

# The Gospel According to Mark - The Missing Miracle

**April 31, 2019**

**The Missing Miracle Mark 9:9-29**

"In all my weaknesses, you are my confidence"

"In every broken place, you are my righteousness"

What a blessing we can sing the words to that song! When we are weak, Jesus is our confidence because He is our strength! When we are broken in sin, we know that Jesus is our righteousness and if we will let Him, He will help us overcome our unrighteousness! That's sort of the missing miracle for many people. Let's pray and I'll help you see what I'm talking about! Pray!

## **Introduction:**

**The disciples struggle to understand it all**

Mark 9:9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Mark 9:10 They kept the matter to themselves, discussing what "rising from the dead" meant.

Remember I told you last week the disciples were full of questions! Jesus was talking about things that were to come in his life, the cross, His burial, and His resurrection! They are trying to put it all together. They didn't fully understand so Jesus told them to wait until later to tell the other disciples because if they didn't understand with all they had seen, they would simply confuse the other guys. So it would be better to wait until after they had witnessed the Kingdom of God come in power through the cross, the burial and the resurrection of Jesus. Then it would be abundantly clear to them! But now they are full of questions...

Mark 9:11 And they asked him, "Why do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?"

Mark 9:12 Jesus replied, "To be sure, Elijah does come first, and restores all things. Why then is it written that the Son of Man must suffer much and be rejected?"

Mark 9:13 But I tell you, Elijah has come, and they have done to him everything they wished, just as it is written about him."

Ever notice how Jesus many times answered a question with a question? He wants them to think about and to begin to understand why He would have to suffer and be rejected and that this had all been prophesied in Holy Scripture. He also wants them to understand the preparation that had taken place to get people ready for His sacrifice, so He begins to answer their question by explaining who this Elijah of ancient prophecy was.

Who was Elijah? Not the O.T. Elijah they had just seen but his New Testament counterpart. We find this in Matthew 17:13...

Mat 17:13 Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them about John the Baptist.

What did these two men have in common? We don't have time to get into the details, but you can go back and read the story of Elijah in the Old Testament and of John The Baptist in the New Testament. When you do you'll find they both had...

Tough messages to kings

A tough time with evil women

Prophetic words for God's people

Jesus said John, the New Testament Elijah would restore all things. What things did John the Baptist restore?

Truth in preaching

Preaching for the right reasons

A true calling of God for those in leadership

A dependence on God's inspiration

A desire to be God honoring

A ministry not motivated by personal gain (he lived in the wilderness)  
A call for Israel to repent

In fact, John came preaching a message of repentance! You might remember back in Mark 1:1-4...

Mark 1:1 The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Mark 1:2 It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"--

Mark 1:3 "a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

Mark 1:4 And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

You see, the first step in following Jesus is repentance! Being willing to recognize that you have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God, being willing to ask for forgiveness, and being willing, with God's help, to make an about face away from sin and towards God! This repentance leads a person to experience...

### **The Believer's First Miracle New Birth!**

John 3:3 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

John 3:4 "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"

John 3:5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

John 3:6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

John 3:7 You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'

So what does "you must be born again" mean? Again, I believe it is rather clear. I've read many commentaries on the subject and much smarter men than me have surmised various theories on the matter. However, I believe we sometimes try too hard to read something very difficult into something intended to be simple. I believe Jesus was saying that just being born into the physical world God has created does not automatically grant a person entrance into the spiritual kingdom of God! In physical birth the mother's water breaks and then the baby is born physically. But at some point in that child's life, when he or she is old enough to understand the need for repentance, they make a choice to be born again, that is, to allow God to give them life spiritually. We don't have a choice in our physical birth, but we do have a choice in our spiritual birth! When we repent of our sins, through Jesus' work on the cross, the power of sin is broken and we are born again! Peter put it this way...

1 Pet 1:23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

And what does Peter mean when he says "through the living and enduring word of God? He means through Jesus because Jesus is the living Word of God. We find this in the Gospel of John. This is so powerful and really summarizes last week's message and part of today's message beautifully...

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:2 He was with God in the beginning.

John 1:3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

John 1:4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

John 1:5 The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

John 1:6 There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John.

John 1:7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe.

John 1:8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

John 1:9 The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

John 1:10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

John 1:11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

John 1:12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God--

John 1:13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:15 John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'"

John 1:16 From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Do you see how this passage gives amazing insight into the Transfiguration experience of Jesus on the mountain and the beauty of how Jesus came to make a way for us to find salvation, new birth, forgiveness, and hope for eternity? What I'm going to do next is a little bit out of the ordinary for me. Usually every point of my message comes directly from the text we are dealing with. But this next point does not. However, I believe you will see the method to my madness. Our text does talk about repentance, and forgiveness, which is the first miracle for a follower of Christ. What I want to mention briefly is the fact that the first miracle, the miracle of new birth, salvation, leads to...

### **The Believer's Last Miracle Eternal Life in Heaven**

Phil 3:20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,  
Phil 3:21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

So we know that when we repent of our sins and accept Jesus as our Savior, He promises us eternal life in Heaven! That's a promise! That's in your heavenly bank account and God's bank has never had a breach in security! Never! Is there a verse about this security?

John 10:27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

John 10:28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.

John 10:29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all ; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.

John 10:30 I and the Father are one."

So there you go! We call that the Security of the Believer!

Now back to our text and to what I'm going to call the...

### **The Missing Miracle Spiritual Authority**

Mark 9:14 When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them.

Mark 9:15 As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him.

Mark 9:16 "What are you arguing with them about?" he asked.

Mark 9:17 A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech.

Mark 9:18 Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not."

Mark 9:19 "O unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me."

Mark 9:20 So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

Mark 9:21 Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he answered.

Mark 9:22 "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us."

Mark 9:23 "'If you can'?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes."

Mark 9:24 Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

Mark 9:25 When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the evil spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again."

Mark 9:26 The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead."

Mark 9:27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

Mark 9:28 After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"

Mark 9:29 He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer."

## The Missing Miracle Is The Middle Miracle

Our lives should be a daily miracle based on God's grace, love and power.

We have been given the spiritual authority to receive God's grace, love and power on a daily basis. The disciples did not understand, or remember, they had been granted spiritual authority for the situation they faced. Remember back in Mark 6:7?

Mark 6:7 Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits.

Jesus was disappointed with the disciples because even though He had granted them authority to act on His behalf, they obviously did not take Him at His word. And then there's this very interesting aspect of the story concerning the boy's father and his honest confession about his unbelief...

Mark 9:24 Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

Henry Turlington put it this way...

"How well does his confession reflect the difficulties of every man's faith in God! The life of faith is no tranquil experience, without doubt and without turmoil. And this is especially evident in times of personal crisis."

Now I know there are some differences in how all of this works today and how things worked when Jesus was present on the earth and the way things were in the New Testament Church. I'm just going to tell you right up front and be very honest with you, I don't fully understand the differences or why? I'm one of those preachers who will tell you when I don't know something or understand something rather than try to pretend I have it all figured out! I don't! I don't understand why very obvious and very astounding, logic defying miracles seemed common place back then, but not today. Oh they do still happen, but not at the same frequency. I could just say they had more faith than people today, but I've known people with amazing faith and trust in God and who had a beautiful relationship with God who asked God for a miracle of healing and it was not granted in this world! Maybe Jesus, when He was here on earth, was establishing for the people back then His power over all things including nature, and sickness and death and allowed those things to be written and recorded for our sake also! But even those people who received a miracle of healing back then, as I've said before, it was not permanent in this world. They too would eventually face death, the transition from this world to eternity.

But don't get me wrong, the miracle of spiritual authority has been granted to all born again believers, even today. And if God needs to work a logic defying miracle for you to accomplish His will for your life then you'll get that. Talk about a path to peace! And when it comes to your physical life, knowing no matter what your diagnosis, God will either give you an amazing miracle of healing, or use the amazing skills of a physician and modern medicine to meet your needs, or give you an amazing grace to endure with His strength until your transition to glory, and all of this to testify to family and friends the beauty of trusting God with your life! Either way, He will grant you the spiritual authority to be victorious! Amen? Absolutely!

Listen, don't ignore this or misinterpret this! Some ignore spiritual authority and lose the benefits of the power and victory this authority offers to them in their life. Other's misinterpret this to mean a Christian, if they have enough faith, will never face hardship, or sickness, or pain, or trouble. Adrian Rogers has some powerful words on this subject!

"We are already kings and priests meant to live in perpetual victory—not necessarily in ease, wealth, or health, but victory. Kingdom authority is not only for the 'sweet by and by' but for the believer today. It is your birthright and legacy."

Adrian goes on to say . . .

"There are some well-meaning believers in the body of Christ who believe that salvation is the elimination of all pain and suffering. I hate to disappoint them, but life is not 'all honey and no bees,' whether you are saved or lost. Kingdom Authority is not the key to Fort Knox and the fountain of youth rolled into one. It is not the gospel of cash, fancy cars, yachts and vacation homes as promised by the 'joy boys' on television. The truth of spiritual authority has been distorted and often discarded because of this dominion theology gospel saying that you can simply 'name it and claim it' as part of your authority as a believer. 'Just call on the Lord, and you can have it all.'"

Man, Adrian didn't mince words!

When you try to exercise this miraculous spiritual authority in the wrong places and for the wrong reasons you miss the real victory of the Christian life! But you might ask: what then have we been given authority over? How about these things for starters...

The World - Temptation/The More is Better Syndrome/Chasing Worldly Success  
The Devil - Lies/Deception/Fear/Guilt/Condemnation/Depression  
The Self - Greed/Anger/Selfishness/Discouragement

These are the things that destroy most Christians and ruin their lives! You see, once you have given your heart, your soul, your spirit to God through an acceptance of what Jesus did for you on the Cross, once that happens Satan knows he's lost your soul and your eternity. He can't undo the miracle of your salvation and he can't prevent the miracle of your eternal life with God in heaven. The only place he still has the ability to affect is your daily life. Satan will try to destroy the effectiveness of your life and the joy of your life. Satan does this by many different means. Like trying to distract you from your walk with God, and causing you to forget or ignore your kingdom authority to walk in victory over the things of this world.

Satan will try to bring up your past and your failures, but when he does, just remember the miracle of your salvation and forgiveness! Remember your miracle of eternal life. Then remember the miracle that is available to you every day of your life:

The miracle of Jesus walking with you through His Holy Spirit! Remember the miracle of daily victory in Jesus which is real no matter what your circumstances! Paul put this beautifully in his letter to young Timothy...

1 Tim 1:12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service.

1 Tim 1:13 Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief.

1 Tim 1:14 The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

1 Tim 1:15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst.

1 Tim 1:16 But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.

And talking about displaying a message to the world in our daily lives no matter the circumstances, listen to this man's testimony when going through terminal cancer...

He list things cancer cannot do to someone who understands the miracle of faith and trust in a personal relationship with God!

For a believer, cancer...

Cannot cripple love  
Cannot shatter hope  
Cannot corrode faith  
Cannot eat away peace  
Cannot destroy confidence  
Cannot kill friendship  
Cannot shut out memories  
Cannot silence courage  
Cannot invade the soul  
Cannot reduce eternal life  
Cannot quench the spirit  
Cannot lessen the power of the resurrection!

This man had learned how to exercise Kingdom Authority in all circumstances!  
Kingdom Authority, exercised in humility, is powerful enough to change individuals, families, communities, cities, and even nations! Oswald Chambers said this...

"The weakest saint can experience the power of the Deity of the Son of God if once he is willing to 'let go.'

Any strand of our energy will blur the life of Jesus. We have to keep letting go, and slowly and surely the great full life of God will invade us in every part, and men will take knowledge of us that we have been with Jesus.”

The disciples wanted to know why they were unsuccessful in casting out the demon.

Mark 9:29 He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer."

Let's look at the prayer Paul prayed for the Ephesians . . .

Eph 1:17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. . .

Eph 1:18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

Eph 1:19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength,

Eph 1:20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,

Eph 1:21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

Eph 1:22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,

Eph 1:23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Don't let your life be a "Missing Miracle!" If you've accepted Jesus as your Savior, you are forgiven of sin and have been given the promise of eternal life! Those are two amazing miracles. But don't miss the miracle in the middle! The miracle of God's presence in your life on a daily basis through the Living Word, Jesus! Let that relationship transform your life miraculously every day no matter your circumstances! Receive all that God has for you and exercise Kingdom Authority over the world, the devil and your self! Remember the words of Jesus to His disciples...

John 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Let's pray!