

# **Studies in the Miracles of Christ**

**Study Questions Answered**

**Jim Bland**

# Miracles of Christ Study Questions Answered

## Study One: Our Lord's First Miracle

1. What was Jesus' attitude toward marriage?

*Our Lord Jesus, co-creator of the Universe, designed and sanctified marriage by creating Adam and Eve for each other. They were not only to bear children, but they were to be a companion to, and a helper for, one another (Genesis 1: 26-28; 2:18-25, Matthew 19: 5, 6). Jesus celebrated marriage as the most joyful union a man and a woman may experience.*

Why would He expose His followers to such a celebration?

*He was preparing His disciples for a deeper lesson about marriage being a picture of the eternal union of Himself, the Bridegroom, and His Bride, the Church (Revelation 19: 7-9).*

2. How willing was Mary to give Jesus up to His calling? What proof is in this passage?

*Humanly speaking, she was reluctant to give Jesus up, for as a carpenter, He was the primary "bread-winner" of the family. However, she knew that the time would come for Him to be revealed as the Messiah, so she turned to Him to meet a need. Jesus is now 30 years old, the age for men called to the priesthood to begin their ministry (Numbers 4: 3, 47)*

What other scriptures can you find to support what Mary knew about Jesus' calling?

*Jesus calling to the "priesthood" was on display at His baptism (Matthew 3: 13-17; Mark 1: 9-11). Also, John the Baptist, our Lord's forerunner, began his ministry at 30 years of age (John 3: 1-12). John was 6 months older than Jesus (Luke 1: 36). But even before His baptism, Mary was told of her baby's calling and mission (Luke 1: 26-38; 46-55; 2: 8-20; 2: 25-38; 41-52). Look up the words to the popular Christmas song, "Mary Did You Know," and find Bible references to the verses of the song.*

3. What changed Jesus' mind about being ready to reveal His true person and mission?

*The obvious need was to provide more wine, and also, to spare the bride and the bridegroom the embarrassment of not providing for the numerous guests. But the primary reason was to honor the implied request of His mother who, even after being mildly rebuked (v. 4), continued to push Him by saying to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you to do".*

What then is the double meaning behind His reply to Mary that "My hour has not yet come" (v. 4)?

*First, our Lord's primary meaning is that the purpose He was sent by the Father to earth for, was to die for His people's sins on the cross, and to be raised again to give them eternal life (John 3:*

16, 17; 11: 25, 26). The secondary meaning was that His "hour had not yet come" to be revealed as the miracle working Messiah (Isaiah 61: 1,2; Luke 4: 14-21).

4. Why would Jesus ask the servants to fill all 6 jars with water? Why would He make so much wine? What do you think happened to the excess wine?

*The jars each held between 20 and 30 gallons of water, and 6 of them would hold at a minimum over 120 gallons of wine. This fact was included in the story to emphasize the magnitude of Jesus' gift! The jars being filled to the brim would show that the jars contained nothing other than water; nothing else could be mixed with the water to make quality wine.*

5. It is interesting that Scripture reveals Jesus as a "Bridegroom" (John 1:19-28; 3:26-36), and that He, in eternity, will claim His Bride, the Church, at the "Marriage of the Lamb" (Revelation 19:6-9). How purposeful is it that Jesus begins His public ministry at a wedding?

*It was most purposeful that Jesus chose the setting of a joyful wedding to reveal His calling as the promised Messiah, validated by the miracle of changing water into wine. Jesus, the Bridegroom of the Kingdom of God, came to make abundant provision for His Bride, the Church. This first miracle, at a wedding celebration, was a preview of the Kingdom yet to come (Matthew 22: 1-14; 25:1-13) where there will be great joy at the union of Christ and His Church, found in the book of Revelation.*

6. John 20:31 tells us John wrote his gospel to produce belief in the Lord Jesus. What did Jesus' disciples "believe" after seeing this miracle?

*Having seen our Lord's first miracle, the disciples eyes were opened to His oneness with the Father, and they grew in their belief that Jesus was truly the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world", as testified by John the Baptist (John 1: 20-51).*

7. Evaluate how this miracle adds to your faith?

# Miracles of Christ Study Questions Answered

## Study Two: Rise, Pick Up Your Bed

1. What parts of the story indicate how determined the paralytic's friends were to see him healed?

*Having heard of Jesus' earlier ministry at Capernaum (Mark 1:21-34), the four friends purposed to carry their friend to Jesus the next time he came to Capernaum. The mission was not deterred by the large crowd blocking the door to the home or even by them having to "dig through a roof."*

Do you have a story of determination to see a friend's need met, by you or someone else?

2. Who were the religious leaders known as the scribes?

*The scribes were experts in the study and teaching of the law of Moses (Torah). They belonged mainly to the party of the Pharisees. They clashed with Jesus for He taught with authority, "and not as their teachers of the law" (Matthew 7:28,29).*

What profession in our society would be similar to the scribes of the New Testament?

*Lawyers*

Who would the scribes be in our modern-day religious culture?

*They would be religious legalists; those who strictly adhere to the "do's and don'ts" of assumed Christianity in order to earn favor with God.*

3. Read verses 5-7. What was Jesus claiming about Himself?

*Jesus claimed the authority to forgive sin.*

What were the scribes objecting to in these verses?

*The scribes were objecting to Jesus assuming a prerogative reserved only for God Himself, the forgiveness of sin. Jesus' words, in their understanding, made Him a blasphemer: a person who assumes upon himself the rights or qualities of God.*

4. What is your definition of sin?

*Our Westminster Shorter Catechism #14 asks the question: What is sin? The answer is: Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God (1 John 3:4). A sin may be in thought, word, or action.*

Against whom do we sin?

*We sin primarily against God (Psalm 51).*

5. Why did the crowd, having witnessed the miracle, give glory to God and not Jesus?

*The crowd knew that this miraculous power could only come from God Himself. They had yet to understand that Jesus was God in the flesh.*

6. How “determined” are you to see a friend’s sins forgiven? Who might that be?
7. Have you experienced the great spiritual healing of God? Are your sins forgiven? Our Lord says at you are crippled by your trespasses and sins, and need the cleansing word of the Lord Jesus Christ to make you whole.

# Miracles of Christ Study Questions Answered

## Study Three: That Prophet

1. The large crowd following Jesus had paused from their journey to Jerusalem where they were to observe the Passover feast. What is the Passover? (See Exodus, Chapter 12).

*The Passover was an Old Testament sacrament instituted by God through Moses to commemorate the release of the Israelites from 430 years of Egyptian bondage. In the last of the ten plagues against the Egyptians, an angel of death literally passed over each Israelite home where blood was sprinkled on the doorframes. This blood was taken from a one year old lamb which was roasted and eaten with bitter herbs, along with bread made without yeast. The first born of all Egyptian families was taken by the angel of death. This last plague softened Pharaoh's heart, and he released the Israelites to worship God in the wilderness. As a sacrament, the Passover was observed every year, by the Jews in Jerusalem.*

2. What was the significance of Jesus testing Philip with a need that would present itself later in the day?

*Philip was from the nearby town of Bethsaida, and would know if anyone, such as a shopkeeper, could provide the necessary bread to feed such a large crowd. Philip reasoned that it was an impossible task, and that if they had "eight months wages (it) would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite" (v. 7).*

3. If this testing was for Philip's benefit, may we also imply that there are times the Lord tests us for our benefit? If so, what do these times of testing reveal to us?

*The times of "testing" for us reveal our level of trust that God is able to provide all that we need physically, emotionally, and spiritually, as He has promised out of His abundant riches in Jesus Christ (Philippians 4:19, Ephesians 3:16-19, Romans 8:31,32).*

4. Was it necessary for the disciples to gather up the leftover pieces of bread and fish? What lasting impression should it have left in their minds?

*The leftover bread and fish were an object lesson that Jesus is an abundant provider for all who place their trust in Him as their Lord and Savior.*

5. What are some specific practical lessons that show Jesus to be your provider spiritually, as well as physically?

*Why not stop and thank Him right now for all He has provided in your life?*

# Miracles of Christ Study Questions Answered

## Study Four: Why Did You Doubt?

1. Why do you think Jesus needed times of solitude and prayer?

*Times of solitude for Jesus were times of rest and reflection; in His humanity, He grew tired in body and spirit. Jesus also needed times of prayer to commune deeply with the Father, to know His will, affirmation, and encouragement (John 6:38-40, 17:1-26).*

2. What was implied by Jesus choosing to come to the disciples in the midst of a storm, and by walking on the sea?

*The implication was that Jesus is the Lord of the wind and the waves. He is in control of all of nature, for He is the Co-Creator of the universe (Genesis Chapter 1 and 2). Another implication is that He was with them in the midst of their circumstances, and He was able to meet them in whatever trials they were experiencing.*

3. What was it in Peter's personality that caused him to ask Jesus for the "impossible?"

*In Scripture, Peter is often portrayed as being impetuous. He is first among the disciples to speak or act seemingly without thinking, about the consequences of his actions (See Matthew 16:21-23, 17:4, 26:31-35). Asking Jesus for what seemed to be impossible was Peter putting his own faith to the test. The challenge was to believe that in Jesus there is hope in the midst of dire circumstances, even if the others feared that, they were about to die.*

4. In your circumstances, what is it that seems to be "impossible" for God to do for His glory and for your good? Perhaps you find yourself in a difficult family or job situation? It may be a debilitating habit you cannot overcome, or you may find yourself or a loved one with a chronic health problem?
5. What are the areas in your life that God would say that you have "little faith" ...and even doubt?
6. To what end do you see God allowing adversity, trials and trouble to come into your life?
7. Is your reaction to God's mercy in them the same as the disciples in verse 33?
8. What does it mean for you to worship Him and to claim that He is certainly the Son of God?
9. Why not worship Him now, telling Him how much you love Him and are thankful for His watching over you every minute of your life?

# Miracles of Christ Study Questions Answered

## Study Five: Now I See

1. Who took the initiative for the healing of the man born blind, the man or Jesus?

*Jesus took the initiative to refute a prevalent teaching among the rabbis. They taught that there is a direct correlation between suffering and sin; either it was the sin of the blind man, or his parents, that caused his inability to see. But, Jesus took the occasion to teach the disciples that God at times allows troublesome circumstances to occur in order to display His power, mercy and grace.*

What point does your answer make about the encounter?

*Jesus continually sought opportunity to teach His disciples the ways and truths of God, and often contrasted them with the prevailing “wisdom” of the Pharisees (John 15:1-20).*

2. In the performance of this miracle, does Jesus’ procedure in any way conflict with our definition of a miracle?

*This miracle fits clearly into our definition for the healing took place instantaneously at the Pool of Siloam. “So I went and washed, and then I could see” (vs 11).*

3. What was the significance of Jesus healing the blind man on the Sabbath?

*Often Jesus would purpose to heal on the Sabbath to teach the Pharisees, and others, that He is the Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2:23-28). He taught them that the Sabbath was made for man, and the converse (John 5:1-15; Luke 13:10-17, 14:1-6).*

4. Evaluate the blind man’s testimony of his healing.

*A good Christian testimony has three parts: before I became a believer, how I became a believer, and my life now that I have become a believer. The blind man’s testimony of his physical healing parallels a Christian testimony of one’s spiritual healing. The blind man said, “Once I was blind, but now I can see” (vs 25). The Pharisees asked him how he had received his sight (vs 15). It was not until later that Jesus revealed Himself as he blind man’s healer (vs 35-39).*

Why was he asked to repeat his story before the authorities?

*The authorities wanted to disclaim the blind man’s testimony of a miraculous healing by Jesus (vs 24-34).*

5. What is your story/testimony of your spiritual “healing?” Have you ever written it out? If not, would now be a good time to consider writing it for yourself, and perhaps for others? Only God knows what the affect would be on others when they hear your story.

*Your “story” should follow the simple outline of: my life before I became a believer, the circumstances of how I trusted in Jesus Christ alone to forgive my sins, and how my life has changed now that I have become a follower of Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:17-21).*

## Miracles of Christ Study Questions Answered

### Study Six: Jesus Touched Him

1. What do you imagine was the reaction of the great crowd who followed Jesus to the leper, who pressed in to see Him?

*Their reaction was most assuredly indignation and fear, but also perhaps a touch of wonder!*

Why?

*The great crowd knew the Jewish Law when it came to the restrictions placed upon the lepers in society. The leper was ceremonially "unclean" and was shut off from all social and religious contact with others. It was the leper's responsibility to stay away from the people. The crowds, having been amazed at Jesus' teaching as one with authority, perhaps wondered, did He also have the power to heal a leper?*

2. What in the leper's approach to Jesus would indicate a spirit of great humility?

*He knelt before Jesus and humbly said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." He believed that Jesus had the power to heal, but was Jesus compassionate enough to heal him?*

3. Analyze what the reaction of the crowd was once the leper had been healed.

*The crowd was amazed at the power of Jesus to heal a leper, and that He did it immediately. The proof was right before their very eyes, that the reports they had heard about Jesus were true (Matthew 4:23-25).*

How had it changed from their first reaction to him?

*Their reaction changed from indignation to affirmation, from fear to welcome, and from wonder to praise!*

4. Which priest do you think the leper went to to be declared clean; to the one in his hometown, or to a priest in Jerusalem?

*If there was a priest in his hometown synagogue, the leper would have gone to him, for he would have known of him and his leprosy.*

Would it have made a difference? Why or why not?

*Yes, it would have made a difference.*

If the cleansed leper had to go to Jerusalem, there may have been doubt about him being healed of leprosy, and it also would have called attention to Jesus being the healer.

5. How was this miraculous healing of the leper similar to, or different from, the other healing of lepers in the Gospels (Luke 17:11-19)?

*There are only two accounts of lepers being healed in the Gospels. The second is recorded in Luke, about the healing of ten lepers who were also told to "Go show yourselves to the priests". Only one leper returned to thank Jesus for being healed. He, too, humbled himself at Jesus' feet.*

# Miracles of Christ Study Questions Answered

## Study Seven: Victory Over Satan

1. What has this miracle taught you about the “kingdom of spiritual darkness?”

*The kingdom of spiritual darkness is real. It is led by Satan himself, against the Lord Jesus and His Kingdom. Satan and his minions are subject to our Lord’s authority, even though they continually seek to deceive and tempt believers to sin. Because believers are indwelt by God, the Holy Spirit, the kingdom of darkness cannot have dominion over them (1 John 4:4).*

2. What characterized the demons who possessed the man?

*The demons empowered the man with extra-ordinary strength, for no one was able to subdue him with chains or irons on his feet. He also revealed keen insight of who Jesus was, for he shouted at the top of his voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?” And there were many of them, for their name was “Legion.”*

How pervasive were they?

*Perhaps many thousands of demons possessed the man. A Roman legion was made up of 6000 men, and all 2000 pigs were drowned!*

3. What in the story would lead you to believe that the demons knew Jesus was more powerful than they, and their leader, the devil were?

*The demons knew that Jesus had the power to punish them and spoke through the possessed man, “Swear to God that you won’t torture me!” He also begged Jesus, on behalf of the demons, again and again not to send them out of the area. The demons, in turn, begged Jesus to send them into the pigs.*

4. Even after seeing the result of Jesus casting out “Legion,” why do you think the town’s people wanted Jesus to leave their region?

*They knew that Jesus was powerful and unpredictable. Who knew what He would do next? He had already miraculously healed the man with an evil spirit, and spoiled the livelihood of many, by drowning their pigs.*

What implications would there have been for their daily life and conduct had He remained?

*Jesus had already brought unbelievable change to the region of the Gerasenes. If He were to stay, they were not ready for their lives to be changed by God’s holy Son. How sad it is to realize that the change would have been for their eternal good.*

Would anything change in your life if Jesus were physically present?

5. How knowledgeable are you about the schemes of the devil and his kingdom? (See Ephesians 6:10-20). If you are not familiar with them, make a plan to start studying about “spiritual warfare,” so you are equipped to be ready when Satan, or his minions, come to tempt you (I Corinthians. 10:13). A great place to start would be to read William Gurnall’s book, The Christian in Complete Armor. Another good book to alert you to the devious ways of Satan is C. S. Lewis’ The Screwtape Letters.

# Miracles of Christ Study Questions Answered

## Study Eight: A New Kind of Fisherman

1. Describe the setting for this miracle.

*Jesus is standing by the Sea of Galilee, amidst fishermen and their nets, with the people crowding around Him listening to the word of God. He is soon to call fishermen from this village to follow Him.*

What does it tell us about the sort of person Jesus calls to be His own?

*Our Lord calls ordinary people to follow Him, and empowers them to do extraordinary things (1 Corinthians. 1:26-31).*

2. Why was Jesus insistent to have Peter obey Him?

*Jesus simply wanted Peter to trust Him, affirming His omniscience, and that He was the Son of God.*

What two directives were contrary to the disciple's general fishing practice?

*It was now daylight, and the best time to fish on the lake was at night. Also, most fishing on the lake was done closer to the shore. Jesus said to Peter, "Put out into the deep water..."*

How did these directives enhance the miracle?

*Jesus created for Peter an impossible circumstance. He was tired and discouraged, and the last thing he wanted to do was to fish again!*

3. Would you have expected Peter's reaction to the miracle? Why or why not?

*No, for Peter was slow to connect the dots that Jesus was more than a miracle worker sent from God. All the disciples were "astonished" at the magnitude of the catch of fish. Peter, now however, understood the truth that Jesus was the sinless Son of God.*

What new element did it bring into the story?

*The new element was that Peter knew he was a sinful man, now in the presence of the all-holy Son of God. His reaction to this truth was a desire to be separated from Jesus, for his sinfulness was exposed.*

4. Why do you think Jesus said to Peter, "Do not be afraid," before He went on to declare his true calling?

*Jesus needed to calm Peter's anxiety and fear of the unknown, for he knew he was in the presence of the Son of God, and overwhelmed at what he had just experienced.*

5. How did this miracle prepare Peter to become a "fisher of men?"

*Peter believed that he could trust Jesus for the impossible, for he had just experienced the miracle of the large number of fish being caught in the natural world. Now, to become a "fisher of men" would take Peter into the spiritual world to do what was humanly impossible.*

How does this miracle encourage you to be a more faithful witness? Make a list of those people you can begin to pray about reaching for the Lord. Then begin to pray for opportunities to talk to them.

# Miracles of Christ Study Questions Answered

## Study Nine: Even the Deaf and the Mute are Healed

1. Why do you think it was necessary for friends to approach Jesus on behalf of the deaf and mute man?

*The deaf and mute man was probably very self-conscious about his afflictions, and needed his friends to intercede for him.*

What is another reason that he wouldn't come to Jesus by himself as others had?

*The deaf and mute man had no confidence that he would be welcomed or healed by Jesus, for he had been shunned by others his whole life.*

2. The laying on of hands was a Jewish practice connected with blessing and healing. Do you think the friends of the man really believed Jesus could heal?

*Yes, for they had heard the testimony of the demon possessed man whom Jesus had healed and admonished to "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you" (Mark 5:19). The great hope of the people for their afflicted friend was that Jesus would come back into their region and he would be healed.*

Would your answer be the same if these friends were Gentiles? Why or why not?

*Yes, for Jesus healed both Jews and Gentiles (Mark 7:24-30).*

3. The phrase, "And looking up to heaven," is pregnant with meaning. What, in addition to the study content, concerning Jesus' prayer to the Father, can you add for deeper meaning?

*By "looking up to heaven", Jesus also revealed the intimacy of His relationship to the Father. He and the Father are one (John 10:22-33). This intimacy is also revealed in our Lord's prayer to the Father in John 17:1-26.*

4. Was it important for the deaf man to hear our Lord's emphatic cry, "Ephphatha?" Why?

*Yes, for upon hearing Jesus say in his own language "Be opened", he, not only heard for the first time, but spoke plainly revealing the magnitude of the miracle to him, to his friends, and to the people!*

5. In the crowd's astonishment at the miraculous, they declared, "He has done all things well..." Have you come to the place in your life where you can say, "God has done all things well?" Why or why not? The longer you wait, the more Satan may work against you to keep you from making such a commitment.

## Miracles of Christ Study Questions Answered

### Study Ten: Does Jesus Care?

1. To be a Christian means to “follow” Jesus. In telling this same story, Matthew specifically makes this point: “his disciples followed him...” (8:23), and understanding this point is important for the narrative. To follow Christ means to come after Him, no matter what the cost. The cost in this miracle appears in verse 37; what is it?

*The cost in this story of following Jesus was that the disciples feared that they were about to lose their lives by drowning.*

2. What in the story would tell you that this was not an ordinary storm?

*The squall apparently came out of “nowhere”, and was so fierce that it nearly sunk the boat; causing the disciples to think they were about to drown.*

Several of the disciples were professional fishermen; what was different this time that made them so afraid?

*It was the magnitude of the storm that overwhelmed their boats...the very boats they had used for years on the Sea of Galilee and suffered no loss.*

3. What do you think of the attitude of the disciples when they realized our Lord was sound asleep?

*They became indignant that He could be so uncaring in the midst of such a tempest.*

4. In their minds, how could Jesus have shown them that He did “care?”

*They thought that Jesus should have awakened at the first threat of the impending squall, and allayed their fears that all would be well.*

After all they had witnessed, why were they so fearful when Jesus was so near?

*It was simply their lack of trust that He was in control of the circumstances, even though He was with them.*

5. Why did Jesus wait until after He rebuked the wind and the sea to rebuke the disciples for their lack of faith? Why not before?

*Jesus waited until after He had miraculously calmed the wind and the waves to remind them of His power over creation by merely speaking the words, “Quiet, Be still!” Had He rebuked them*

*before calming the sea, they would not have experienced the miracle and had their faith strengthened by His power and presence. The rebuke was about trust, that with Jesus, all is well whatever the situation or circumstance.*

6. What is there in your life that is like a storm you fear you won't survive? From what you have learned through this miracle, as well as previous ones, what should you do when times of storm come your way?

# Miracles of Christ Study Questions Answered

## Study Eleven: Judgment on Hypocrisy

1. What is surprising about this miracle?

This miracle, unlike all the others, is about destruction and judgment upon an object of His creation.

2. Why do you think Jesus concluded His working of miracles, as recorded in the Gospels, with one of destruction and judgment?

*The cursing of the fig tree was a parabolic lesson of condemnation for all who profess true belief in God, but whose lives show no evidence of that faith. Jesus was soon to be put to death, rise again, and ascend into heaven leaving the disciples to carry on His work. His last lesson is a lasting lesson.*

3. Do you think it was important for Jesus to do this miracle during Passion Week? Why?

*This was the final week of our Lord's life before the crucifixion, and His disciples were becoming more aware that the end was soon to come. The object lesson of seeing the cursed fig tree was ever before them as they made their each day to and from Bethany and Jerusalem.*

4. For whom, primarily, was this miracle worked?

*Jesus worked this miracle primarily as an object lesson to "fruitless Israel" and her hypocritical leaders.*

Why?

*The religious leaders of Israel professed to love God and to follow His commandments. Their profession was hypocritical for it was merely the formality of religion. Had they truly loved God, they would have loved Jesus, His Son, and recognized Him as their Messiah.*

5. What cautions are given to us throughout the Gospels against hypocrisy?

*Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount" is full of warnings against confessing one thing and doing another (Matthew Chapters 5-7). Also, Jesus warned the Jewish teachers of the Law against hypocrisy in Matthew 23:23-39 and Luke 13:15-17. The lesson is obviously for us not to be like the Pharisees of Jesus' day who incurred the wrath and judgment of God.*

6. In what ways does this miracle of judgment speak into your life? Does it challenge you to examine yourself to see if you are truly in the faith?

## Miracles of Christ Study Questions Answered

### Study Twelve: From Death to Life

1. Do the sisters assume that Jesus will immediately respond to their request? Why? or Why not?

*Yes, the sisters expected Jesus to stop what He was doing and respond quickly to their request. They believed if Jesus truly loved Lazarus He would come right away to heal him, after all, they were the dearest of friends.*

2. Why was it important for Jesus to delay His return to Bethany?

*Jesus purposed to delay His return to Bethany to reveal God's glory so that Jesus may be glorified through it by the miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead (vs. 4). What greater demonstration can there be of God's miraculous power than the raising of the dead to life.*

3. What was His lesson for the disciples, for the sisters, and for the mourners who had gathered at the home?

*Jesus told His disciples that "for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe" (vs. 15). Our Lord's lesson for the sisters was that His timing is always perfect, and that by trusting Him in the delay, an even greater miracle would be revealed than the healing of Lazarus who was at the point of death. The lesson for the crowd of mourners was that this Jesus is God's promised Messiah, and that they would see the glory of God demonstrated by His miraculous power. "Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him*

*" (vs.45).*

What was the broader lesson from Jesus' response to Martha's rebuke, in addition to the fact that He could miraculously raise Lazarus from the dead?

*The broader lesson was that He who stood before her was the great "I Am" whose very nature prohibits death, for He is the "resurrection and the life" (vs.25). John in the prologue to his gospel, revealed Jesus as "life." In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it" (1:4,5). All who are in Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, are incapable of death (vs.26). Jesus' response to Martha's affirmation that she believes in the general resurrection at the end of time was much more profound for He identified Himself as the "I Am" from Exodus 3:13,14 for He and the Father are One (See John 6:35, 8:12, 9:5, 10:7,9, 10:11,14, 14:6, 15:1,5).*

4. What did Jesus ask of His Father before He raised Lazarus, and why did He ask it out loud? (v.41-42)?

*Jesus asked His Father for the power to raise Lazarus from the dead, and thanked Him knowing that he would receive all that He asked for because it was the pleasure of the Father to glorify the Son. Jesus prayed to the Father out loud for He knew that when the Father answered His prayer the crowd would marvel at such a display of power. This miracle would confirm before their very eyes that Jesus was the promised Messiah.*

5. Books continue to be published about people who believe that they have died, gone to heaven, and then returned to earth to tell about their experience. Movies have even been produced repeating this theme of returning from the dead. Do you believe their stories? Why or why not?
  
6. Now that you have completed this study in the Miracles of Christ, list several ways you have come to know Him better as to who He is, and what He came to earth to do. Also, think about how your trust in Him has grown to meet your every need spiritually, emotionally, and physically. Compose a “thank you” letter to the Father, thanking Him for sending His Son to earth, and revealing Him to you as the Lord.