

## 4. Jesus: His Works!

Just as Jesus' Words manifested God to all who **heard** them, in the same way, Jesus' Works manifested God to all who **saw** them. From the very start of His ministry, Jesus made it clear that it was God who compelled Him and thrust Him forward to fulfill His divine calling, as He Himself proclaimed when He stood in the synagogue and read from the scroll of Isaiah.

### Luke 4

- 18 ***"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,  
Because He has anointed Me  
To preach the gospel to the poor;  
He has sent Me  
to heal the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim liberty to the captives  
And recovery of sight to the blind,  
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;  
To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."***
- 19

What do the things God sent Jesus to accomplish tell us about Him?

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### Matthew 11:2-6

- 2 ***And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples***  
3 ***and said to Him (Jesus),***  
    ***"Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?"***  
4 ***Jesus answered and said to them,***  
    ***"Go and tell John the things which you hear and see:***  
5 ***"The blind see and the lame walk;  
the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear;  
the dead are raised up and  
the poor have the gospel preached to them.***  
6 ***"And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me."***

What do you think caused John (the Baptist) to doubt Jesus?

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What is the significance of what Jesus tells them to relay to John?

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### Luke 4:18-19 (Observations)

**Underline** Who is upon Jesus.

**Underline** what Jesus is appointed to do.

**Circle** all the verbs describing what Jesus was sent to do.

**Underline** all the objects of those verbs.

(Review the various people Jesus was anointed to minister to. How can God use us in these same people's lives?)

### Matthew 11:2-6 (Observations)

V2 **Circle** where John was.

**Underline** what John heard.

**Underline** what John did.

V3 **Underline** what John asked of Jesus.

v4 **Circle** the two things Jesus told John's disciples to tell him.

v5 **Circle** each thing Jesus lists.

v6 **Circle** what Jesus said those who are not offended because of Him are.

**All of us at times** may doubt God and His Word. But when those moments descend on us, the best deterrent is to set our eyes upon Jesus and remember all He has said and done in order to remind ourselves that He is God's only Way, Truth and Life. Jesus has demonstrated without any doubt that God is real and His Word is true! Not to believe Him would be the height of foolishness, and would result in missing out on all the blessings that faith in Jesus brings!

## Jesus' Works Over Disease and Sin

Jesus used miracles to confirm who He was. Sometimes hearing His Words was not enough to convince people. *They needed to see His Works!*

### Mark 2:1-12

- 1 And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house.
- 2 Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them.
- 3 Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men.
- 4 And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying.
- 5 When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."
- 6 And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts,
- 7 "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"
- 8 But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts?"
- 9 "Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'?"
- 10 "But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"-- He said to the paralytic,
- 11 "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."
- 12 Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

Was what Jesus said in v5 blasphemous? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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What do you learn about Jesus' character from this story?

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What do you learn about Jesus' Identity from this story?

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### Mark 2:1-2 (Observations)

- v1 **Circle** where Jesus entered. (Locate it on a map)
- v2 **Circle** how quickly many gathered. **Underline** the space available. **Underline** what Jesus did.
- v3 **Circle** what four men brought to Jesus.
- v4 **Circle** how they got him there.
- v5 **Circle** what Jesus saw. **Underline** what He said.
- v6 **Circle** who was also there. **Underline** what they were doing.
- v7 **Circle** what they thought Jesus was speaking. **Underline** what they questioned.
- v8 **Underline** what Jesus perceived. **Underline** what Jesus asked them.
- v9 **Circle** the two choices Jesus presented for comparison. **Circle** the basis for the comparison.
- v10 **Underline** what Jesus wanted them to know.
- v11 **Underline** what Jesus said to the paralytic.
- v12 **Circle** each of the three things the paralytic 'immediately' did. **Circle** the two ways how people responded. **Underline** what they said.

### Sins and Disease

**There is a close relationship between Sins and Disease in Scripture, both in the Old and New Testaments. This explains Jesus' initial response to pronounce forgiveness for the paralytic's sins, prompting the scribes' disapprovingly reasoning within themselves. Can you imagine their shock when Jesus calls them out? But their thinking was actually correct as far as who could forgive sins. Their error was in their ignorance of who Jesus was, in which He did not hesitate to educate them. Jesus was not afraid to confront His detractors in order to make His point for others to hear and see!**

## Jesus' Works Over Demons

In Bible days, people believed that *disease* and *demon possession* resulted from the *sin* of the sufferer. That is why the conditions were widespread in the world but completely absent in Heaven. So what happens when God's Son leaves Heaven and enters the world? *Disease* and *Demon possession* are absent in His wake!

**Mark 1:23-27, 34**

- 23** Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out,
- 24** saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are--the Holy One of God!"
- 25** But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!"
- 26** And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him.
- 27** Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him."
- 34** Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him.

What can we learn about 'unclean spirits' from v 24?

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What is significant about how Jesus cast out demons?

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Why did the demons know Jesus while the people did not?

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Why do you think Jesus did not want the demons to identify Him?

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**Mark 1:23-27, 34 (Observations)**

- v23 **Circle** where the man was.  
**Circle** what the man had.
- v24 **Underline** what the man said.  
**Underline** what the man asked.  
(Observe the pronouns.)  
**Circle** who he knew Jesus was.
- v25 **Circle** what Jesus did to him.  
**Underline** what Jesus said to him.
- v26 **Circle** three things the 'unclean spirit' did.
- v27 **Circle** the word that describes the people's reaction.  
**Underline** their questions.  
**Circle** how they said Jesus commands 'unclean spirits'.  
**Circle** the spirits' response.
- v34 **Underline** what two things Jesus did for the 'many'.  
**Circle** what Jesus did not allow the 'demons' to do.  
**Underline** why.

### Demons

The word '**demon**', in the New Testament, is used interchangeably with 'unclean spirits' and 'devils'. But what are demons? In short, they are disembodied spirits who prefer to live within the bodies of living creatures, including swine, as evidenced by Jesus' encounter with the Gerasene demoniac in Mark 5. Even today, the subject of many movies and novels deal with demonic possession. Jesus Himself frequently cast out demons from demonized people He met.

**Because of their nature** and character, demons do not make the best source for a reference, which may be why Jesus did not wish to be identified by them. Even then, Jesus was accused of casting out demons by the authority of Belzebul, the 'prince of demons'!

## Jesus' Works Over Death

**Sin's worst consequence is *Death*.** It is the curse of humanity and the evidence of our spiritual condition apart from God. It is the final struggle of all men and women, and the ultimate challenge for **Jesus**.

**When He heard** that His friend, *Lazarus*, was very ill, He delayed his coming until His friend's death. At His arrival, He was met by Martha and Mary, both of whom were stricken with grief for their deceased brother. But Jesus knew that Lazarus' death was not the end, but for God's glory, and to reveal that Jesus has overcome even Death!

### John 11

39 **Jesus said, "Take away the stone."**

*Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him,  
"Lord, by this time there is a stench,  
for he has been dead four days."*

40 **Jesus said to her,**

*"Did I not say to you that if you would believe  
you would see the glory of God?"*

41 **Then they took away the stone**

*from the place where the dead man was lying.*

**And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said,**

*"Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.*

42 **"And I know that You always hear Me,**

*but because of the people who are standing by I said this,  
that they may believe that You sent Me."*

43 **Now when He had said these things,**

*He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!"*

44 **And he who had died came out**

*bound hand and foot with graveclothes,  
and his face was wrapped with a cloth.*

**Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."**

**Contrast the faith of Jesus and Martha in v39.**

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**What do you think Jesus meant by Martha seeing the glory of God?**

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**Did Jesus plan all of this? Why or why not?** \_\_\_\_\_

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### John 11:39-44 (Observations)

v39 **Underline** what Jesus said.

**Circle** what Martha said there would be by that time.

**Circle** how long Lazarus had been dead.

v40 **Underline** what Jesus reminded Martha she would see if she believed.

v41 **Circle** what Jesus thanked His Father for.

v42 **Circle** how often Jesus said His Father hears Him.

**Underline** for whom Jesus said this.

**Underline** why Jesus said this.

v43 **Circle** how Jesus cried out.

**Underline** what Jesus yelled.

v44 **Circle** who came out.

**Observe** how he was bound.

**Underline** what Jesus told them to do.

### The Glory of God

**We often hear this phrase**, but how many of us have really think about what it means? The Shorter Westminster Catechism states that, "The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever." This means that our primary purpose in life is to manifest God in and through our lives, and to take Joy in the process of knowing and loving Him, forever. **The Glory of God** is the manifestation of **His Person and Nature**. "The heavens declare the Glory of God." (Ps 19:1) The resurrection of Lazarus displays God's glory by revealing God's power over death, and His desire for all people to believe in His Son and gain Everlasting Life.

## **Jesus' Works Possess Purpose**

Can you imagine if you had the opportunity to be transported 2000 years into the past in order to walk with the Disciples, and to listen to Jesus' Words and see His Works in person? Would you take that opportunity? Then you would have access to *more* of Jesus' teachings and see *all* of His miracles. Unfortunately, we can't, but we do have the Gospel record that includes many of Jesus' teachings and miraculous works. The Apostle John explains why more weren't included and why those that were ... were!

### **John 21:25**

**25 And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.**

**What may have been some of the factors the Gospel writers used to determine which miracles to record?**

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### **John 20:30-31**

**30 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book;**  
**31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His Name.**

**How would you describe the purpose of Jesus' miraculous works?**

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**Would the inclusion of more miracles make a difference in encouraging you to believe more? Why or why not?**

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### **John 21:25 (Observations)**

**Circle** what John says there are.  
**Underline** what John supposes.

### **First Century Limitations**

**Earlier, we mentioned** the limitations regarding the writing technology of the First Century period. They couldn't just go to the Office Supply Store and pick up a ream of paper and write as much as they wanted. They were limited by the availability of writing material and so had to limit the amount they could write.

### **John 20:30-31 (Observations)**

v30 **Circle** what Jesus did .  
**Underline** where He did them.  
**Circle** where they are.  
v31 **Circle** why 'these are written.'  
**Underline** what we may believe.  
**Circle** what we may have.

### **Gospels with a Purpose**

**When I attended** our State University, I took an Old Testament class as an elective, not because I was a Christian, which I wasn't at the time, but simply because I could fit it into my class schedule and needed the credits. As it turned out, I got a B, but did not emerge a Believer. I succeeded in getting my credits but failed to fulfill the real intent of the Scriptures, which is to instill Faith in God and His Word. The same goes for the records of Jesus' Life. If it does not instill greater Faith in us, we have read them in vain. And for the record, after I received Christ into my life two years later, I did return to my non believing OT Professor and shared Christ with him!