

New Testament 7
[He] Took Our Infirmities and Bare Our Sicknesses
Mark 1-2; 4-5; Luke 7

(This material adds inspirational background into the greater purposes of Jesus' miracles, thus increasing our faith).

- I. "Oh ye of little faith..." was a phrase used by the Savior over and over again.
- A. It is lack of faith which is the stumbling block for almost everyone who rejects God, rejects Jesus Christ, rejects Christ's Church in the last days, and rejects God's miracles.
 - B. Having an understanding of our pre-mortal existence helps us have greater faith.
 - 1. Knowing Jesus Christ created all things verifies **He has the power to control all things He created**. Therefore, miracles should be understood as merely natural events to Him.
 - 2. Knowing we came here to be tested helps us understand how the Lord dispenses His *unusual* miracles --- that is, they are only given in certain situations.
 - a. Most often, **the Lord deliberately tests us, to see if we will exercise the faith needed to receive such miracles**.
 - b. Those who receive miracles without exercising faith, as sometimes occurs, are tested as to whether they will then develop faith in God and maintain it.

II. When we understand Jesus Christ is the Creator, we realize **the workings of all parts of the awesome universe, including the workings of our amazing bodies, are miracles too, but *usual* miracles set in motion by Him**.

- A. We therefore should recognize we are constantly surrounded by His miracles, which we simply take for granted.
- B. The more we come to know of His great works, both physical and spiritual, the more awe we should feel for Him.
 - 1. We see a small portion of this awe in the woman who cleansed His feet with her hair (Luke 7:38). But if we fully understood all He has done for us, we should all feel such awe!

III. Many of the miracles Jesus performed were deliberate repetitions of miracles performed by His ancient prophets. Since those ancient miracles bore witness of Him, His miracles showed **He had come to fulfill their witness**.

- A. Thus Moses' and other Old Testament miracles were purposely meant to teach of the Messiah *to come*.
- B. **The Miracles of Jesus Christ were purposely used to teach the Messiah *had come***.
- C. As Moses performed miracles, so did **the greater than Moses**. Many of Jesus' miracles had a relationship to Moses' miracles.
 - 1. In Moses' time, **with the help of God**, he brought water from a rock.
 - 2. When Jesus came, **He as God**, brought living waters (i.e., life) out of a stone [tomb].
 - 3. In Moses' time, **with the help of God**, he controlled the winds and waters as Israel crossed the seas.

4. When Jesus came, He controlled the winds and waters, manifesting He was God (Mark 4:35-41)!
 5. As those waters signified Death, Jesus' witness was also that He had power to overcome Death.
- D. As Elijah and Elisha had raised the dead sons of widows (Luke 7:11-17), Jesus did as well. This act certified He had come to raise up the spiritually and physically dead children of "widowed" Israel.
1. For He was Israel's Bridegroom (Mark 2:19-20). And He had formerly cut them off, leaving them as widows.

IV. Christ's miracles were far more than just compassion on individuals.

- A. Jesus healed individuals that were blind, lame, deaf, and leprous.
- B. But those miracles of healing, done to specific individuals, were also witnesses of His greater compassion for all: the *spiritually blind*; the *spiritually deaf*; the *lame who stumble from spiritual weakness*; those *spiritually leprous, unclean and cast out, who are cleansed and welcomed back*.
- C. His spiritual healings are His greatest miracles. His physical healings only witnessed of them.
 1. Matthew testified that He did His miracles, "That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Easias the prophet, saying, [He] Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses (Matthew 8:17)."
 2. And this is the most incredible miracle. For this teaches He did not just heal us of these ailments. **But we took them upon Himself, that we might be healed!**
 3. We all have fit into these categories at times. And we have all been offered healing by Him!

V. Many of Christ's miracles had other deep levels of meaning, such as the casting out of demons.

- A. When Christ cast out devils during His mortal ministry, He did so having compassion upon the individuals thus afflicted. **But these miracles testified of far greater realities.**
 1. Before the Creation, He had with the Father cast out Satan, and all his hosts from Heaven.
 2. His casting out of devils in His mortality verified He had this power.
 3. That gives us sure knowledge that at the end of earth's time, He will bind, then fully cast out Lucifer and his followers *so they have no more power upon men's hearts and minds*. What a great and welcomed miracle that will be!
- B. In the raising of Lazarus, who was deliberately left by Christ to die, sealed in a tomb for over three days, raised up from mortal death to mortal life, He taught of Himself.
 1. He Himself would soon die and be sealed in a tomb for a similar three days. But He too would come out from His stone tomb. But from mortal death to *Eternal Life*.
 2. And so will we all.

VI. Christ's miracles demonstrate His great love and tender concern for the individual.

Thus, **His miracles did not cease when He left the earth.**

- A. He clearly showed that He passed His priesthood on to His apostles, giving them power to continue these miracles of healing.
 - 1. “And he ordained twelve....to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils (Mark 3:14-15).
- B. He continued to bless His people with miracles through the priesthood: first through the apostles until they were all slain; and in the last days through the restoration of His priesthood keys.
- C. Multitudes of times the Spirit has worked through our modern prophets to physically and spiritually heal individuals.
 - 1. These also precious miracles show not only obedience by our prophets to the Spirit, but the love of the Lord who is reaching out through them to those whom He loves.

VII. It would be helpful to recognize why the Lord deliberately used different types of miraculous events in the various dispensations.

- A. The miracles performed in the early dispensations, (Old Testament period), for example, were great and grand, often seen by many and usually involving nature.
 - 1. **These miracles occurred on a grand scale to leave a magnificent record of what the Messiah would do at His coming.**
 - 2. **Thus the great miracles of crossing the Jordan River was witness of Christ’s overcoming Death so His followers could inherit the True Promised Land, Eternal Life.**
- B. When Jesus came, His early miracles were generally private and usually not seen by great multitudes (with some exceptions such as feeding the multitudes in the wilderness).
- C. His greatest miracles, the Atonement and Resurrection, were seen by few and not generally understood at first. But through His servants, the good news spread. And in time, all will come to understand the great significance of these most powerful of all miracles!
- D. **The truth is, there are likely *far more miracles, though they are less grand, which occur today in the lives of the saints than in past dispensations.***
 - 1. **This is true partly because the number of priesthood bearers is greater. Thus they occur everywhere.**
 - 2. **And they regularly occur *in the lives of the simplest members of the Church.***
 - 3. In our dispensation, those miracles are given to help the great latter-day work move forward. Thus they occur in the lives of individual saints to help them in doing missionary work, in doing family history work, in doing temple work, and in serving and strengthening one’s neighbors.
 - 4. These miracles are still Christ’s miracles, for they are done in the name of Jesus Christ and under the priesthood of Jesus the Christ.

Jesus Christ not only took upon Himself our infirmities and bare our sicknesses while upon the earth, **but through His minions of faithful followers He is still healing us today.**