

## **Lesson 2 – What Are the Proofs that Jesus Is the Son of God?**

(Ask the student: If your neighbor told you that they had come down from heaven to earth, what would you think? (that their neighbor was crazy) Jesus was claiming not only that He had come from heaven (see John 6:38, 41), but also that to see Him was to see the Father (see John 14:9), and that He existed before Abraham (see John 8:58), and that He was the Son of God (see Matthew 16:15-17). Claiming such attributes is easy; proving it is another matter. What proofs did Jesus offer?

### **The Miracles of Jesus**

(Read Luke 5:17-26) (Ask the student to tell what happened in the text.) What great faith these men had, who, unable to reach Jesus because of the crowd, went up on the roof to lower the paralytic! And how strange, upon having the paralytic in front of Him, what Jesus first said to him: "Man, your sins are forgiven you" (ver. 20). The scribes and Pharisees, when hearing this, thought that Jesus had blasphemed by claiming for Himself a characteristic that belongs only to God. Of course, we can and should forgive people who sin against us. However, we cannot forgive sins that have nothing to do with us. Only God has this power. Here Jesus was claiming to be divine, to be God.

Now comes the test. Jesus asks them, "Which is easier to say: Your sins are forgiven you, or to say: Arise and walk?" (Ask the student if they have any idea which is easier to say.) It is easier to say, "Your sins are forgiven you." Why? Because, since the result is not seen, anyone can claim to do it (such as Catholic priests), and there is no evidence in sight that they are lying. However, by saying, "Arise and walk," people can see if you have power or if you are a charlatan. So, by healing the paralytic, Jesus powerfully proved that He was divine, that His word came from on high, and that He was divinity in the flesh, the Son of God, who has the power to forgive sins.

### **Real Miracles**

These days, there are people who claim to work miracles. However, there are big differences between what is seen today and what Christ did. (Read Mark 7:32-35) Here it tells us two important things: "Immediately his ears were opened... and he spoke well" (v. 35). The first thing: "immediately." The second thing: "he spoke well." Today, when a person heals little by little, it is not a miracle like Christ did. Today, when a person gets better in part, it is not a miracle like Christ did. Christ healed people immediately and completely. Thus, He gave proof that He was the Son of God.

(Read Matthew 14:34-36) (Ask the student how many sick Jesus healed on this occasion.) "As many as touched it were made whole." All! In no healing campaign today do they claim that all are healed. On the contrary, they offer excuses to explain why many are not healed. Jesus did not need to offer excuses. Of those who came to Him for healing, He always healed them all. He was not a charlatan. He was the true Son of God, as He claimed.

Perhaps we feel sad that we did not have the privilege of being present to see these miracles with our own eyes. However, we have the testimony of eyewitnesses. The Apostle John was an eyewitness as well as a writer. (Read what he said in John 20:30-31) (Ask the student John's purpose for writing about the miracles of Jesus) He wrote so that we would believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and thus have eternal life.

## Jesus Fulfilled Prophecy

In addition to miracles, Christ fulfilled a large number of prophecies. (Read Luke 24:44) (Ask the student where the prophecies that were to be fulfilled were found) They are found in the Law of Moses, the prophets, and the Psalms. They divided into three parts what we today call the Old Testament. These predictions were made hundreds of years before Jesus' birth. It's not about short-term predictions like it's going to rain tomorrow, or that so-and-so is going to be the next president. We are talking about predictions made hundreds of years before the fulfillment.

Example. (Read Micah 5:2) (Ask the student what is prophesied here) The eternal ruler of Israel was going to come out of Bethlehem. (Read John 7:40-43) (Ask the student if they understand the confusion of these people) These Jews knew that Jesus was from Nazareth in Galilee, so they thought that Jesus could not be the promised Messiah. What they were unaware of at this time was that, although Jesus did grow up in Galilee, he was born in Bethlehem, thus fulfilling the prophecy.

Another example. (Read Acts 8:26-39) (Ask the student to recount what happened in the text.) What interests us at this point is that the Ethiopian was reading a prophecy from Isaiah, chapter 53. That entire chapter is a prophecy of the Messiah. Now let's consider the detail: "As a lamb before his shearer is silent, so he doesn't open his mouth" (Acts 8:32). A small detail, but Jesus fulfilled it before the leading Jews (see Mark 14:60-61), and before Herod (see Luke 23:8-9), and before Pilate (see Mark 15:3-5). It is true that He answered some important questions; however, for the most part he did not answer anything to defend Himself against all the accusations. Through the fulfillment of the predictions about Jesus, the Ethiopian believed and was baptized.

## Questions

1. What are two kinds of proof that Jesus is as He said: the divine, eternal Son of God? (His miracles and the fulfillment of messianic prophecies)
2. In contrast to those who claim to work miracles today, what are some of the characteristics of Jesus' miracles? (healed everyone, healed them immediately, and healed them completely)
3. Name two prophecies that Christ fulfilled. (born in Bethlehem, did not open his mouth at his trials)
4. Since you have not seen any miracle of Jesus, how can you believe in Him? (based on the testimony of those who did see Him, such as the apostle John)