

**The Miracles**  
(In the synoptic Gospels)

LESSON 1: **THE MIRACLES OF JESUS AS SIGNS**

1. **The Miracles of Jesus were signs of God's saving presence and action among men.** Many miracles of Jesus indicate that the Kingdom of God – a time of peace, love and hope, especially for the poor, has dawned.

Actually miracles give us a glimpse into the kind of world God wants for his children, a world free from hunger, disease and other man-made suffering.

2. **The four kinds of miracles of Jesus**

- a) **Healing;**

Jesus was giving us a sign of God's loving concern for all human persons

e.g. - Jesus healed the blind, the deaf, the paralytics, the lepers

- the man with the withered hand
- Peter's mother-in-law sick with fever

- b) **Exorcism**

Through these miracles in which Jesus freed the people from the power of the evil one, He gave us a sign that there is no other force greater than God Himself, and that the devil does not have ultimate power over human beings.

e.g: -The two demoniacs of Gerasa

- A man with an unclean spirit
- Gentile woman's possessed daughter

- c) **Nature Miracles:**

Through the nature miracles that Jesus performed He gave us a sign that God the Father is the Lord of the Universe, and that through Jesus He desired to rule Nature and the World.

e.g: - The stilling of the storm

- The wonderful catch of fish
- The multiplication of the loaves and fishes

- d) **Raising to Life:**

Jesus was giving a Sign that God is the creator and Master of life and that in Him (Jesus), God was inviting us to a better and fuller life.

3. **The most important element in any miracle story is the faith-response it wants to evoke** Jesus performs the miracles as signs to evoke the faith-response from the co-lookers,

Jesus Heals a Crippled woman (Lk 13:10-13)

Jesus was pointing to the Father's love for all women in pain- the Father wants to restore health of mind, body and spirit through His Son Jesus to all those who are not in good shape.