

Man of Miracles

By Roelf L. Ruffner

“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).

Our Savior while He was on this earth was a worker of miracles. His miracles were irrefutable and documented by eye-witnesses. They were not parlor tricks or shenanigans to impress people so he could get their allegiance and money (cf. Acts 8:9-11). Nor did they out shine His teaching but confirmed that His words were from God (cf. Heb. 2:3,4).

Yet His miracles did more than that. They displayed His character; what kind of person he was. For example, the Christ had deep compassion for others. When a leper fell at his feet asking for healing he did not turn away in horror and revulsion; since leprosy left disfigurement and running sores. Under the Law of Moses lepers were to live outside of communities (Num. 5:2) and to holler “Unclean, Unclean!” (Lev. 13:45) if approached. “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” (Mark 1:41,42).

My friends do you and I have compassion for the spiritually ill and those disfigured inwardly (sometimes outwardly) by sin? Do we extend to them the healing hand of the Gospel? “Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases” (Psa. 103:3). What about the wayward Christian who has been unfaithful for “a month of Sundays?” “How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray?” (Mat. 8:12).

The Lord also was a man who deeply respected and kept the law He lived under – the Law of Moses. After He healed a leper he would command him, “See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them” (Mat. 8:4). I

wonder how many priests in Jerusalem had seen a healed leper or performed the purification ceremony before Jesus started His ministry. Many of the chief priests in Jerusalem despised Him because of His condemnation of their sins and hypocrisy. It would have been easy for Him to have disregarded the requirements of the Law concerning leprosy because of this hypocrisy. But this was not in the character of the Son of Man. "O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day" (Psa. 119:97).

Do we reverence and respect the spiritual law we live under as Christians, the "law of Christ" (Gal. 6:2)? Today some brethren teach that baptism for the remission of sins is not necessary as long as one's heart is right. But this shows no respect for the law of Christ which commands baptism as well as repentance for the remission of sins (Mark 16:15,16; Acts 2:38). Others teach that Christians may "live in sin" (cf. Rom. 6:1) as long as "their heart is right." And false teachers claim that the use of mechanical instruments of music in worship is allowed as long as "your heart is right." For these folks the law of Christ has been dethroned by the law of the heart or subjectivism. How, dear reader, may my heart be right with God when I disregard the law of Christ – the teachings of the New Testament? "He that believeth on the Son hath eternal life; but he that obeyeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him" (ASV - John 3:36). "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46).

The miracles of Jesus were more than just a side-show, they pointed to His divinity. For the skeptic, the atheist and the intellectually lazy they can be just as convincing to read about as to witness 2,000 years ago. Do you believe in the miracles of Jesus? Do you believe in the inspired, inerrant words of the Holy Bible? The evidence demands a verdict. "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name" (John 20:30,31).