

Indian Church of Christ - Chennai
Presents

God of Mighty Miracles

Quite Time Inspiration on Miracles

The Mighty Miracles my family group praying for:

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1. Rid the decays [Mark 1:40-42]

Leprosy vividly illustrates sin and its fruits. The disease's effects on the body demonstrate the effects of sin on the mind. Leprosy represents God's view of sin, as detestable, deforming, and unclean. Both leprosy and sin begin small then grow relentlessly until they infect the whole person. Luke the physician, in describing the man as "full" of the dreadful disease (Luke 5:12), implies that he was about to die. In this advanced stage of leprosy, he was living apart from other people. According to Leviticus 13:45, he had to wear a cloth over his mouth and cry, "Unclean, unclean."

Imagine giving a shake hand to your garbage man!! How much more a full-blown leper? The puss, the falling limbs, the stink, the look in his eyes. It is not easy for us to touch or to give a back rub. A touch from Jesus could take away all the rots in his body. Indeed a mighty miracle!

In this situation, as in others, Jesus performs a miracle in which there can be no doubt that God alone healed him. God's healing power is most obviously seen when he does mighty miracles in "hopeless" situations. He may simply be letting the situation progress so that we have no doubt about who has come to our aid and whose power solved the crisis. In persevering, we grow spiritually, and he receives greater glory.

2. A Bruised Reed [Mark 3:1-6]

The man Christ healed is described as having a "withered hand." With professional accuracy, Luke alone tells us that it was his right hand. Since most people are right-handed, his right hand was especially important to him since he likely needed it to work. In addition, only the man's hand was withered or shriveled, not his whole arm, apparently the result of paralysis due to some accident or disease rather than a congenital deformity. It was Jesus' policy neither to break a bruised reed nor to snuff out a smoldering wick. In faithfulness he brings forth justice (Isaiah 42:3)

This man was in the right place—where he should have been—on the Sabbath day. If he had stayed home that day, would he have had this wonderful opportunity to be healed? The same principle holds true regarding our own "Sabbath" attendance with others of God's Church. If we fail to attend services, mid-weeks, fellowships, prayer times and other spiritual activities we are going to miss out on the spiritual healing God provides through the inspired messages from His Word, as well as the encouragement of the brethren to press on in faith and obedience to God.

Can you see a bruised reed or withered hand in your spiritual walk? Jesus is handy.

3. Calming the Storms [Mark 4:35-41]

Jesus rebukes his disciples for fearfulness and little faith. They have not lost complete confidence in Christ. But neither have they learned to trust in him nor fully developed their faith in Him. They are at ease only when they hear him speak and see him taking care of them. They have so little faith that, when the moment of need comes, it is not enough to give them peace and calm.

The disciples are not totally faithless in this incident, as they called for Christ to save them. They knew from the mighty miracles they had witnessed so far, this couldn't be a problem for Jesus. But they fell short in realizing that it makes no difference whether Christ is asleep or awake—He is still the Son of God. And God would not allow His faithful Son to be drowned dead in a sinking boat. After all, He is the one who, ages before, had “shut in the sea with doors, . . . [and] said, ‘This far you may come but no farther’” (Job 38:8, 11). Disciples did not apply their faith practically. Faith and fear cannot exist together, for fear paralyzes faith.

What are the storms that raging in our life, think about it. Storms are an integral part of our life. But the question is where do we fix our eyes. Is it in God or is it in storms? Our focus on storms will not do anything good to us, but we need to allow the storms to come into the healing power of Jesus.

4. Cast the Legion [Mark 5:1-11]

Even the demons recognize the power of Jesus. This man who is loaded with evil spirits, numbering 2000, kneel down before Jesus. Jesus is the Lord of all, nothing is impossible to him.

Jesus tried to approach him and started making friendship with him. This was the beginning of a great miracle which was going to happen in this man's life. He might not be aware of this. The demons would have told him that Jesus is going to hurt him by casting all the demons from him and Jesus would make him into a His slavery. But things were different when he actually allowed Jesus to come into his life.

Life without Jesus would be like the life of this man in the tomb. Hurting ourselves, screaming with pain and frustration, bonded by weakness and addictions, decaying and smelling. But then it took only a word for Jesus to bring healing in to this man who was possessed by 2000 powerful demons. Opening our life to Jesus would not hurt us at all. It will bring eternal healing in us. It will bring about peace like a river, joy like a fountain and love like an ocean. All other apprehensions and fears are induced by Satan. The demons tell lies, because they want to keep us in bondage. While Jesus speaks the truth, the truth that sets us free.

5. Healing the Shame [Mark 5:24-34]

According to the purity laws of the Old Testament (Leviticus 15:25-27), a person with an issue of blood is to remain quarantined. Also, “Whoever touches those things shall be unclean; he shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening” (verse 27).

During this poor woman’s ordeal, her incurable disease had drained her, not only of her energy, but also of all her money. Her quest to find a cure from the physicians had solved nothing; in fact, she had gotten worse under their care (interestingly, in Luke’s account, he—a physician—omits the phrase, “but rather grew worse”). Her condition, then, was both painful and distressing.

Nevertheless, she is a determined woman who had faith that she can find relief merely by touching Jesus. In her desperation, she displays considerable faith by risking the consequences of breaking a sacred rule in willfully coming into contact with other people.

Not only Jesus took her shame away, but also reinforced the confidence in her by calling her daughter. Let us never shy away from Jesus; that is the only hindrance for a mighty miracle taking place in our life. Why do you want to carry the shame throughout your life time – when you can take it over to Jesus?!

6. Jairus daughter raised [Mark 5:35-42]

As Jesus walk towards Jairus’ home, a friend informs Jairus of the sad news, “Your daughter is dead.” In the Greek, “dead” is placed first for emphasis; it literally reads, “Dead is your daughter.” Such a statement would have been devastating, but being in Christ’s presence gave the grief-stricken father hope. Jesus is seen as the Encourager.

As soon as Jesus overhears the news, he intervenes to curb the fear welling up in the brokenhearted father, countering with encouragement: “Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well.” With a word of hope, Jesus changes the father’s focus, and with gentleness and compassion, he comforts him.

Death is like the final blow, it is a dead end. But in Jesus, even this dead end looks like a new door opening into a world of mighty wonders. His ways are amazing.

7. Giving for better [Mark 6:35-44]

Jesus was evangelizing with his disciples. These disciples left everything behind when they decided to follow Jesus. They listened constantly to Jesus teachings, they witnessed the great miracles he has done and even taken part in those miracles.

Here we see a large crowd was listening to Jesus. They were so eager that they ignored the time and place. When the disciples notices how famished they are, they suggested to Jesus that the crowd may go back, eat, get strengthened and come back. To their wonder, Jesus gave them the responsibility of giving them food.

The disciples are in big trouble now, because it would take them a large sum of money. Jesus came to their rescue from the predicament, but he did demand what they have in their hand. Now the disciples might be dealing with a lot of questions in their heart, but they decided to obey Jesus than to listen to their heart. Once they gave the little they had, they were filled, the large crowd was satisfied and there were 12 basketfuls of loaves remaining for them.

We will be able to see great things happening in our life, in our work, and in our family - when we decide to give to Jesus the little we have. What we have will not be enough for us, usually. But God can work it out for many aplenty. Our trust in God will grow, our faith will increase and there will be joy and peace tiding in our life.

8. Walking on the water [Mark 6:45-52]

The Scriptures makes it clear that Jesus made his disciples to get into the boat to go on ahead of him, while he is dismissing the crowd. It looks like Jesus had something in mind in sending them away like that. Of course there was the urge for him to spend time with the Father, so he went up on a mountainside and prayed. While praying, Jesus did look at the disciples down in the middle of the lake, straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. But Jesus decided to stay and pray till the fourth watch of the night, that means till 3am. I am sure the disciples are tired, exhausted and sleepy. And Jesus came to them walking on the water. They were utterly terrified by the sight. Even though Jesus was about to pass them by, he spoke to them, encouraged them and helped them.

By saying “It is I” (resembles to “I AM” in the Old Testament, when God referred to himself), Jesus makes it clear to them that He is Lord. But then why he needed the 5 loaves and 2 fishes? Jesus could have done it out of nothing! Something in the end tells me that Jesus meant it when he asked them to go ahead of him. V52 says their hearts were hardened. They could not understand why Jesus wanted to take away their loaves. So they missed out the 12 basketful of loaves they collected.

If we are grumpy and grudgy with the requirements of Jesus in our life, or may be the demands of the church, we may miss out a lot of blessing, which are taking place right in front of our eyes. But if we have the heart of Jesus, desperate to be grateful, eager to spent time with God, we will see ourselves rocking on troubled waters.

9. Faith of a Gentile woman

[Mark 7:24-30/Matthew 15:21-28]

The story consists of a simple dialogue between the woman and Jesus. However, Mark has made a narrative which addresses a number of problems of his own community.

First, Mark portrays Jesus as a typical Jew traveling to a Gentile territory and meeting a Gentile (Greek, Syrophoenician) woman. Jesus metaphorically refers to the Jews as children and to the Gentiles as dogs. In effect, he seems to be calling the woman's daughter a dog. But, just as in a household the leftover scraps are given to the household dogs who usually wait beneath the table, the woman argues, so Gentiles should be able to benefit from the ministry of Jesus. How craftily Mark has justified the mission to the Gentiles!

Second, this mission to the Gentiles is based on faith. Because the woman believed and stood up to Jesus, her daughter was cured. Faith, no matter whether one is a Jew or a Gentile, is what characterizes an authentic disciple of Jesus.

Third, it is a woman who gets the best of Jesus. Mark is particularly sensitive to women and their needs. They occupy key positions throughout the Gospel. Why? Because in general, they were powerless people. Mark shows that it is the powerless that are really powerful.

The lesson we learn from this miracle is that begging and crying does not move God. It is our faith in Jesus, and in His Word, that moves mountains. If you are looking for a mighty miracle, find out what the Word says about it and speak/pray/act on it boldly and receive your miracle.

10. Deaf and mute in Decapolis [Mark 7:31-35]

On many occasions when Jesus consented to perform a miracle, his motive was compassion. His heart went out to the sick, the infirm, the stricken, especially if they are old and had suffered the burden of incapacity for many years.

There is something else in the story that it would not be easy to miss. Jesus begins his journey in the region of Sidon and comes to the Decapolis, on the eastern shore of the Jordan, where he meets the deaf-mute. These regions have something in common: they are both pagan

territories. Yes, Jesus comes first and foremost for the lost children of Israel. But his compassion knows no bounds. His miraculous love transforms the lives of the pious and the outcasts as well – tax collectors, Samaritans, gentiles, even the hated Romans!

If this passage only talks about Jesus' physical healing it is not related to most of us because we aren't deaf and mute. There are many who have physically sound ears and mouth but unable to hear and talk. They are so called spiritual deaf and mute. Who are spiritual deaf and mute? They are those who hear and see but can't perceive and understand. For example, Jesus talked about his death and resurrection to his disciples again and again. But his disciples couldn't understand what Jesus spoke about. Because of their human thinking and personal dream they couldn't understand and accept Jesus' death. They could finally understand the meaning of his death after Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into heaven. But for a long time they couldn't understand and accept even though they heard the same message again and again. They were like spiritual deaf and mute.

In this case, the mute and deaf man's friends also exercise their faith. Here we find Jesus anticipating a personal commitment also to the process of healing. He personally touches him and encounters him with his power. This miracle also emphasizes a personal quest for the operation of faith in our relationship with God.

Let us pray to God for mercy for being dumb and deaf spiritually.

11. Feeding four thousand [Mark 8:1-9]

Jesus did this miracle out of compassion towards the people who were with him for the last 3 days. What he had done near Bethsaida Julius, He is now doing here in the Decapolis. What he had formerly done among the Jews, he is now doing among the Gentiles.

He not only cared their spiritual life but their physical life also. In the wilderness, when he was tested by Satan for turning stone into bread, he quoted as "man does not live by bread only, but by every word that comes out of the mouth of the Lord". But Jesus did not serve the same scripture to the hungry crowd; through they are hungry for his word - what else would keep them at that location for three days of preaching? Jesus took the suffering for himself and gave the privileges to others - very unlikely with the so called spiritual leaders today.

Have you come to the place in your spiritual life where you are hungry for God? Where you desire his company and his fellowship more than the basic necessities of life?

Bible does not talk about whether these people complained to Jesus for long sermon or becoming impatient. We have seen people complain when a sermon went three minutes past the

assigned time. This sermon went on for three days. What is more, the crowd had not come prepared for a three day sermon. They had not brought with them three days worth of provisions.

When the Lord begins to move to meet a need, He often does it by moving his people. He could have merely caused it to rain bread and fish - or even literal cats and dogs. But he used the disciples. His method was MEN. It still is.

Though Jesus did the same kind of miracle among the Jews several months back, his disciples become clueless in a similar situation here. In our life also we have the record of all the great works of God. We have the witness of the Scriptures that God is faithful to meet the needs of his people. We have the test of time to see that this is not just a passing fancy. And yet, how often do we fail to come to Him in our need? How often do we hit the panic button and run and yell and scream and forget to turn to the One who is able to meet all of our needs? When everything else has failed, we turn to the Lord. What we ought to be doing is turning to him FIRST.

12. Blind man in Bethsaida [Mark 8:22-26]

Yet another man being healed here, this time of blindness. This healing story is different from many of the others. First, Jesus led the man out of town before performing the miracle and second, he needed two attempts before he was successful. Is there something wrong with Bethsaida? Some say that the residents of Bethsaida didn't believe in Jesus. Both Matthew (11:21-22) and Luke (10:13-14) record that Jesus cursed Bethsaida for not accepting him. Lack of faith is a repulse for Jesus.

Then we have to wonder why Jesus had difficulty making this miracle work. In the past he could speak a single word and have the dead walk or the mute speak. A person could, without his knowledge, be cured of a long-standing illness by merely touching the edge of his garment. So what happened here?

Some say that such a gradual restoration of physical sight represents the idea that people only gradually acquire the spiritual "sight" to truly understand Jesus and Christianity. At first, he sees in a way that is similar to how the apostles and others saw Jesus: dimly and distorted, not comprehending his true nature. After more grace from God works on him, however, full sight is received — just as grace from God can bring about full spiritual "sight" if we allow it.

13. Boy with an evil spirit [Mark 9:14-29]

The boy was affected by an evil spirit. When we hear the words like demon, Satan, evil spirit, we may be thinking of a creature with tail and horns. But we can perceive the evil thoughts and temptations coming to our mind as demons. Jesus rebukes the disciples as “you of little faith. How long shall I put with you unbelieving people’. Faith can change anything. According to your faith, it will be done to you. The boy’s father was aware of his lack of faith and he prays “Help me to overcome my un-belief’.

We can also struggle with lack of faith at times. Once we identify our lack of faith and make a decision to repent and pray, we can really change. Whatever be our sin or weakness, once we see that and admit that and pray sincerely for God’s help, we can overcome them. Let us examine as to which are the demons, that control us. Selfishness, laziness, pride, lust, greed, hatred, jealousy? If we really want to change, then we have to come out of our comfort zone. In Mark 10, the blind man was not idly sitting there and begging. But, once he knew that Jesus was coming, he shouted loudly, pleading for help. Though people rebuked him, he kept on pleading till he got help. Let us expect Mighty Miracles to happen in our life. We should expect God to use us more than ever before. Do you believe that?

What is our purpose of life? God created us and he has a purpose for our life. If we can identify with God’s purpose for our life, then our life is meaningful.

14. Blind Bartimaeus [Mark 10:46-52]

Bartimaeus, the blind beggar did not sit idle when he heard Jesus is passing by. Though he was helpless and he could not expect many great things happening to him, he was determined to give it a try. So he cried out to the one who could help him. Bible says, he cried loudly to get the attention of Jesus on him. Those people around him were not helping him. They were actually discouraging him. Even then Bartimaeus decided to cry out loudly to Jesus, till he gets his help.

Who stops us from crying out to Jesus today? Nobody, except our own sin and lack of faith which resulted out as a consequence of our sin. Lets cry out to Jesus, bros, and sisters. Let us cry out to him loudly for the changes we want to see happening in the church, in other disciples as well as in our life. Let us cry out with faith and a deep desire. For our God is a good God, He wants good things to happen to us, just as we wish it could happen, even more.

Let us believe miracles will take place in our life. Let us believe that God will use us even more, than He used us thus far.

15. Servant of the Centurion [Matthew 8:5-13]

God called us apart, so that we could be faithful to him. Sometimes our faith has to go through the kiln of hardships and be molded and strengthened. We need to allow God to remold us.

A Centurion is a person of power and of many responsibilities. Even then he was willing to go extra miles to bring back his servant who is falling headlong into the hands of chilling death. The Centurion was taking care of the servant in his home, treating him, taking care of him. He was also willing to humble himself and to go to Jesus begging for his servant's life. His talk with Jesus wasn't that of a man with authority, but of humility and of great faith. He had an incredible insight with the authority Jesus possesses. Our understanding of Christ's authority brings forth the equal amount of faith in us.

When we are able to see other's pain as ours, God is very near to us. Because God's heart is made up this way.

We need to break out from the shell of sin that covers us and that puts us in darkness, only then our faith gets exposed and grows. But remember, when we grow others also will grow. Our growth benefits many who are in pain and many who are spiritually lost.

16. Peter's mother-in-law [Matthew 8:14-17]

None of us is without a weakness. And that is the truth. Every sin and every character flaw is a weakness. But when we accept our weakness and when we talk about it, it makes a difference. Like Paul puts it across, my strength is made complete in my weakness. Are we willing to talk about our weakness? Jesus comes in search of the weak to make them strong.

Joby Matthew is 3ft 6in tall and 30 years old. Though he was considered to be a handicapped person, we have read about him in the news papers. He represented India in the Arm wrestling World Championship, which happened in Japan 2 years ago. He became a champion in the general category and won accolades for our nation. If I was not a handicapped person I would never have reached in this position - said Joby later. My weakness made me complete.

When we look into the scriptures, today, are we able to see and recognize our handicaps? Or are we so hardened so that we could not even see the handicap in us? Do you have a desire to come out victoriously in your weakness, and so we can help many who are weak?

Let's go to Jesus, who is able to help out with those sick, sinful and spirit invaded ones. When we go to him, he is able to do the mighty miracle of turning our weakness into his strength for his glory.

17. Faithful friends [Matthew 9:1-8]

Faith is the main ingredient for a miracle to take place. In this miracle we could see that it is not only the particular person whose faith matters, but miracles can take place when there is faith expressed by others. The highlight in this incident is the faith of those four friends of the invalid, who brought him to Jesus. I am sure Jesus wants to highlight that.

We have no idea about this man who is invalid. We do not know how long he was sick, we do not know whether he was born like that. But we do know he had some good friends. Do we have friends like this? Friends who leads us towards Jesus?

Jesus makes it clear to everyone gathered there that He had the authority to forgive sins, by telling the paralytic 'your sins are forgiven'. Thus Jesus is revealing that he is God. The Pharisees who knew only God has the authority to forgive sins, got offended by Jesus statement. They were not willing to put their trust in Jesus, even after they have seen the miracle done by him.

Two things are prominent here: 1. We need to acquire friends who leads us towards Jesus. We also need to be a person who leads our friends to Jesus. 2. Encourage other brothers/sister by telling them Jesus has the authority to forgive their sins. He is the Lord, indeed.

18. Two blind men [Matthew 9:27-31]

What we see here is a pair of blind who persevere with Jesus. Jesus was on his way to his staying place. Nothing really is talking about these blind men, yet one thing we know, they called Jesus as 'Son of David.' Son of David is the title of Messiah. Jesus, who had shown kindness to many, seems to be ignoring these men as He passed them by. But these men have shown extraordinary faith in Him by addressing him Messiah and by following him all the way to his home. They could have gone home, by being hurt or discouraged. But they managed to follow him to his staying place and got indoors so that Jesus could see them. Jesus question to them is relevant here. 'Do you believe that I am able to do this?' Why it is important? Jews connected Messiah as their Political deliverer. But these men put their faith in Jesus as the true Messiah, who in able to heal them. In other words they are expressing their trust in Jesus as he is God. In-fact their faith in Jesus as he is God paid them well, they got healed.

When we trust completely in God, in our troubled times, God gives great rewards. These men knew the in-depth meaning of scriptures and they held on to it. They went behind it so that they could be blessed. Let's get deeper into scriptures and have an attitude of "I will not leave you unless you bless me" (Genesis 32:26). Surely God will use us in amazing ways.

19. The demon possessed mute [Matthew 9:32-34]

The demon possessed man brought in to Jesus staying place. He was made mute by the demon. (Have you noticed that sin makes us mute also? When we are in sin, we are not able to talk in confronting sin.) The crowd around them was so amazed that Jesus is able to cast out such a strong demon. They have seen or read that God used great men to do incredible healing miracles. Men like Elijah and Elisha were powerful instruments in God's hand in healing people. But people felt like those healing are nothing while they compare to this one that is taking place in front of their eyes.

We need to see great things happening in our life and in the Church now-a-days. We cannot spend our days, talking about "those good old golden days". How do we see that? Bring people to Jesus! There are so many around us, who are muted by sin and its burden and guilt. Unable to talk to anyone, they get entangled into many more evil. They live in dangerous addictions and deadly character flaws. Bring them to Jesus and you are the one who is going to be blessed, more than them. Our faith will increase; we will get more close to Jesus. If you are burdened by sins and its guilt (you don't have to be that way), decide to get the help of someone who could lead us to our gentle Savior.

We also see some of those Pharisees, who harden their heart, even in witnessing those great miracles. They refused to put their faith in Jesus. They kept finding some skeptical reason to justify their sinful minds. It is time to think bros, sisters. How is my faith? Is it increasing? This is the 22nd miracle and 22nd day. If my faith and my prayer life is not getting better, there is some serious 'things' within me that needs to be dealt with immediately.

20. Peter walking on the water [Matthew 14:22-33]

After sending disciples away, Jesus took a long time to pray. When he came back Jesus saw the boat was swaying in the wind and waves and the disciples were struggling to control it. When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water they got scared even more. Jesus came to them to assure them it is him, while the disciples were without courage and without hope. They could see a different Jesus. A Jesus whom they haven't seen before. They saw a Jesus on whom they can trust and believe. Imagine a small child who got lost in a huge crowd. The child is terrified by the raging crowd around, crying at the top of its voice. It is as if the father walks to the child in the middle of the ordeal, Jesus is walking towards them and strengthening them.

When Jesus asked Peter to walk on the water he did it indeed, yet when he saw the waves, he stumbled. Peter called Jesus to help him out. Why he did not call his friends, why not Andrew (his brother), James or John. Do all of them are experts in water. Or why he himself tries to swim towards the boat? Only Jesus could help him to 'walk' on the water again.

When we face different trials, to whom do we extend our hand, from whom we look for help? There is Jesus, better than a relative or brother or friend. He is able to help. He is willing to help. Let us turn to Jesus, let us stretch our hands towards Him.

21. Money from fish's mouth [Matthew 17:24-27]

Though Jesus is the son of God, he volunteered himself to pay the temple taxes. He was setting an example for us to put into practice. He did not want us to disobey the rulers of the earth or fulfill the social responsibilities we have. Though Jesus could have given the money out of nothing, he makes Peter to be part of the plan. Jesus does this often; he gets other people involved, when he performs a miracle.

Peter was told to go and put a line and open the mouth of the first catch and find the money and give it as the tax. As a fisherman this could never be Peter's experience of fishing. Yet when he decided to obey, even though it does not look reasonable for him, he could witness a miracle. He could see the power of God.

Similarly, when we decide today to follow the instructions of Jesus in the scriptures, we will be able to see Him doing great things in our life. God will use us to do great things. Our faith will increase, for sure.

22. Withering the fig tree [Matthew 21:17-22]

Good morning, brothers and sisters. Today let us go to a fig tree, a famous fig tree. What we could see here is not only a cursed and withered fig tree, but also a strong call for us to believe in Jesus. Jesus challenges us to have a great faith in our life as His disciples. Withering of the fig tree was an extra-ordinary incident for the disciples, but not for Jesus. Why, because, Jesus believed in the power of his words, and in the power of God. Jesus knew what He said will surely take place. He expected that to happen also.

Jesus expects the same thing from us. He wants to see us as disciples who understand God clearly and completely. Let us fulfill the expectation of Jesus with our life.

23. How could this be possible!!! [Luke 1:26-37]

Young Mary was probably in her dreaming best, before Gabriel appeared to her. She was pledged to be married to Joseph, getting prepared to be married, just waiting for the day. But then suddenly everything seems to be falling apart in life. The angel, the greeting, the comfort, the shock, the call, the growing tummy, having a baby in the wedding plan - how could this be possible!

Plenty of similar responses were seen in the Bible when God propose his plans to people. We see Zachariah asking, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man... (Luke 1:18). Sarah muses, "...will I now have this pleasure?" (Genesis 18:12). Moses had a number of them; "Who am I to go and talk to Pharaoh?" (Exodus 3:11), "What shall I tell them when they ask about you?" (Exodus 3:13), "What if they do not believe me?" (Exodus 4:1), "I am not eloquent" (Exodus 4:10). Even after God explaining patiently the solutions for all his questions, Moses still responded to God, "O Lord, please send someone else to do this." (Exodus 4:13). God gave all of them his overriding thought: *with God all things are possible*.

It is easy to get muddle up in our thoughts, to lose faith and settle in conveniences. But God makes it clear, "Nothing is impossible with God." Here starts our quest for Mighty Miracles taking place in our life. It is possible with God, absolutely.

24. The Lord had done this for me! [Luke 1:18-25]

Elizabeth was said to be barren (Luke 1:36), and Zechariah was well advanced in years. But it was God's pleasure to change the order of things overnight.

It is amazing when we see the generations of barren women in Genesis; Sarah (Genesis 18:12), Rebekah (Genesis 25:12) and Rachel (Genesis 29:31). What comes alive after these three generations is literally an explosion of tribes and nations. (Like the Cambrian Explosions if you know it, otherwise never mind).

God picks up the weak ones and uses them for his mighty purposes in amazing ways to show the world his true strength. It amazes me that God delights in doing things which are 'not normal' in the ordinary settings. It is a delight for God to do extra ordinary things through ordinary people. Seeing that, David cries; "Is it your normal way of dealing with man, O Sovereign Lord?" (2 Samuel 7:19). What is 'normal' for God is a mighty miracle for us.

Later, we see Mary paid a visit to Elizabeth and they both recognizes the mighty miracles God had done in them (Luke 1:51). And they have got excited about God. They were not talking about preparations for child birth or recipes for a healthy porridge. But they were talking about

greater things, like falling of dynasties, redemption of their nation and freedom for those in dungeons. Their minds have awakened to the possibilities of the power of God.

Let us prepare our minds for the great things God is going to do with us.

25. Win Thyself [Luke 4:1-13]

Jesus was all set for the great goal of his life, baptized and empowered. Yet he knew that he needed to fight the battles inside and outside effectively to win the war of salvation for souls. It was his goal to live a life absolutely free from sin. It was his life to sacrifice himself as a lamb free of blame and blemishes. It was his dream to bring salvation to the lost world.

A war is won when the number of battles we won is more than the ones we lose. Jesus wanted to win all the battles from inside. This motivated him to live the life he was living the way he lived. This pushed him to pray, this humbled him to fast, and this compelled him to fight each temptation.

I believe that my biggest sin is not that terrible thing which I have done in the past - before my baptism. My biggest sin is the sin that is present in my life now. My anger, my laziness, my impure eye, my lack of forgiveness, my pride, and the unfair criticisms I make.... Do you see this? Jesus could see that, so he could fight; effectively, with scriptures.

Winning those 'no big deal' battles inside us makes the victory sure for us. Remember Jesus had already won the war for you. You are the star of the victory lap. The crown is made to your 'head size'. Win thyself.

26. The first catch of fish [Luke 5:1-11]

When Jesus preached at the shore of Lake Gennesareth a large number of people were listening to him, Peter and his friends were also there. They worked hard throughout the previous night, but they could not catch anything. And they were discouraged. When Jesus told them to cast their net into the deep sea, they responded. When they decided to obey what Jesus told them even in their discouragement, they had a great catch.

When Peter saw the catch he turned to be different. He said, 'I am a sinner, leave me.' Because his obedience did not come out of faith. But then when he saw the result, he was ashamed. How could I be so faithless! Two great moments, moment of great joy and moment of great pain, came together into the life of Peter. It is like the delivery pain in a woman. She delivers with an immense pain, yet at the next moment, the pain turned to be the greatest joy in her life.

There are times of immense pain in our life, but remember, it is going to bring forth the greatest joy in our life the next moment. When we are in pain, it is not easy to obey or listen to God. But when we are firm and obedient, the next thing we see is His glory. We see his miracles.

27. Raising widow's son [Luke 7:11-17]

As he entered in to the city of Nain, Jesus saw the dead body of the only son of a widow which was carried by the men in charge of his burial. There was a large crowd also accompany her. Jesus saw the tears and the desperation of the widow and his heart moved towards her. The crowd becomes mere spectators most of the time, yet at times they do try to get involve and help out. When Lazarus was dead, Jesus joined the cries of Mary and Martha and the crowd. Our God is a God who cries along with us when we cry. And here we see the cries of a group of people moved the heart of Jesus to do a miracle.

When many people get involve and join in the pain of one person, God gets involved quickly. So it is great to allow other people to get involve in our pain, also for us to get involved in others pain. We need to share our pain and problems with others, along with our sins. Because it is better to pray about a person specifically, knowing the pain, than just to pray plainly without really knowing what to pray. God listens to sincere prayers.

The crowd here praised God when they saw the raising of the widow's son. Every closed door is a situation for God to work. We can see God reveals his glory in such situations. Let us make it a habit to face obstacles with prayer and great faith. Let us also take part in giving glory to God when we see him reveal his glory.

28. The Sinful woman [Luke 7:36-50]

I consider this miracle as the miracle of the miracles. We can be healed of our sickness or inabilities or even be raised from dead, yet what good it is unless we do not have forgiveness of our sins?

Why this woman is called a sinner? There are others who are sinned also. We could never hear Peter the sinner or Martha the sinner etc. This woman has in her mind that she is a sinner and that she did it against the Lord. It was not a momentary feeling, but a firm decision to change life forever. Jesus did not find a saints face or a adulterers face or a guilty face on her, she had the face of a sinner. May be that is why Jesus decided to give her a chance.

Let me narrate a story. Almost 22 years ago, a newborn girl child was found abandoned near the Ernakulam Fine Arts hall, in the river shore. The authorities of the school where my child is studying now, has decided take care of her. Three years later a couple from Belgium came forward

to adopt her, and they took her to their land. She grew up as a known singer in Belgium; the land honored her with many awards.

When she is grown one day she came back India. She wanted to at least see her mother. She came with the adopted parents and gave advertisement in news papers. 114 women came to see her claiming to be her mother. She had a talk with all of them, and yet she was discouraged. She said she could not find a sinners face in any of those 114 woman who came there, so how could I ever find my mother. With tears she returned back to her adopted land.

If we go to Jesus with the face of a sinner, our sins, which are many, will be forgiven and we will be given a new chance to live a better life. We will find freedom in Christ. Only stumbling block in our spiritual growth is our own sins.

29. Water into wine in Cana [John 2:1-11]

At this wedding we see Jesus in three roles, first a guest, second a son and third a host. Jesus did not stay away from the social life around him, as against John the Baptist, he did make use those opportunities to connect with people. Jesus entered into normal happenings of life and He made those events a memorable one with his presence. Though they were not aware of whom they invited as their guest, this couple is lucky. Aren't we lucky because we invited Jesus into our life as our Lord?

Mary was informing the situation to Jesus, because she believed her son would handle the situation well, though no one knew what way he could help. Jesus was a responsible son. The first miracle of Jesus was not a spectacular event that everybody noticed. Those who were at the table did not even know that such a thing took place. Few disciples, his mother and few servants who helped out to bring water were the only witness to this miracle.

Isn't it thoughtful to see Jesus started his work from a wedding? God challenged the Israelites that they were not faithful to Him. Jesus started where God felt hurt, bringing the joy of union of God and man on an occasion of a wedding.

Turning water into blood was a warning for Pharaoh, a warning for judgment. While by turning water into wine, Jesus opens the door for eternal joy spring out from our heart. Enjoy being with God today morning. He is in control.

30. Healing the Official's son [John 4:46-54]

Jesus came back to Cana again. May be He wanted to “follow up” with the seeds he had sown before, by doing a miracle there. And of course the seed is ready to sprout. One of the officials travelled many miles to see Jesus, because his son was dying. We don’t know if he a Jew or Gentile, what position he is in or about his previous acquaintance with Jesus. One thing we know is he was begging Jesus to come with him. The first response from Jesus was next to a rebuke. But this father had an unswerving faith in Jesus. He begged him to come to his dying son. And see the depth of his faith, when Jesus said, ‘you may go’, he went back to his dying son.

I don’t know what is going through his mind, but his next response shows that, it is all about Jesus. When the servants came reporting about his son’s wellness, he was excited to know the time. He was focused on Jesus.

Seventh hour means 7 o’clock in the evening. That means the man was travelling throughout the night and the next day morning he came to meet his servants. This man was truly confident in Jesus. He left his dying son, travelled many miles to come to Jesus, was willing to believe in the words of Jesus, was willing to travel back home late, actually in the night.

Jesus healed the Centurion’s servant who was at a distance, so as the daughter of the Canaanite woman. Near or far, in sight or out of sight, Jew or Gentile, living or dead, Jesus is the Lord of all.

31. Man born blind [John 9:1-34]

Some people could not believe in God, even if they have seen great miracles. Yet for some, a small incident is a good enough reason for them to put their trust in God. Everyone appeared in this incident was well aware that a man born blind has received sight. But they were all alike in refusing to believe in Jesus. What more, his own parent refused give glory to God for having such a great thing to happen in their son’s life. They were frozen by fear of Pharisees.

Do you belong to the ones who refuse to glorify God? Or are you keen to glorify God in front of others? Do you make use of the opportunities you have to talk about Jesus, or do you rather say, let him say, like these parents.

How happy is the man who has no eye sight, when get his eyes got restored? How much more should we be happy and grateful to God for giving us great eyesight? We have the power to hear, we have normal intelligence, we have the capacity to walk and talk. How much more keen we should be to serve Him for all those great blessings? How happy and blessed we are when we finally find relief from a pestering sickness? Now God is protecting us from incidents so carefully so that we are not getting in to sickness or accidents which could cause permanent damages in us. How much more we should be active in sharing his glory.

Though we are sighted, we should not turn blind to the responsibilities God has set aside for us. We should not ignore the plans God has prepared ahead of time for our society and our family

and our church, which God intended to work through us. Let us be proclaiming his glory wherever and whenever we are.

32. Raising Lazarus [John 11:1-44]

Jesus kept a close relationship with the family of Lazarus. He was known as a friend of Jesus. A family, like all of us, which went through the thick and thin of everyday life. Too many of us find ourselves complaining and grumbling, when we go through such difficulties. We do think why God is doing this to me, He is capable to deliver me miraculously, He is mighty, but why He is not available?

When Lazarus was sick, Jesus did not go to see him. May be many would have talked about it, even complaining. Even more when he died out of the sickness. But then Jesus arrived when the family has lost all their hope, Lazarus was dead, he was buried and the body started decaying.

Why do God allow us to go through troubled times? Parents would not allow their children to suffer from mosquito bites, even. Yet the same parents, holds them firmly when they are getting vaccinated. The parents will not relent, no matter how hard the child struggles. Because we know as parents, it is important to build resistance in a child against deadly diseases.

Our father in heaven knows very well, what amount pain that we have to go through so that our soul would be secure. He makes us to go through troubles so that we are presented with no blemish or blame. How prepared are you to be presented as a bride for Jesus?

Submit yourselves to God completely; He will act at the right time. No matter how decayed or smelling we are, Jesus is still capable of helping us.

33. Restoring Broken Limbs [John 18:10-11 (Luke 22:49-51)]

Beginning with chapter 18, we read the final events of the life of Jesus on earth, his sufferings and his cross. Jesus was born to suffer and die. But the chapter doesn't present Jesus as a victim handed to death, but as a courageous and focused Christ willingly taking up his cross. He was still in charge, even in the face of suffering and death. He was still the 'all powerful' and a touch of his palms could heal the deepest of wounds.

Malchus might have been one among the foremost of those who advanced to seize Jesus. And the impulsive Peter, not understanding the Master's plan, probably wanting to take charge of the situation, struck possibly aiming at his head, and his right ear tore off.

Life can go wrong sometimes, people can get hurt, and health can fail. But today are we like Peter, who do not understand our Master's plan? How often do we strike another with our sword of anger, the sword of envy, the sword of pride, the sword of resentment, the sword of bitterness, the sword of unforgiveness? We got to remember God's promise "*For in everything God works for the good of those who love him.*" God is in charge. He had the best intentions through Jesus' sufferings. He has the best intentions in every situation of our life.

Malchus was healed. It just took a touch of Jesus' palms. There is not a problem so big in our life that Jesus can't solve. It might just take a touch of his palms. Therefore, brothers and sisters "Cast all your burdens on the Lord, because he cares for you."

34. The Empty Tomb [Matthew 28:1-6]

In the beginning God had created the universe, including man, in six days and on the seventh day he took rest. Christ here finished his redeeming work and took rest in the tomb and he was raised in the first day after the passover-sabbath, perfecting his work. He is the only hope of the entire human world. He is the bright Morning Star (Rev 22:16). He is the Root & the Son of David, Alpha & Omega, First & Last, and Beginning & End. Jesus is the true light, the light that shines in the darkness. John says the darkness has not understood the light (John 1:5)

How could darkness understand the light? They just can't exist together. The empty tomb of Jesus is our motivation; it is the source of our strength. A gigantic sized death is shrunk to nothing in the empty tomb.

A school teacher had asked her children to bring something to the class after the Easter vacation, something that represents a new beginning. Children brought many things, like an egg, a seed, a sprout, a bud etc. One of the boys brought an empty box, seeing that the whole class laughed at him. Finally the teacher asked an explanation for his act. And to her surprise the boy explained what he heard in the Easter message. The empty tomb represents a whole new beginning for the human race.

If you think your life is an empty box today, you are at the right place - if you put it in perspective with Jesus - because God created the entire universe out of nothing.

35. More than we imagine [John 21:1-14]

God can do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine according to his power. The sea of Tiberias, also known as the sea of Galilee, is where Jesus did several miracles, is where he walked on the water, calmed the stormy sea, and fed the five thousand. It was common practice to fish at night and to sell the fish on the morning market. These professional fisherman who fished almost all their life, worked this whole night and didn't catch a thing.

Vs. 6 He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. More than we ask or imagine. Cups running over. Showers of blessings. Life to the full. God does this when we trust and obey.

Consider psalms 128

"Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in his ways,
You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessing and prosperity will be yours.
Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house.
Your sons will be like olive shoots around your table.
This is the man blessed who fears the Lord."

Consider what God told the Israelites in Deuteronomy 7:

"He will love you and bless you and increase your numbers.
He will bless the fruit of your womb, the crops of your land – your grain, new wine and oil
– the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks...
You will be blessed more than any other people; none of your men or women will be
childless, nor any of your livestock without young.
The Lord will keep you free from every disease.....

Let every praise, glory and honor belongs to him, our Lord Jesus.

36. Believe [John 20:24-28]

The word *connected* has much significance in today's life. We just can't imagine being without our cell phone, sms, mails, missed calls etc. We have become accessible 24 hours a day. Even though it is easy to be connected to others easily now-a-days, the truth about being truly connected to others or the depth of this connection is definitely under scanner.

Why Thomas missed that all important meeting? We don't know. Not only he missed being connected with Jesus, he missed his connection (read trust) with his brothers and sisters, he missed the connection with scriptures – mistrust and unbelief has made its den in his heart.

Good things can be a distraction. Like a university professor found out recently. The university provided laptops for its students and the students keep the device open to take notes while the lecture is on. But they do engage themselves with chat, tweet, facebook, comment, mail etc. also during the class. So it is a big distraction during the learning process.

What 'good things' distract you from growing spiritually – missing meetings, not being connected to Jesus and his disciples? Stop doubting and believe!

37. What I have I give you [Acts 3:1-8]

In chapter 2:43 Luke said “..many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. And here he is giving an example for us. The era of mighty miracles did not come to an end when they killed Jesus. But it sparks of a new era, which is even more exciting and powerful. The name of Jesus is just enough for a powerful miracle to take place.

Peter and John are going together here. If they were alive today, they would have told and laughed about how much they fought with each other and how competitive they were. Peter’s repentance in the High Priests Courtyard brought about such a great change in them. When two are united together in praying, mighty miracles takes place. Indeed.

38. Aeneas & Tabitha - get up! [Acts 9:32-41]

Aeneas was bedridden for eight years as a paralytic. Peter challenged him to get up and take care of his mat. A wonderful miracle has taken place in the name of Jesus. When you see someone being paralytic in their mind towards Jesus, challenge them to get up and take care of their life, you will see wonderful miracles taking place.

Tabitha was known as a good girl, like a gazelle, she was spreading happiness through her good deeds for the poor and the widows. They were grieving because they were touched by her love. Peter had no doubt, he prayed and asked her to get up. And she got up.

The era of Apostles are over, but the power of scriptures and power of prayer is still with us to see great miracles taking place in our era – the era of Holy Spirit.

39. Tired and dead [Acts 20:7-10]

Eutychus decided to take the window seat that day. May be he was exhausted and was looking for some fresh air, I suppose. May be he had a bad day. And it was the day for Paul also, he went on past midnight. Eutychus fell into a deep sleep and from the third floor also. Good that

Paul was there, otherwise they would be singing “when the roll is called up yonder” instead of a communion song.

The sting of death is taken away. Death is no scarier. Jesus destroyed it on the cross, he overcame death. Death has become a victory sign for those who are in Christ. He saved us from death and eternal loss.

Previously death was considered as the dying down of a lamp. But now death is like the lamp puts its flame down happily because the day light has come. Let’s be comforted like never before.

40. You need (it) to survive [Acts 27:27-44]

I have read this somewhere, “A ship is safe if it is resting on the shore, but it is not made for it.” A ship is made to fight against all the odds at the sea. This ship too was fighting and doing its best against all the turbulences in the sea, though it had to give up many things. But they decided to run the ship to the sand, the front portion of the ship was stuck in sand and the rear portion was shattered to pieces by the wind and waves.

Let us not get our head stuck in something unhealthy that leads to a shipwreck of our faith. There is no joy in that.

Paul calls for attention and faith, throughout the 15 days of ordeal from the men on board. And they did trust in him in some ways. We need to have faith, to survive this raging, sinful world. The faith that fights to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one – Paul tells later. Peter says your faith – of greater worth than gold – gets refined by ordeals and be proved genuine and results in praise, glory and honor in front of Jesus. Faith is all that matters in the end. Jesus said, “whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that received it, and it will be yours (Mark 11:24).