

JOHN 5:36
TESTIMONY OF MIRACLES!

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to John chapter 5 as we continue our in-depth study of the Gospel of John.

Keep in mind that the words that Jesus is speaking forth in our study this morning, and in our studies over the last several weeks, were born out of what took place at the Pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem.

There at this pool the sick would come and wait for the waters to be stirred and when that took place, the first one in those waters would be healed, at least that is what they believed.

And for the most part, those who were not really that sick would be able to enter the water first and the rest, the lame, the blind and-so-on, would never make it.

That was the problem for this man who sat there waiting for the waters to be stirred, a man who was lame, paralyzed for thirty-eight years.

And one day, as Jesus saw this man, He asked him, “**Do you want to be made well?**” (John 5:6)

Kind of a cruel question if you think about it, but Jesus was not being cruel, He was just asking him a question because He was able to heal him! And what He was doing was trying to draw this man’s faith out.

Now the man was still thinking of getting into those waters to be healed and he tells Jesus that he has no one to place him into those waters!

And Jesus tells this man, “**Rise, take up your bed and walk.**” (John 5:8)

Keep in mind that for thirty-eight years he has not walked and now Jesus tells him to stand and walk, and he does!

Now you would think that everyone would be praising God for this miracle in this man's life, but not everyone was praising God for this!

You see, the Jewish religious leaders were angry that this man was carrying his bed or mat on the Sabbath.

Not only that, but they are mad that Jesus healed this man on the Sabbath! He could have done it on any other day, but on the Sabbath, not cool man!

But think about that for a minute. These Jewish religious leaders could not heal this man, help this man, and yet they were coming against the work that Jesus did in healing him!

We are told in John 5:16 how mad they were at Jesus, "**For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath.**"

And then Jesus goes on to tell these Jewish religious leaders that He is Almighty God, equal with God the Father and if you thought they were mad that He healed this man on the Sabbath, you ain't seen nothing yet. I am sure smoke was coming out their ears on this one!

How do I know that? Listen to what we are told in John 5:18, "**Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.**"

You see, these Jewish religious leaders understood completely what Jesus was saying and they wanted to kill Him even more than they did before!

So here is the problem. These Jewish religious leaders do not believe that Jesus is God, equal with God the Father.

Because of that we see Jesus show them that He is with three main points. He shows them His . . .

EQUALITY IN CREATION

EQUALITY IN POWER

EQUALITY TO JUDGE

In other words, just as God the Father created all things, Jesus was also actively involved in creation!

Just as God the Father has power to do all things, Jesus has that same power as God the Father!

And just as judgment is committed to God the Father since He is God, we see that this judgment has now been given to Jesus because He is God!

But, as we said last time, that was Jesus testifying for Himself and as He said in John 5:31, **“If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true.”**

Now Jesus is not saying that He was not speaking the truth. His point is simple. The Jewish religious leaders did not believe Him because it was His own testimony and thus, they believed He was lying.

Jesus was not lying, not at all. He can't lie because God can't lie. We are told in Numbers 23:19, **“God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”**

We also know that in the Jewish Law you needed two or three witnesses to establish a matter, because the person making the claim could be lying. Again, Jesus was not but He will show them, with some four witnesses, and five if you count Moses in John 5:45-46 to prove that He is Almighty God!

Last week we began with the first witness and that was John the Baptist.

And his testimony was that Jesus is the Messiah, He is “**. . . The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**” John 1:29.

And John is a powerful witness of who Jesus is and this put these Jewish religious leaders in a dilemma. You see, if they rejected the words of John the Baptist regarding Jesus being the Messiah, being Almighty God, then the people would come against these Jewish religious leaders because they saw John as a prophet from God.

But, if they accepted what John the Baptist had to say about Jesus, then they would have to accept that Jesus is Almighty God!

And that is just the first witness!

This morning we are going to look at this second witness or the – ***TESTIMONY OF MIRACLES!***

Now some may say, “***Wait a minute. We see Moses, Elijah, even Elisha and others do miracles, and they were not God! So why should these miracles that Jesus did prove that He is Almighty God?***”

First of all, these men never claimed to be God, but servants of the living God!

And as true as that is, we have people, even today, who claim they have done miracles and they claim that they are God!

Just because a miracle is done does not mean it is of God or the person is God.

Remember the warning that God gave the children of Israel regarding false prophets that would come, and they would do miracles and these miracles would be used to deceive people into believing them, that they were of God and yet they were leading the people away from the true and living God!

We see this in Deuteronomy 13:1-5 where we are told, **“If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods’ - which you have not known – ‘and let us serve them,’ you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him. But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken in order to turn you away from the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of bondage, to entice you from the way in which the Lord your God commanded you to walk. So you shall put away the evil from your midst.”**

Make no mistake about it, there have always been false prophets that are compelling people to follow them and not the Lord. The problem is that these false prophets have a dream that comes to pass. They perform a sign to show you what they can do, pointing you away from God. They do a wonder that is amazing, but it does not draw you closer to Jesus.

You see, all miracles, signs and wonders are not of God!

Does that statement shock you?

Some of you may be shocked but Paul gives us this warning in II Thessalonians 2:9, **“The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders.”**

Paul uses the same words for **“signs and wonders”** that are used for what Jesus is doing; the only difference here is that these are lying signs and wonders!

In fact, Paul tells us in II Corinthians 11:13-15, **“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.”**

So the children of Israel were warned and so too are we, and we have to be wise about these things so that we are not deceived!

Now, think about what Jesus said and what we are seeing today in this world and what others have claimed over the years with the miracles that they have done!

Are they God?

No, they are not!

But why? Jesus did miracles and claimed to be God and now they are doing the same and claiming to be God, so what is the difference?

There is one big difference, and I will explain that in our study this morning. You see, there is one miracle that only God can do. There is no man who can do this, although they can claim anything, but they truly can't do it, they are not qualified to.

And the Jewish religious leaders of Jesus' day understood that, and we will again see that in our study this morning.

With that as our introduction, let's begin our study in John chapter 5, beginning in verse 36 as we look at this topic, the – ***TESTIMONY OF MIRACLES!***

JOHN 5**VERSE 36**

Now, as much as we saw the witness of John the Baptist and how powerful it was, Jesus is telling us that the witness of His works, the things that He did, the miracles that He performed are greater than the witness of John the Baptist!

Now here is the million-dollar question. ***“What works has God the Father sent God the Son to do that gives to us this greater testimony or witness than the witness of John the Baptist?”***

We will look at some of the miracles that Jesus did showing that He is the Messiah, the One that the Jewish people were waiting for, but we need to deal with this one issue that sets Jesus apart from anyone else.

So what is this work?

Remember what we read in John 3:16-17, **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”**

God the Father sent God the Son into the world so that sinful man can be saved, and Jesus not only came to do that work, but He came to finish it!

We are told in John 4:34, **“Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.’”**

From His birth in Bethlehem until He was crucified on the cross of Calvary and rose from the grave that third day, Jesus came to *FINISH* the work that He was sent to do, and He finished it!

Keep in mind that the Rabbis believed that only God can forgive sins, and thus, if Jesus claimed to forgive the sins of a person, then He must be Almighty God! And He is.

But do we see Jesus doing that in the Scriptures?

Yes, we do!

Let me show you what I mean.

In Mark 2:1-5 we are told, **“And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven you.’”**

Here we see that Jesus returns to Capernaum, back to Peter’s house. And notice that the focus is the preaching of the Word of God!

We are also told that the house was packed with people! In fact, it was so crowded that there was no room even to sit down!

And then we are introduced to four men who are carrying their paralyzed friend, a man who couldn’t walk, to Jesus, for he couldn’t get there on his own.

But as they arrive, the house is packed, so they carry him up to the top of the roof, removing part of the roof, and they lower him down right in front of Jesus.

Keep in mind that this roof was probably some two feet thick, and they are tearing it apart to make an opening to lower their friend to Jesus to be healed. There is dirt, maybe some grass growing on top of this roof, and nothing stops them. That is determination.

They knew if they could bring their friend to Jesus, He would be healed.

Now picture what is going on here. Jesus is teaching and as He is teaching this roof is being torn off. Pieces of the roof were probably falling down around Jesus.

And Jesus is not mad at what they were doing, interrupting His teaching. What we see here is that Jesus reached out to this man with love and compassion. And Jesus says, “**Son, your sins are forgiven you.**”

Now I tend to think that these guys on the roof were at least thinking if they weren't shouting, “***No, heal him, make him whole again. Make him stand up on his feet, that is why we brought him to You!***”

And you know what, that is exactly what Jesus was doing, healing him, making him whole again, both physically and spiritually.

You see, most paralysis in those days was due to syphilis, a sexually transmitted disease. And now, at the end of his life, paralyzed, no hope, he is brought to Jesus. His sickness was a direct result of sin, but not all sickness is.

Now we see it was the faith of his friends that brought him to Jesus, but that is as far as they could go. It was his own faith that brought the forgiveness of sin, for the forgiveness of sin can only come to them who repent of it and come to Jesus!

But that is not the end of the story, not even close. We are told in Mark 2:6-7, **“And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, ‘Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?’”**

As Jesus says that this man’s sins are forgiven, these religious leaders, sitting up front because of their position, were outraged at what Jesus said.

They knew what Isaiah 43:25 said, **“I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; and I will not remember your sins.”**

You see, they knew only God could forgive sins, and they rejected the possibility that Jesus is God, even though He is going to give them an awesome show of His power.

Now it is funny to me that there are those who say that God is not the only one who can forgive sins, but that is not true. At least the Jewish religious leaders were honest about this and understood that only God can forgive sins and thus, this man named Jesus was claiming to be God!

What can Jesus do to prove that He is God and thus, able to forgive sins?

Listen to what we are told in Mark 2:8-12, **“But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, ‘Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise, take up your bed and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins’ - He said to the paralytic, ‘I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.’ Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, ‘We never saw anything like this!’”**

I like what Jesus does here. He challenges them with this question. He asks them what is easier, to forgive sins or to heal this paralytic?

Obviously it would be easier to say your sins are forgiven for it would be difficult to prove or disprove.

But, if you healed someone, the evidence would be right there for all to see.

So Jesus, to authenticate what He has done, forgiving this man's sins, says in verse 10, **"I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go your way to your house."** And he immediately rose to his feet!

In other words, what Jesus was doing was showing them that He is Almighty God and has the power to forgive a person's sins! They all saw this miracle and thus, He must be God and He must be able to forgive sins because He is God!

Now the evidence was before them as Jesus heals this man. They could not deny the healing, but they, like many today, they refuse to believe that Jesus is God, so they will come up with an alternative explanation to prove their position. How sad to go to that extreme to reject the truth!

For the crowds of people, they were saying, **"We never saw anything like this!"** They were amazed!

Yes, they never saw anything like this before because no man could do this. Yes, they could do miracles by the power of God but not by their own strength. But to forgive sins, they have not seen anyone who is able to do this, until now!

We see this forgiveness of sins by Jesus spoken of once again in Luke 7:36-50, where we are told, **“Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee’s house, and sat down to eat. And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee’s house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil. Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, ‘This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner.’ And Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Simon, I have something to say to you.’ So he said, ‘Teacher, say it.’ ‘There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?’ Simon answered and said, ‘I suppose the one whom he forgave more.’ And He said to him, ‘You have rightly judged.’ Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, ‘Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little.’ Then He said to her, ‘Your sins are forgiven.’ And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, ‘Who is this who even forgives sins?’ Then He said to the woman, ‘Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.’”**

In this story Jesus is invited to eat at the house of Simon, a Pharisee. Not all the Pharisees were against Jesus, and this one seems to be intrigued by Jesus, wants to hear more about this man named Jesus!

Now, in those days a house was often built around an open courtyard. Thus, when you had a guest over, you would leave the door open so others could gather in the courtyard and listen to your conversation with the guest.

It would seem that is what is taking place here as this woman, a notorious sinner, comes before Jesus. And keep in mind that this tells us more than the fact that she was a sinner in the sense that all people are.

She was a particularly notorious sinner – most suppose that she was a prostitute. Her presence in the Pharisee's home showed courage and determination on her part. When you think about her actions, she was pretty bold. She was known as a sinner and to enter the house of a Pharisee took a lot of guts, but she was willing to do anything to show her love for Jesus.

As she entered this house she then came to Jesus with her alabaster flask and began to wash His feet with her tears and wiping them with her hair. Then she broke this flask and poured out this fragrant oil on the feet of Jesus. Why didn't she pour it on His head, which was the common thing to do?

Keep in mind that back then, ***“People reclined on low couches at festive meals, leaning on the left arm with the head towards the table and the body stretched away from it. The sandals were removed before reclining.”*** (Morris)

And yes, normally this oil was used on someone's head and, ***"In all probability, the woman intended to anoint Jesus' head with her perfume. But, because Jesus, like the other participants, reclined with His head toward the table, the closest the woman could get to Jesus was His feet."*** (Pate)

I think that is what is going on here, that is why she anointed the feet of Jesus and not His head with this costly oil.

Now keep in mind that everyone was watching what was going on, including the owner of this house, this Pharisee who invited Jesus to eat with him.

As Simon watches what is taking place, he does not see Jesus as a prophet because He has allowed this sinful woman to touch Him, and they felt defilement can be transferred by touching!

Remember, the religious leaders would tuck their robes in so they would not touch a common person, a sinner, and yet look at what Jesus allowed this woman to do.

And we can see that religious tradition, religious teaching was getting in the way of this man seeing Jesus for who He is, Almighty God!

And Jesus always tries to draw the faith out of the person He is dealing with and here, to do that, He uses a parable to make His point. The point is simple, and Simon got it. The more you are forgiven the more you are to love.

For Simon, he almost seemed to hesitate in answering this question of Jesus. He said, **"I suppose the one whom he forgave more."**

Maybe Simon saw Jesus in action against the other religious leaders and how He silenced them. And it may be that he thought this is not going to turn out well for him either, but at least he did answer Jesus and correctly so. The one who was forgiven more will love him more!

Now the application and it is going to hit home, it is going to nail Simon. In saying that, please understand that Jesus is not trying to insult this man but to draw out his faith and to show Simon that not only is this woman a sinner, but so is he!

You see, this woman came to Jesus for the forgiveness of her sins and all Simon could do is see her as a sinner. He was not interested in helping her.

And Jesus tells Simon, “**Do you see this woman?**” I find that interesting because it was Simon who thought that Jesus could not see this woman and Jesus is telling Simon he can’t see her.

What does Jesus mean by that? He wants Simon to see this woman’s love, her repentance, her devotion to Jesus and that is something that Jesus saw and yet Simon did not!

And to drive that point home we see Jesus contrast her love to Simon’s lack of common courtesy that he should have given to Him as a guest. That is the washing of His feet, the kiss of a greeting, the anointing of His head with oil and yet this sinner has come to Jesus and done all those things to Jesus out of love, in the anticipation of her being forgiven.

Here’s the thing. The key to her forgiveness was faith. She saw herself as a sinner, she repented and believed that Jesus could set her free from her sins, and He did!

She came in broken over her sins and she left in peace with the forgiveness of her sins.

The key is here in Luke 7:48, where Jesus said to this woman, “... **Your sins are forgiven.**”

Once again only God can forgive our sins and thus, what Jesus was showing this woman, showing Simon, was that He is Almighty God and He was also showing these Jewish religious leaders this very thing, even though most of them did not believe He was!

And all that Jesus did pointed to the fact that He is the Messiah, the One they were waiting for. They pointed to the fact that Jesus is God!

Remember the words of Nicodemus in John 3:1-2, **“There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, ‘Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.’”**

Nicodemus recognized that there was something special about Jesus, something different about Him. He realized that He could not do these things if God was not with Him! And God was with Nicodemus in the Person of Jesus!

In John 10:25 we are told, **“Jesus answered them, ‘I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father’s name, they bear witness of Me.’”**

In other words, if they would only examine the things that they saw Jesus do they would see that He is the Messiah. The works He did should have answered their question!

We are told in Isaiah 35:5-6 regarding the Messiah, **“Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert.”** His works are the evidence of who He is!

You see, the problem wasn’t that Jesus was unclear about who He was and where He came from. The problem was that the religious leaders had hearts of unbelief! They were not interested in the truth because they had already come to their conclusions on the matter!

And the whole reason John wrote this Gospel is given to us in John 20:30-31 where we are told, **“And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”**

The reason John wrote this Gospel is so the reader would come to believe in Jesus, that He is the Messiah, He is Almighty God! That is why this is such a great Gospel for unbelievers to read because it shows the deity of Jesus and how He came to save man from His sins!

In this Gospel John picked seven miracles while the other synoptic Gospels cover some 35 miracles, but John builds his case for Christ around these seven:

1. ***WATER INTO WINE – 2:1-11.***
2. ***HEALING THE OFFICIALS SON IN CAPERNAUM – 4:46-54.***
3. ***HEALING AN INVALID AT THE POOL OF BETHESDA IN JERUSALEM – 5:1-18.***
4. ***FEEDING THE 5,000 MEN NEAR THE SEA OF GALILEE – 6:5-14.***
5. ***WALKING ON THE SEA OF GALILEE – 6:16-21.***
6. ***HEALING THE BLIND MAN IN JERUSALEM – 9:1-7.***
7. ***RAISING LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD IN BETHANY – 11:1-45.***

Why is that so important?

Because the miracles that Jesus did were the fulfillment of what the Old Testament prophets spoke of the Messiah!

Let me show you what I mean. In Matthew 11:1-3 we are told, **“Now it came to pass, when Jesus finished commanding His twelve disciples, that He departed from there to teach and to preach in their cities. And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples and said to Him, ‘Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?’”**

We don’t get a lot of details here, but in Matthew chapter 14 we see why John the Baptist was placed in prison.

The reason being is that he came against the marriage of Herod Antipas and his brother Phillip’s wife, Herodias.

So John is thrown in prison for coming against this relationship.

How often people come against us because we stand up for righteousness, the things of God. That was the problem for John. He was in prison because he stood up for righteousness and when the light shown upon the darkness of what Herod had done, he tried to extinguish the light by placing him in the Machaerus prison which was located about 5 miles east of the Dead Sea.

Now I do believe John the Baptist recognized Jesus as the Messiah because in John 1:29-34 we are told, **“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of whom I said, “After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.” I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water.’ And John bore witness, saying, ‘I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, “Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.” And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.”**

Then why is John the Baptist doubting here?

Because difficult situations can cause us to doubt the promises of God. He was in prison.

Because unmet expectations can cause us to doubt the promises of God. He thought Jesus would purge the Romans from the land and Jesus would rule and reign.

But that was not happening and now he is in prison, so, in his mind he is thinking that maybe Jesus is not the one!

You see, limited perception of what was going on caused him to doubt the promises of God. He did not see that Jesus came the first time as the Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world and He is coming again as the Lion from the tribe of Judah to put down the rebellion and rule and reign!

Yes, he said that Jesus is the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world, but again, the situation he was in caused confusion, doubt in his mind!

Can that happen in our own lives?

You bet it can and it does!

How can we combat doubt in our lives?

Simple. Biblical revelation, get into God's Word and see what God has to say. And then we should joyfully submit to what God is doing. We should trust that He knows best, and He is in control!

Even though the situation may not look good, even though we may not understand it, we have to trust that God loves us and has what is best for our lives and that will dispel the doubt that can arise in our lives!

For John, his doubt about Jesus being the Messiah caused him to send a couple of his followers to Jesus and ask Him if He is the One or is there another we should be looking for. It is an honest question born out of doubt on John's part!

So as these disciples of John the Baptist come to Jesus, they ask Him if He is the One or should they be looking for another? And Jesus was not angry with John for this question. It was an honest question.

Now think of how Jesus could have answered this question. ***"Of course I AM! What is wrong with you guys?"***

No, Jesus does not answer them this way. What Jesus tells these men of John is to listen and look at the miracles that were done and then go back and tell John those things you have seen and heard.

Again, what we see here is Jesus authenticating His ministry by fulfilling what the Old Testament prophets said that the Messiah would do when He came!

Remember what we read in Isaiah 35:5-6, **"Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert."**

Jesus, to encourage John told the disciples of John to go back and tell John what they have seen!

What did they see?

They saw that the blind could see, the deaf could hear, the lame could walk and-so-on. And Jesus did not use the exact words that Isaiah used here but you clearly get the idea that Jesus, the Messiah came to bring the salvation of God to the people, and He did so with these accompanying signs of miraculous power.

And once again, He is showing that He is Almighty God!

Let me give you one more example to show you that Jesus is Almighty God, that the miracles that He did prove it.

In Luke 8:43-48 we are told, **“Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any, came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped. And Jesus said, ‘Who touched Me?’ When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, ‘Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, ‘Who touched Me?’” But Jesus said, ‘Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me.’ Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately. And He said to her, ‘Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace.’”**

We are told in early verses that as He went, **“the multitudes thronged Him.”** The ancient Greek word that is translated **“thronged”** means ***“almost suffocated him-so great was the throng about him.”*** (Clarke)

This is the same Greek root word that is used in Luke 8:7 that describes the choking of the seed of the word!

All these people pressing in upon Jesus as He is trying to make His way to the home of Jairus and heal his daughter who is dying! That is what He is trying to do but on the way, He encounters this woman with this issue of blood!

Keep in mind that Luke was a physician, and he tells us that this woman spent all she had to be cured of this bleeding problem with no help at all from these doctors.

For 12 years she has been ceremonially unclean, untouchable and unable to touch anyone. Can you imagine that kind of life, isolated, unclean and you could not touch anyone, not even your husband! She was desperate as you can imagine!

In fact, according to the Jewish ideas at this time, if this woman touched anyone, she imparted her uncleanness to them, an uncleanness that would not allow them to take part in any aspect of Israel's worship (Leviticus 15:19-31).

And yet, like Jairus, she was willing to risk it all to be touched or to touch Jesus.

Now, please understand that when she touched the hem of His garment Jesus was not made unclean, but she was made whole!

Now some are troubled by what this woman did, touching the hem of His garment. One writer put it like this,

“The word ‘fringe’ [**border**] is the Greek word *kraspedon*, the Septuagint term for the tassel which male Jews were to wear on the corners of their outer garments.” (Pate)

The woman approached Jesus with a degree of superstition, thinking there was power in the border of His garment. Yet there was also an element of faith, because there is no evidence that Jesus had ever healed that way before.

- David Guzik

I do disagree with that. I think she was acting in faith here. I don't believe that there was any superstition here.

How can I be so sure?

Because I believe that she acted in faith!

How did she do that?

I believe she knew what the prophet Malachi said, "**But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves.**" Malachi 4:2.

The Hebrew word for "**wings**" can speak of the hem or edge of a garment and I believe that is how this woman saw it!

You see, Malachi is saying that the Messiah will bring healing in the hem of His garment and thus, she understood what the prophet had said, and she now believes that Jesus is the Messiah and touches the hem of His garment and she is instantly healed!

It was a step of faith on her part.

We too, by faith, obey what the prophets and the apostles have said and there is healing in Jesus, and we are instantly healed of our sins as we come and touch Him, as His blood cleanses us!

So as this woman touches Jesus, He responds by saying, "**Who touched me?**"

You have to love His disciples because they thought that was a ridiculous question for the crowds of people were all around Him, touching Him.

Yes, many people touched Jesus, but this was different.

You see, there is a difference between thronging, like the people were doing, and touching Him, like this woman did.

Many people today are thronging in churches, but they are not reaching out in faith and touching Jesus, there is a difference!

Again, I believe this is a clear indication that Jesus is the Messiah, the One the Old Testament prophets spoke of.

But some may argue that the Messiah was to be just a man and not God. So why do I think that Jesus is God and not just a man sent by God? In fact, that is exactly what the Jewish religious leaders believed, that the Messiah would be a man like Moses and not God.

The problem with that is that they have not read or really understood what the Scriptures are saying because they have their preconceived ideas and they refuse to see and believe!

Let me show you why I believe this without a doubt.

First of all, in Micah 5:2 we are told, **“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.”**

What we see here is just one of the over 300 prophecies of the Lord’s First Coming, where He is to be born.

Now Ephrathah is an ancient name for the city of Bethlehem. And we see here that Micah is telling us that this is not the Bethlehem in the north, but this is the one in Judah, very specific. And yes, it is the place where King David was born, Bethlehem but it was a nothing town.

In fact, when it says, **“Though you are little among the thousands of Judah”** the idea is that this town was *“too little,”* they could not even gather 1,000 men for war. And yet, this obscure little town was going to bring forth the Messiah - the ruler of Israel!

The Jews believed that Jesus was not their Messiah because their Messiah is not going to be God but a man, as I have said.

But if they only looked closer at the Scriptures because they show us that the Messiah is going to be more than just a man!

Notice what it says about Him in the last part of Micah 5:2, **“Whose goings forth have been from of old, From everlasting.”**

That phrase is literally saying that the Messiah existed from beyond the vanishing point. That no matter how far back in time you go, Jesus existed. The eternal God, Jesus Christ, stepped into our time domain and dwelt amongst us as a man, and being fully God.

Many like to deny the deity of Jesus, they will say that He is *“a god”* but not *“Almighty God.”*

Let me just make one point on this and hopefully it is enough. And keep in mind that the Scriptures are filled with verses that show us He is Almighty God, they show us the deity of Jesus!

But let’s just keep this simple. In Matthew 1:23 we are told, **“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, ‘God with us.’”** How clear is that! Who is with us? God is with us! Notice, not *“a”* god, but *“God!”*

And remember that God became flesh, He dwelt among us to pay the penalty for our sins, God did this for us. It is as Peter tells us **“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.”** I Peter 3:18.

Only a perfect sacrifice could be offered for our sins, only God is perfect!

The Bible tells us that Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. (Revelation 22:13) This means from the very beginning, Jesus was there. There was never a time when the Jesus did not exist as I have said!

It is as Clarke wrote, “**He was *before* all things. As he is the *Creator* of all things, so he is the *Eternal*, and *no part* of what was *created*. All being but God has been *created*. Whatever has *not been created* is God. But Jesus is the *Creator* of all things; therefore he is God; for he cannot be a *part* of his *own work*.”**

I love Isaiah 44:6, and I know, more than one verse but the Scriptures are very clear. Listen to what we are told here in Isaiah 44:6, “**Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God.**”

First of all, we see *Yahweh*, the King of Israel or God the Father.

But notice what it says next. “**And his Redeemer.**” My point is this. This is not speaking of God the Father here but another person.

Now some may argue that this is not God but listen carefully to what it is saying. It is speaking of his Redeemer, the *Yahweh* of hosts!

In other words, the redeemer, who is Jesus, for He is the One who has redeemed us, is Almighty God, if they only read their Scriptures with an open heart!

And Isaiah 53 speaks of the Messiah bearing the iniquity, the sin of all mankind. Listen to what it says, **“Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”**

The animal sacrifices had to be without spot or blemish and they could never take away a person’s sins. They covered the sins of people until they sinned again.

But the Messiah was to come and take away the sins of the World and only God is that perfect sacrifice, without spot or blemish, without sin.

His power over sickness, His power over nature, His power over the spirit world showed that He was more than just a man, He is God!

Look at what we have seen in this study as Jesus shows us the – ***TESTIMONY OF MIRACLES!***

The biggest miracle, the One that the Father sent Him to accomplish, and He finished the work, was the paying in full the penalty for our sins, that we are forgiven, completely!

Let me share this with you and then I will close. We are told,

Financial debt can feel challenging, and even overwhelming. However, spiritual debt is much more dangerous, because its impact is eternal.

All of us have a spiritual debt we cannot pay, but the Bible tells us God has paid our debt! He canceled the payment due for our sins and instead accepted the payment His Son Jesus provided when He died on the cross (Colossians 2:14).

God grants this freedom to all who choose to follow Jesus (Colossians 2:13).

Jesus once encountered a woman who recognized the depth of her sin (Luke 7:36-50). Her love toward Jesus overflowed into service because she was so grateful to experience forgiveness.

She received forgiveness for her spiritual debt, and it changed her life forever. Likewise, accepting God's payment for our spiritual debt means our obligation is paid in full, enabling us to live as his free children.

The chorus to the song "*Jesus Paid It All*" proclaims, "*Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe; sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.*"

- <https://bit.ly/3FtOtlm>

May we never forget that Jesus paid it all!

It is as Peter said on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2:22, "**Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know.**"

So, the works of Jesus testify of who He is, God incarnate, the Messiah!