



# Faith

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# Focus



*for  
Teens*

*Sunday  
School  
Services*

Zion Assembly Church of God  
Writer: Zachary Snyder

## Messiah's Miracles, Part Two

Lesson - "Loaves and Fishes" – August 5, 2018

Scriptures - Mk. 6:35-44; Mt. 14:15-21; Lu. 9:12-17;  
1:37; 18:27

**Introduction to the Lesson:** It's hard to imagine that Jesus or the disciples ever grew tired physically. However, in several places in the New Testament we find them sleeping, eating, and drinking fluids in order to be sustained. At the time of this miracle the disciples had been on an evangelistic crusade. Their bodies were weary and they needed rest. They boarded a ship to go to a less populated area; but once they arrived, the crowds had already gathered awaiting them. What would Jesus do? Would he turn them away in order to rest, or would he minister to their needs?

**Key Verse:** "And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full" (Mt. 14:20).

### Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ Are we to always meet our needs before we meet the needs of others?
- ✚ Are there exceptions to this?

**Think About It:** The crowd that gathered in this remote area was numbered at around 5000, but this number did not include the women and the children. This means the number could actually have swelled to more than 15,000! Although exhausted, Jesus took time to preach the kingdom of God and to heal their sick. At the end of day with the sun beginning to set, the disciples asked that the crowds be sent home. However, because the crowds remained with them, showing a sincere desire for the ministry of Christ, Jesus told his disciples to feed this massive crowd. Of course, the price to feed this large number and the availability of that much food was out of the question. The disciples failed to remember that the miracle worker was there, and he was in charge of all things! A boy with a basket of five loaves of bread and two small fish was called upon. Jesus took his small amount and multiplied it so that all were able to eat. Afterward, a total of 12 baskets of leftovers were counted! But how could this be? Simply put, with man these things are impossible, but with God all things are possible (Lu. 1:37; 18:27). This miracle brings out another important thought. The mission of the church to reach the world with the gospel will be completed before the coming of Jesus. Even though the enormous task of reaching billions of people seems impossible, the mission will be finished. The magnitude of the challenge should never discourage us from "feeding" the hungry souls of lost people with the truth of Jesus Christ! Even as young people, we should get involved in this great mission and put our faith into action. We might feel like we have very little to offer in this mission, but if a few loaves of bread and a couple of fish were used by Christ to meet the need of more than 5,000 people, then Jesus can take our offering (talent, zeal, strength) and use it for his glory!

**Conclusion:** Jesus fed the crowd of hungry people; but his message to us is so much greater than filling their empty bellies with food. Like Jesus, our compassion for multitudes of lost people encourages our responsibility to feed their hungry souls with the inexhaustible bread of life.

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# Messiah's Miracles, Part Two

Lesson - "Walking on the Water" – August 12, 2018  
Scriptures - Mt. 14:22-33; Mk. 6:45-49; Jn. 6:16-19; 1 Jn. 4:18

**Introduction to the Lesson:** Prior to this account of Jesus walking on the water, the disciples faced a terrible storm on the sea where death seemed unavoidable. However, they awoke Jesus, and the Master of the Sea rebuked the storm. With Christ on board the ship, they were safe. But here Jesus wasn't on the boat when the winds blew and the waves beat against them. What would they do? How would they make it through the night?

**Key Verse:** "And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea" (Mt. 14:25).

### Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ How do we know when we are beginning to sink?
- ✚ In what ways does fear keep us from obeying the Lord?

**Think About It:** Jesus and the disciples had just finished feeding a crowd of more than 5,000 people. He then instructed the disciples to board a boat and go to the other side of the sea while he stayed behind to disperse the crowd. He then went to a mountain to pray alone. By the time the sun had gone down the boat was being tossed by the winds and the waves. During the "4<sup>th</sup> watch" (around 3:00 a.m.), the disciples saw a figure walking upon the water. At first, they thought it was a ghost, and they cried out in fear. But when Jesus spoke, their fear dissipated. It was at this point that Peter made the request to walk with the Lord upon the water. Christ allowed this and Peter stepped out on the water. However, when he looked at the winds and waves, and realized what he was doing, he began to sink. He cried out to the Lord, and Jesus rescued him. There are some powerful lessons for young people to grasp, especially when approaching adulthood. First, they were just as safe on the stormy sea as they were on the dry land. Why? Because by obeying the command of God, they were in God's will. Jesus told them to enter the boat and go to the other side. He fully intended to see them on the other side. He never said the journey would be smooth sailing, he only said he would meet them on the other side. The safest place to be at all times is in the will of God. Certainly, this miracle shows that wherever God sends us, he has the power to keep us. Second, it is not God's will for his children to live in fear. Fear is the opposite of faith, and it keeps us from walking according to the will of God. The apostle John proclaimed that the love of God drives out all fear (1 Jn. 4:18). Third, when Peter removed his attention from the Lord, and began to focus on his own actions and surroundings, he began to fail. Each time that Christ and his will is not the focus of our lives, we will always begin to sink.

**Conclusion:** For the child of God, we should take great courage in knowing the Lord is always working in our lives, even through our adversity and trials. We struggle against the winds and waves, but the Lord walks upon the water. He is triumphant over every opposition. Indeed, he has everything under control. So we need to trust him and place our faith firmly in Jesus.

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## Messiah's Miracles, Part Two

Lesson - "Christ's Transfiguration" – August 19, 2018

Scriptures - Mk. 9:1-9

**Introduction to the Lesson:** It is truly amazing to consider the eternal nature of God. As human beings, we are bound to this life as we know it by certain laws of nature, namely, time and space. In regard to space, we are limited to one place at one given moment; and in regard to time, we are bound to a 365 calendar year and a 24 hour day. However, the God that created all things (including both time and space) is never limited to those elements. He is eternal (Ps. 90:2) and is everywhere at all times (Ps. 139: 7-18; Is. 66:1). But this infinite God became man (Jn. 1:1) and took on the likeness of "sinful flesh" (Ro. 8:3). However, the glory of God still could not be contained.

**Key Verse:** "And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them" (Mk. 9:2).

### Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ In what ways has the Lord been revealed to you?
- ✚ What is Christ's most perfect and reliable revelation of himself?

**Think About It:** In Mark 9:1, Jesus promised that some of his disciples would witness something far beyond this world. They would receive a foretaste of Christ in the power and glory of his kingdom. Six days later, Jesus was alone with Peter, James, and John on a high mountain when he was miraculously transfigured before them (Mk. 9:2-3). In other words, Jesus was temporarily changed; he went through a momentary metamorphosis. In the opening of his gospel, John declared, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (Jn. 1:14). Perhaps, he was reflecting on supernatural experiences like the transfiguration when he wrote these words. On the mount, the three disciples actually witnessed God's spiritual realm breaking forth into their natural sphere. This was not a vision, but they saw with their eyes, heard with the ears, and felt the natural sensations of Christ's transfiguration (Mk. 9:4-8). Thus, they were temporarily permitted to see into the coming glory of God in Christ – a reality hidden from them because of Jesus' humanity (Jn. 17:5). On the mountain, Peter, James, and John actually witnessed the transcending glory of God's kingdom: "And his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them" (Mk. 9:3). Mark described God's glory as white like snow. How white was Christ's glory to the human eye? His raiment was whiter than any launderer could possibly "white" or "bleach" a garment. In other words, his glory was whiter than anyone can imagine. Likewise, Matthew wrote, "and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light" (Mt. 17:2). He compared Christ's glory to nothing less than the radiance of the sun in all of its brightness. In this way, the brilliance of God's glory was manifested in Jesus. To the natural eye, his glory was brighter and whiter than anything the disciples had ever seen. What was the spiritual impact of this experience on the disciples? Miraculous encounters like the transfiguration confirmed to the disciples whom they were following, serving, and witnessing to the world.

**Conclusion:** Today, as young people living in wicked world, we need a vision of Christ in his glory. We are standing for and representing Christ, the Son of the living God. In order to stand for Christ and represent him to the world, our prayer should be that of Moses, "Show me thy glory" (Ex. 33:18).

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## Messiah's Miracles, Part Two

Lesson - "Money from the Fish" – August 26, 2018  
Scriptures - Mt. 17:24-27

**Introduction to the Lesson:** Each and every miracle Jesus performed further proved he was the Christ, the Son of God. He demonstrated his divine power and authority over natural things beyond the control of man. In today's lesson, we will consider a rather unique miracle of Christ when his disciple supernaturally took money from a fish's mouth. When was the last time you found money inside of a fish? Probably never! Money may turn up in many unexpected places, but finding it in the mouth of a fish is incredible, to say the least. Nevertheless, this is exactly what happened when Peter went fishing.

**Key Verse:** "Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee" (Mt. 17:27).

### Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ Was Jesus a taxpayer (Mt. 17:24-25)?
- ✚ Should we pay taxes? If so, why (consider Mt. 17:27; Ro. 13:4-7)?
- ✚ Why was finding money in the mouth of the fish so miraculous?

**Think About It:** On this occasion, Jesus and his disciples were in Capernaum. While there, the publicans came to Peter to collect taxes, asking, "Doth not your master pay tribute?" (Mt. 17:24). Peter replied, "Yes" (v. 25). Jesus' life and ministry serve as our pattern of good works that we should know how to please God in all things. We should not only learn of his ways, but we should also follow him and be "doers of the word" (Ja. 1:22). Accordingly, Jesus taught us to follow in his footsteps, saying, "Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Mk. 8:34). It is apparent that Jesus was not antigovernment, but he understood that authorities at various levels of society ruled for the overall good of humanity. The apostle Paul explained this exact point in Romans 13:1-7. Now consider. Jesus created all things in the universe, "visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him" (Col. 1:16). Yet he gave us his example of paying taxes so that we too would pay taxes. Although we answer to an infinitely "higher power" than man's authority – and this cannot be compromised – we should willingly submit ourselves to civil authorities in order to maintain an influential witness before others. What do we learn from Christ's example of paying taxes? In following the pattern of Christ and being Christ-like, we will accomplish two things: first, we will please God; and second, we will exemplify Christ and his righteousness before the world (1 Pe. 2:9). To pay their taxes, Jesus told Peter to go fishing. He explained that the **first** fish he caught would have enough money in its mouth to pay the tax. We should remember that Peter was a fisherman by trade. He could have easily gone back to the fishing business, selling his catch in the market to support himself. But the Lord had called Peter to follow him in the ministry (Mk. 1:16-18). Paying the tax was necessary, but fulfilling Christ's mission was top priority. Because Peter was committed to Christ and his mission, the Lord miraculously provided all he needed to meet the financial requirements of following him.

**Conclusion:** In the church, we should face every financial obligation with the expectation that "God shall supply all [we] need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Ph. 4:19). We should have complete faith in Christ's miraculous ability to provide for us as we seek to do God's will. Sometimes we may have abundance, and sometimes we may lack, but we can be confident the Lord will ultimately satisfy our needs (Ps. 37:25).

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