



Miracles of Jesus

A miracle can be understood as an extraordinary event outside the realm of natural law that results from the intervention of God into human history. Miracles were an integral component of Jesus ministry with all three synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke) including a range of miracles performed at the hand of Jesus. John's gospel refers to miraculous events as *signs*. Scripture scholars categorize the miracles of Jesus into four forms:

- Nature miracles *e.g. feeding the 5000; calming storms*
- Restoration miracles *e.g. raising Jairus' daughter; raising Lazarus from the dead*
- Healing miracles *e.g. giving the blind sight; enabling the lame to walk*
- Exorcisms *e.g. casting out demons*

It is important to note that miracles should not be viewed as magical acts or trickery. Historical accuracy should not be the primary focus of education in faith. Rather, the miracles of Jesus should be understood in terms of his broader mission – his proclamation and embodiment of the Reign of God encapsulated by Jesus when he taught in the synagogue, quoting the prophet Isaiah:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.

Luke 4: 16-19

Miracles give the modern day believer a glimpse of God's reign in-breaking into history; a foretaste of God's full revelation; for "when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is."

1 John 3:2