracle of his resurrection is about living the resurrected life. The resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ is the basis of our faith. Had He not resurrected; death would have had power over us. He conquered death on our belief, so we will live with Him forever.

Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. And they remembered his words. Luke 24:1-9.

In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the Angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance

was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: and for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the Angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you. And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word. Matthew 28:1-8.

And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. Mark 16:1-6.

The women who came to the sepulchre to anoint Christ's body with spices did not see Him. The Angel told them He had risen. They remembered He told them He would resurrect on the third day after. May we remember Christ's words to us. His words of assurance and hope. Some of us have the problem of not remembering, and some have heard nothing to remember. It takes the word of God dwelling in us richly to remember it. I pray we remember.

What Power raised Jesus?

Our main concern now is to know the power that raised Him from the dead so that we might live. Paul wanted to know and said:

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Philippians 3:10-11.

He desired and yearned for the experience. The search for this power deepened his relationship with God. He found it, his faith was firmed up, and the race was easy. Nothing was too much for Paul. He took things in his strides because the Power above powers was revealed to him. This power is what every Christian needs: power to live a righteous life and overcome demons and Satan. Victorious and conquering power to do exploits. Paul endured beatings, hunger, peril of false brethren, and imprisonment.

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Roman 8:38-39.

We need the power to stand firm when things get tough and life challenges become overwhelming.

The ladies went with sweet spices to anoint Him but wondered who would roll away the heavy gravestone for them. When they got there, the heavy stone was rolled away. Although these women were weaker vessels in terms of strength, there was a drive and willingness to venture on what the men could not do. They had inner boldness and strength beyond them, which was the motivation behind them, knowing the stone was an obstacle. We

should not see men after the flesh but after the spirit. Don't look down on anyone. They can do what you are not able to do. May you receive the miracle of inner strength that takes away feelings of weakness in Jesus' name, amen.

Their commitment, consecration and willingness made a way.

For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not. 2 Corinthians 8:12.

The stone was rolled away before they got there. What God is looking for is our willingness to serve Him. He does the job himself. We do nothing by our power, so do not be scared by the size of any commitment. God has gone ahead to make it easier.

The women took the responsibility to go. The men might not have gone for fear of being arrested. There are some places where women can have a free pass to preach the gospel or do good because of gender cases, allow them to go. Every Pastor should be encouraged to enable both women and men alike to serve in the church because there will be things women can do better in certain situations.

Do not be afraid of the ministry the Lord has called you. All the strategies have been put in place, and things have been prepared before you arrive. The stone has been rolled away for you. Stop worrying. God has gone ahead of you in that job, business, exam, sickness, character formation, and situation. The mountain is made plain; the need is supplied, and the prayers answered.

And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. The glory of the Lord will shine upon you, even in that place of obscurity. His glory, his power, will be with you.

And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth,

they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? Do not be scared. There is no need to be afraid. The Lord is with us. Our God is bigger than our mortal brain can imagine and can do all things. We will not look for the dead among the living any more, in Jesus' name, Amen. Jesus will bring to life every dead thing in our lives.

The demons keeping watch over you to ensure you do not resurrect, will be shaken to as dead men, and you shall be quickened in Jesus' name, amen. Every glass ceiling over you will be taken away. You will rise again. No stone will keep you back. Now, speak to your situation. Tell them you are alive and will not look for any dead thing again.

Ask God for the grace not to seek the living among the dead again. Stop looking for dead things, situations, life, family, or whatever. No more!

The ladies remember his words:

No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father. John 10:18.

The men who came to arrest Jesus fell like dead men. Jesus has the power. He allowed his death, so be assured that He knows what you are going through and has the power to take them away. The secret is to seek the power of His resurrection, and the same will raise us up. Speak out scriptures when push comes to shove. Have faith, repeat these scriptures. This miracle is for us.

But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Romans 8:11.

The scriptures works. That is the only weapon we have against principalities and powers. What can we do without the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation? We do not fight with the arm of the

flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty. They are true words, the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of Elohim.

And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses. Colossians 2:13.

Christ's resurrection raised us from sin and trespasses. Knowing this truth will help us overcome trials, offence, and anger and bring healing to us. Satan may haul spears and arrows at us, we will not be cowered but have the braveness to continue.

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. Romans 10:9.

Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead? Act: 26:8.

Doubt and mindset can be an obstacle to miracles. We are here, watching the sky and its changes, seasons and times, wind, moon and sunshine. The working of the human body still amazes intellectuals. God, in His wisdom and might, made all things. Why will we think it incredible that we should be raised from sickness, obscurity, and the pressure of life? If He gave himself on the cross, shall He not freely give us all things?

Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification. Romans 4:25.

Christ was raised to justify us. Satan wanted us arrayed in the line of condemnation, but the resurrection of Christ pushed him to the wall. Don't allow Satan to rail accusations against you. Jesus has paid the price, and our sins are remembered no more. If He tries to speak into your ears, just tell him, "Sorry, Jesus has paid the price", and he will move.

And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. Romans 1:4.

The reason for His resurrection declared Christ in power in our lives.

And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all Acts 4:33.

The resurrection brought boldness and power to the disciples. They witnessed the power and fear vanished in them. It gave them hope and strength.

For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection. Romans 6:5.

The resurrection is our joy. Being dead to sin and the world, we are transformed to His image. Everything about us changed. How we talk, do business, and relate with people becomes Christlike.

Acts 26:23 it says, ‘Comfort to all of us.’ And what’s that comfort? *That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.*

His resurrection brought light to us and the world. The glorious light through the resurrection brought goodness and liberty to us. *Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead, dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him Romans 6:9.*

Jesus took the power of hell away. All that believes will have eternal life. Glory be to God.

And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust. Romans 15:12.

Thank you, Jesus. I just wondered what my fate would have been without Jesus. It is unimaginable!

Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved). Ephesians 2:5.

By grace, are we saved through the miracle of His resurrection. The power that raised Jesus raised us from sin and trespasses, which is our confidence in the new life. We did not deserve it, but he gave Himself for us. In humility, we thank Him for His loving kindness.

The ladies went to the tomb, not minding how the stone would be rolled away. It was rolled away before they arrived and were looking for the living among the dead. Anyone looking for you behind the stones will look for the living among the dead. You shall arise, Jesus rose from the dead, and so shall we rise. You will not manage or patch any ill condition. The power of His resurrection has quickened you. Amen.

Cast Thy Net On The Right Side

This miracle is dedicated to those who will not go for self-help. There may be a period of delay, and you may be tempted to return to the old. Please wait on God. He will come right early. You are not abandoned.

There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples. Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing. But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus. Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No. And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes. Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea. And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging the net with fishes. As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread. Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught. Simon Peter went up, and drew

the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken.

Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord. Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise. This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead. So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep. John 21:2-17.

There are three miraculous episodes in this account. The fishes, the net that did not break, and Christ appearing to the disciples.

They went fishing.

Peter and his brethren have been called to fish men. They agreed, left their fathers and the boat, and went with Jesus. In three and a half years, they have been with Jesus, done evangelism twice, seen all the miracles, heard all parables, and learned from Jesus. One would think that going back to fish would be the last thing they would do, but they did it. Peter, the class prefect, convinced them, and they all went.

All eleven laboured throughout the night and caught nothing. A leader's sin is a leading sin. The others agreed with Peter, and none reminded each other that they had been called out from fishing.

It will be fruitless when we leave what the Lord has called us to do: the ministry, consecration, and commitment to do something else. There will be struggles, and the energy and time wasted will be enormous. People have toiled unnecessarily because they refuse to do what God has them to do. They ladened themselves with excuses. Please don't toil thinking you can help yourselves. Jesus will take care.

There may be reasons people go back to the old. They may have thought Jesus had gone, and the miracles of five loaves and two fishes, tribute money have gone with him, so they need to do something. They may have needed to look after their families and put food on their tables. It sounds plausible as it is needful. Most of us have innumerable excuses to cover up our desires for carnal things.

They laboured in vain

Jesus stood on the shore in the morning to talk to them. I imagined how many hours they toiled and said to myself, no, I don't want to labour that much. The suffering might have drained them so that they did not recognise Jesus. They were professional fishermen, but it failed them. Our wisdom, knowledge, and intelligence will fail us without Jesus. They are limited by themselves.

They allowed the pursuit of bread and butter to distract them and take their focus away.

Jesus called the children

Children, have ye any meat to eat? These were adults, but because of their attitude and lack of discernment, Jesus called the children. They behaved like children. I pray the Lord will not call us children because of immaturity and the need to grow. They had been with Jesus for a while, and a level of maturity was expected of them. Children forget things quickly; the disciples forgot the

4000 and 5000 who were fed. They did not argue when called children. They accepted it because their thoughts went down to that level.

Cast the net on the right side of the ship

The first miracle Jesus did with Peter was launch into the deep. This time, He was specific. Cast the net on the right side, and you shall catch.

Jesus knows where the fishes are. He knows the way through the wilderness. We must rely on Jesus, as He knows how to do it. Jesus has all the knowledge, intellect, and wisdom. He created the whole world and everything that is in it. Father, help us depend on you because you know everything. May we learn to do the right thing. Let's be focused and make the main thing the main thing. Without Jesus, they can do nothing.

Most of us think success is determined by how much struggle and effort we put in. People heat themselves up as if Jesus is too far to reach. God will not call you into ministry and leave you half-way. No way! That's exactly what this miracle is all about. The trial of hunger and lack may weigh in, time and age may count on you, and the tendency to help yourself may be strong. Abraham helped himself with Haggai when the promise was delayed, and anybody could do it. We have learned this lesson. Let us refrain from falling into it.

They caught the fish but could not pull it out of the water because it was enormous. They put in all strength, yet it was heavy. They called others for help. Then John's eyes opened that this was not an ordinary catch. He must be Jesus, the miracle worker, with whom all things are possible. The great provider was with them. This miracle reminded me of when I used to buy 1kg at £1 in the shop. A minister came to our house, and I went to make some for her from it. She asked if I didn't have the 20kg bag. I simply said

no and made no other comment. We could not afford it and can't finish 1kg in a meal as a family. She told me to stack up rice as the prices would go up. She didn't offer to buy me one, I mused. She left, and I went to the Lord in prayers. We don't have to stack up, but He will never leave nor forsake us with five children. At Christmas that year, it looked like a ring was made in the air to send rice to us. Our garage was half filled with rice and rats came in and helped themselves. We threw all of them. God reminded us not to take thought. We are more than sparrows.

Peter gathered his clothes and jumped into the water instead of saying, "Alas, Master, I am sorry". He knew he was doing the wrong thing and was embarrassed about what he did.

Pause and confess all the self-help and lack of trust in God. You have thought God has delayed. Your needs are creeping on you, buying a house, car, building up a bank account, and all the necessities. Some have denied Jesus for mundane things and meat that perishes. May God have mercy.

He told them exactly where to get the fish. If you consult Jesus, the things others do for Ten years and save up £500, you will do in two Months and save up £5000. Trust the Lord that your freezer will not run out of food, rent and mortgage will be paid. He will keep your job, give you wisdom, and make things smooth for you.

When they came to land and counted the fish, it was a *hundred and fifty and three*. Do you need fish? Here you go! The Lord gave them more than they needed.

Jesus prepared the meal and served them. He sent the message down. I will not just provide it; I will prepare it. Your bit is to eat. May our eyes be opened in Jesus' name, amen. Their cups were filled and running over.

Jesus called Peter, Simon, son of Jona, three times and asked if he loved him more than fish. Peter answered he did, but got offended the third time because he knew he genuinely loved Jesus.

Peter was referred back as Simon, son of Jona, after three and a half years. Our new identity will be taken away when we return to the old. The old life will return, and we lose the face of Jesus. Sometimes, we do things that make people call us by our old name, which they have long forgotten. Peter did not behave like the Stone he was given but like Simon, son of Jona. Don't do things that will remind people of your old name.

And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone. *John 1:42*.

Some people love God, but the care of this world has not allowed them to be faithful. Grabbing everything has taken away their commitment and consecration.

The net was full but did not turn

Let's occupy ourselves with the work of the Lord. He will take care of us. All the extra shifts for more money, leaving evangelism and prayers, will not yield much. Some people say they don't know what they did with their money. They are still lacking. Sometimes, Satan gives people more straw to labour with. No time to rest. Just keep labouring as the servitude of the children of Israel in Egypt. The Lord wants you to rest on Saturday and be with Him on Sunday, but the lures of double weekend pay keep people at work. They work until tired, their immunity is weakened, and they end up in pain instead of enjoying the money.

In all, the Lord is telling us to rely on Him. He knows where the fishes are, can make up our salary, and will do the miracle. He will satisfy you with good things and will not leave you comfortless. He will give you more than you require. The Lord is still doing miracles. I pray we will stop all self-help. He will provide for us.

Sum Up

All we can ask God is to increase our faith. Miracles are happening every day. We do not just want to hear about them but to experience them. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. There is no shadow of turning with Him. He gives to those who ask or look up to Him.

The key lessons

Jesus was invited to the wedding, so the miracle was handy when the wine ran out. The maker of wine was there. Please invite Jesus to your wedding, party, career, school, decision making and businesses so that you don't need to run from pillar to post if anything goes wrong. Mary told Jesus the wine had run out, and His response teaches us that there is time for everything. Don't just rush into things. Inquire of the Lord first.

Those who got the miracles were obedient. The disciples set out the pots and filled them with water without question. The impotent man rose at Jesus' instruction despite the opposition surrounding him. The thousands fed were obedient in sitting as told in bands of fifties. They didn't ask to see the truckload of food first.

Generosity was their hallmark. Peter loaned his boat, and a lad offered his five loaves and two fish. The miracles would not have happened in their cases if they had kept back. Do not say, I gave today, should I give again tomorrow? Please do not be weary in well doing. Philip's faith was tried, but he didn't get it. We have

learned from him. Please keep your faith alive and not look at the present challenging situation. Food will come even in the desert.

They did not complain about being inconvenienced; Peter had toiled all night and was tired, and yet he was asked to do more, and he did.

Humility was seen in some of those who got their miracles. The nobleman and the Centurion were well-to-do people but came along as others. The Centurion refused Jesus' offer to come to his house but asked Him to speak the word. The nobleman went as commanded and did not doubt. Both got their miracles. This is a lesson for all who think that they are people of substance. Pride and arrogance will blank our blessings.

They despised shame. The woman with the issue of blood didn't mind the stink and came into the press and touched the hem of Jesus' garment. The lepers had nothing to lose; they were already pushed out of society, so they cried out from a distance and got their miracles. Please cry out to Jesus. Do not let anything shut you.

They were people of service served. Peter's mother-in-law served as soon as she was healed. A beautiful woman indeed. She didn't moan as mother-in-laws are traditionally known. Complaining can steal your miracle.

Yeshua has power over life and death, so weep not. He is the resurrection and life, so you shall rise again. If Lazarus, Jairus's daughter and the widow's son, could rise, it is your turn. So weep not. Don't weep at all. Those dry bones will arise again.

Yeshua is in every boat of life. The billows will tossed, the waters will rise, and the tempest will rage. One thing is sure: The Master of ocean and earth and sky is in the boat.

The wind and the sea obey His will. Do not be discouraged. Don't be afraid.

There was no separate healing and deliverance service. Everything happened simultaneously; just preach the word and let the Lord have His way.

There should not be a special day or place for miracles. Miracles can happen anywhere and at any event. Please do not seek your miracle in a particular corner or worship day. Christ did it in the Synagogue, on the sea, in the desert, among the crowd, so it could be on the train, bus, office, farm, Church, school or anywhere.

Be careful of those that lure people with magic and fake “Points of contact”. Those red and yellow clothes are nowhere written in the Bible.

The people who got some of the miracles had good reports. People spoke on their behalf. The question is, can anybody say any good things about you and me?

The Centurion could not see his servant die but came on his behalf to Jesus. May we have good reports at Church, at home, in the office, in our neighbourhood, everywhere. Commendations make a way in life.

The men who removed the roof to bring down the sick man did well. Those who told Jesus of Peter’s mother-in-law were helpers who facilitated some miracles. These can be seen as those who stand in the gap for others, whether in prayers, encouragement or help.

They know how to get help. The Centurion besought the Jews to talk to Jesus. Some of us are too shy to ask for help. Please put shyness aside.

They were happy to tell others about Jesus, although they were told not to say anything. They were not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus. Please share your testimony to build people’s faith.

Be wary of the crowd that will not help you. The ruler of the Synagogue had his house friends who couldn’t add value to him. When Jesus came to raise her dead daughter, they laughed at Jesus

to scorn. They despise Holy things and do not have the same faith as you. These people could be friends, relatives or colleagues. Their negative influence may hinder your miracle. Jesus took the blind men away from the crowd to heal them.

They had faith, like the woman with the issue of blood. She was also intentional and purposeful.

They ventured to do the impossible. They were told to go and see the Priest, and they went.

They believed.

They were straightforward with their answer. Do you believe it? Yes, Lord, I believe. Amen.

Importunate- the Lepers, blind Bartimaeus, the Syrophenician- Don't allow barriers to keep you away from progress, miracles and goodness.

They were not ashamed of the testimony of Yeshua. The blind man was happy to confront the religious of his convictions. They had the impetus to ask who made him see. Were they glad that he was born blind? Some think they have all the rights, and some don't.

Most miracles are for the glory of God, not because anyone sinned- the blind man and Lazarus.

The other miracles were instantaneous, but there was an unusual one. The Lord touched him again to get his sight fully restored. It may look like the healing is lagging, the promise is hanging, and the delay is weighing in. Jesus is still on the Throne.

You shall be loosed, no matter how long the sickness has lingered. It might be that it needs a second touch.

Those who got the miracle followed Jesus, asked for mercy and were not silent about it.

The crowds were well-behaved. They sat quietly for their meal, no rush.

The demons knew Jesus and could not stay a minute longer when

He turned up.

Don't have an entitlement mentality. The gentile leper came to say thank you, but the others did not come back. Gratitude will keep your miracle. Say a little thank you, and don't keep back.

Do not worry if the situation is dead for four days and stinking. Jesus will bring it back to life.

Goodness and wealth can still be found in the mouth of a fish. God will supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Don't look for the living among the dead or go back to fishing you left behind. Jesus will supply all your needs. He knows all the hows and wheres.

The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me. Matthe 11:5-6

Now is our time for a miracle. Jesus Christ has power over nature and demons and devils. He created everything and owns all. This is the end of the story. With that said, He can do all things.

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Reference

Thompson, F., 2011. The Thompson Chain-Reference.
5th ed. Indianapolis: B.B. Kirkbride Bible Company, INC.

We have used the King James Version Thompson Chain Reference Bible for thirty-one years, which has been a blessing to us as a family. This Bible offers no commentary on any subject in the Word, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide and speak to you directly. The chain-reference system gets one into the lifestyle of comparing Scriptures to Scriptures, which makes one appreciate the power of the Word of God.

The miracles our Lord Jesus did and is still doing are for everyone. Make a move, be intentional, take away doubt, don't give room to discouragement. God's mercies are still overflowing like a river.

Pastor Grace co-labours with her husband in ministry. A nurse by background with a BSc in Health Education, and Post Graduate studies in Management and Project Management.



Pastor Grace is married to Apostle George Akalonu and they are blessed with five children, Favour, Elect, Arise, Praise and Destiny.



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