

The Miracles of Jesus, Part I

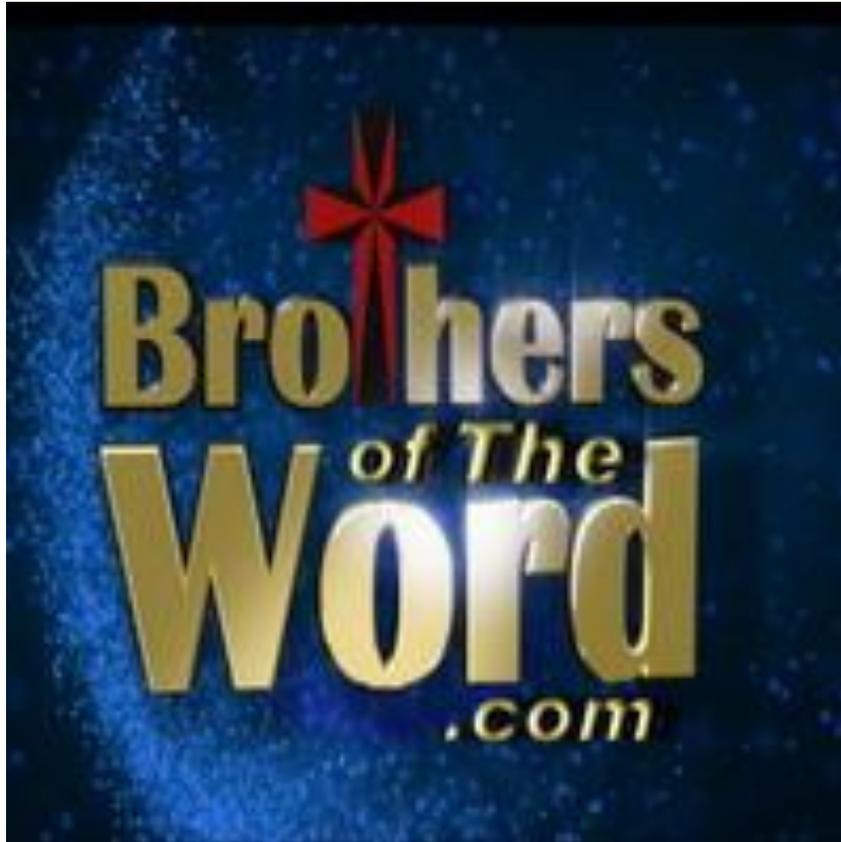
Sermon Title: **The Miracles of Jesus, Part I**

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Speaker: **C. Elijah Bronner**

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C. Elijah Bronner: Every day is an opportunity to trust God. Every day is an opportunity to love people. Every day is an opportunity to deepen your character.

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Female: And now for 7816, The Miracles of Jesus, Part I.

C. Elijah Bronner: Well, thank you for joining Brothers of the Word, because, brother, you need the word.

We welcome all of you joining us by television and those of you joining us online at brothersoftheword.com or Facebook Live. Always a wonderful joy and delight to have you to tune in and join us. I would like to share just a little humor.

A pastor's wife, she was preparing pancakes for her young sons and the boys begin to argue over who would get the first pancake and their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. She said, "If Jesus were sitting here, he would say, let my brother have the first pancake." The oldest boy turned to his younger brother and said, "You be Jesus."

Well, we are looking at a passage of scripture over in John Chapter 6, and I want to talk about the miracles of Jesus. This is the first miracle we'll look at. The miracles of Jesus. I just want to look at some accounts, some miraculous things that Jesus did in his life and ministry and so this is the first account we're looking at this week, John Chapter 6 and we'll read verses 1 through 14. John Chapter 6 verses 1 through 14.

And let's read there, it says, "After these things, Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee which is the Sea of Tiberius, and a great multitude followed him because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased. And Jesus went up into a mountain and there he sat with his disciples. And the Passover, a feast of the Jews was nigh, and when Jesus then lifted up his eyes and saw a great company come unto him, he said unto Philip, 'Whence shall we buy bread that these may eat?' and this

he said to prove him for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him '200 pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them that every one of them may take a little.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother said unto him, 'There is a lad here which hath five barley loaves and two small fishes but what are they among so many?' and Jesus said, 'Make the men sit down.' Now there was much grass in the place so the men sat down in number about 5,000 and Jesus took the loaves and when he had given thanks, he distributed it to the disciples and the disciples to them that were sat down. And likewise of the fishes as much as they would. When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments that remained that nothing be lost.' Therefore, they gathered them together and filled 12 baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which remained over and above unto them that had eaten."

We will stop right there. And so, we're talking about the miracles of Jesus and this is the first miracle that we'll look at in the series on The Miracles of Jesus. It's interesting, this particular miracle, the multiplication of fish and loaves. This particular miracle is mentioned in all four gospels. It is the only miracle that is mentioned in all four gospels outside of the resurrection. The resurrection is accounted in all four gospels of course, but outside of the resurrection of Jesus, this is the only miracle that Matthew, Mark, Luke and John all record. So that lets us know that this is a very important miracle in all four of them thought enough to include it in the account.

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There is something special and significant about this miracle that Jesus did here with the fish and loaves. And so, Jesus was at a point where the Feast of the Passover was coming up, and so they knew he was going to be leaving soon. So, a great multitude, they were following him for the miracle. So, Jesus was already operating in miracles. He was already performing miracles. So, people were thronging him, multitudes were following him. The fame of him was spreading. His popularity was growing and there was a hunger. People were excited to see a move of God. They were excited to see something fresh. "Could this perhaps be the long-awaited Messiah that prophets have prophesized about for generations? Could he finally be here? Even if he isn't, he is the closest thing we've ever seen that possibly could be."

So, everybody is excited. So, there's excitement in the air. Everybody is following him and so he's at this place, seated with his disciples, seated with those that are close to him. He's seated with them and I want you all to know that we are seated with Him now in heavenly places. We've been made alive with Him, raised up together with Him and we are seated together with Him. So, he was seated here with his disciples just as we are seated with Him now in heavenly places.

And so, in verse 5, "He lifted up his eyes and he saw a great company and he said unto Philip." Now I guess the reason he asked Philip, Philip actually lived in a region nearby within a few miles. Philip from an area that was close to where they were. So that's why he posed the question to Philip because Philip knew the area. He knew the region better than anybody. So, if anybody knew if there were any eating spots available that could feed 5,000 people. And let me just point this out. Now, he's feeding 5,000 people but that's just the men. The scripture says "5,000" but that's only the men, that's not including the women and the children. So, if each man had a wife, that's 10,000 and if each couple had a couple of kids, that takes that up to 20,000. So, this is very easily a multitude of 20,000 people here. So, the 5,000 that he fed, that's just the men. So that's not including the women and the children. So, this easily could be 20,000 people.

And so, he's asking Philip, "Hey is there a restaurant around here that could serve 20,000 people?" And so, Philip is kind of puzzled at his question. He was like, "Jesus, come on man." So, Philip says, "Even if we could take the money that's in our treasury and use that." He said, "You know that really wouldn't put a dent in this crowd -- on this multitude."

But it's interesting, when he asked Philip that, Jesus already knew what he would do. He already knew what he would do. He wasn't asking Philip to find out about the situation. He was asking Philip in order to test Philip. He wanted to test Philip and so God is constantly testing us. God is constantly testing us to see what our response is to certain challenges. He wants to locate our faith. He wants to see what our thinking is like and so when he asked Philip this, he wanted to locate Philip. He wanted to locate him. One of that locate is faith. He wanted to locate his thinking. He wanted to enlarge his capacity. Philip

was thinking on a certain level, but Jesus wanted to elevate his level of thinking.

Jesus wanted him to believe larger. He wanted him to believe larger. Now, keep in mind, Philip was one of the disciples who had been with Jesus from the very beginning. So, if he had already seen Jesus turn water into wine -- they ran out of wine, they didn't have enough. Philip had already seen the situation when they didn't have enough and he saw Jesus turn water into wine at a wedding. He had already seen Jesus do the miraculous. He had already seen Jesus raise the dead. He had already seen him heal the lame and all these miracles that Philip had already seen. So, he asked Philip, because Philip had been with Him from the beginning. Philip was from the region and Philip was somewhat one of the inquisitive ones and so that's why he asked Philip. He asked Philip to feel Philip out. He just wanted to see what Philip would say. So, he wanted to test.

So, God always tests us. God tests us to locate our faith. He locates our thinking. God wants to see how you're going to respond to problems. God allows problems in our lives as a test. I want you to say this, "Life is a test". Life is a test and you have to realize that every day is a test. Life is a test. You're going to be tested with problems. You're going to be tested with people, difficult people.

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You're going to be tested with illness. You're going to be tested with tragedy. Life itself is a test. So, God is always monitoring our response to life. He's always monitoring our response to challenges. He's always checking us to see how we will respond. Test reveals character. Our character is revealed through test. Character is developed through test. You can tell a lot about a person simply by testing.

So, often, God would test people throughout the Bible. My father used to test people. Whenever, my father will hire somebody, he would invite him to his house and my father would sit on the window and he would put paper on the lawn, and he would sit by the window and watch the candidate to see if they would stop and pick up the paper because that would tell him a lot about the person. It will let them know if they're

conscientious, if they take initiative, if they pay attention to detail, you could tell a lot about a person simply by putting a piece of paper on the ground. That's a test. Tests reveal character. Tests reveal character.

And so, God always tested his people just to know what was in their heart, just to know how they will respond, how they would treat challenges, how they will respond to difficult situations.

You look at Abraham, he had a test of faith. Abraham had a test of obedience. "Abraham, kill your son." God never intended him to kill his son. It was merely a test, wanted to locate his loyalty. He wanted to locate his obedience. He wanted to check his faith. It was merely a test. This is just a test.

God already knew what he was going to do. The ram was already in the picket that God was going to replace his son with -- that's what actually, you know, when I text you, when Jesus asked the question to Philip. He said we wasn't asking Philip because He didn't know. He already knew what He's going to do. He was testing Philip. He is Jehovah Jireh. Jehovah Jireh means that that's the God who sees ahead and provides the need. He's already seen it. God knows the end from the beginning. He calls the end from the beginning. "I know the plans that I have for you, sayeth the Lord. I already know what I'm going to do. I already know what I have in store for you. I already know what I have planned out for you." God already knows.

But He'll ask us because He wants to test us. He's monitoring our response. And so, God always tested His people. Abraham did really well on certain test. Abraham believed God at certain points and it was counted to him as righteousness, and so he became the father of faith. So, Abraham did really well on certain points. He got ready to sacrifice his son as an active obedience. He passed that test.

So, Abraham was generous with people. He was kind. He was a peacemaker. He walked in humility. Abraham passed all of those tests. There were a couple tests Abraham did not do well on. Abraham did have some bouts of doubt. He did go through a couple of some doubt especially when he took a long time. It was 25 years before the promised child came, that took 25 years.

So, in the middle of that, he waivered a little bit. That's a long time. And a lot of times, got to take a long time because that's a test. He wants to see how you're going to hold up if it doesn't happen tomorrow night. How are you going to hold up if you don't get the answer to your prayer to by the next Friday? How are you going to hold up? It's a test. It's a test. Same thing with Job; that was a test. It's just to see, just to check the condition of our hearts.

So, God is always testing us, proving our quality. He's testing. So, Abraham did really good on most of his tests. He flunked a couple of tests. He didn't do well trusting God to protect him and his wife because he lied a couple of times. He said, telling you're my sister. He didn't trust God. So, Abraham, he flunked a couple of tests. But overall, he did really well. I would say overall, he probably made like 85.

But God always tests and there are some other characters who did really well on test. You look at characters in the Bible like Ruth, did extremely well on test. Tragedy struck her life. Now, God monitors our response, tragedies happen. Sometimes things happen; we have no control over. Tragedies are part of life. They happen. They happen. Sometimes there's nothing we can do about them, but there is a response, and so God checks our response.

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Tragedy hit Ruth's life. She lost her husband. Her husband died. They were just a young couple and she lost her husband. How will she respond to this tragedy that struck her life? Ruth responded with great character. She responded with great faith. She responded with hard work. Ruth was loyal and she was faithful and she was obedient. She was tremendous in passing that difficult test and God rewarded her and she found her Boaz and became part of the lineage of Christ Jesus. But that was a test. So, Ruth did really well and Joseph did extreme, the way we look at his life, his whole life was just one test after another, and Joseph did really, really well, man. Oh man! He was tested and he passed one test after another.

So, Joseph did really well, Daniel did well in test, and there are others; there are others. There are some that David messed up on some test. So, you got to realize every day is a test, so every

day you're tested; you're tested. So, it can be anything from how you're going to respond in traffic or how you're going to respond when somebody has an attitude, how are you going to respond when somebody lies on you? How are you going to respond when somebody cheats you? How are you going to respond when somebody irritates you? How are going to respond to somebody who's completely an idiot and they're absurd, and how are you going to respond?

All those are tests. All those are tests. So, God, He's constantly testing our character. He's constantly testing several things in our life. He's testing our obedience. He's testing our faith. He's testing us with challenges, difficult situations, with illnesses, even successes. He'll test you to see how you're going handle success. Is it going to go to your head? Is it going to make you proud? You can become arrogant.

So, in life, everybody say, "Life is a test." Life is a test. It's a test. So, everyday is an opportunity to trust God. Everybody say, "Everyday is an opportunity to trust God. Every day is an opportunity to love people. Every day is an opportunity to deepen your character." Each day is filled with opportunities in one of those three areas. You're either, you're in a situation where you have to trust God, you got to love people, or your character is being developed.

By the way, you handled yourself in a certain situation. Each day is a test. So, just remember that each morning, today is test day; it's test day. How will you handle test? One lady said, she awoken. She said, "Lord, I've done so good today." She said, "I haven't griped, I haven't complained." She said, "I have encouraged, I haven't gotten angry." She said, "I haven't talked about anybody." She said, "I haven't done this, I haven't done that." But she said, "Lord, I'd be getting out of bed in a few minutes, I'm going to need a lot more help." Every day is a test. Every day is a test. Every day is a test.

So, God is constantly monitoring us. Hezekiah had an interesting test. God actually removed himself from Hezekiah for a period of time. It was a very difficult situation in Hezekiah's life and God withdrew himself. Well he wanted to test Hezekiah when he couldn't feel God's presence. How do you act when you can't feel God's presence? When you feel like

you've been left alone, when you feel like God doesn't care, that he's not there? How do you handle that test?

God will sometimes pull back just to test you, just to test you, just to test you. So, God is always our character. He's testing our faith. He's testing our obedience. He's testing us with challenges and difficult people and situations. It could be delayed promises or unanswered prayer. All of these things are test. All of these things are test to see how we're going to respond, to see how we're going to take the life on.

So, he reveals this. So, Jesus reveals this as He test Philip. He's actually testing Philip just to see what he's going to say. He says, "Philip, how can we feed these people?" He asked Philip that just to test. He wanted to see if Philip's faith would simply be in his reasoning and the logic or he wanted to see if Philip had been with him long enough now to expect the supernatural, to believe God for something greater. I mean Philip has seen him turn water into wine, Philip has seen him raise the dead. Philip could have easily answered and said, "Lord, you can feed these people. I've seen you turn water into wine. I was at the wedding and I drank the wine. I know you can do it." Maybe he could answer like that because he had been with him. But Philip didn't answer like that. Philip is like, "I don't know how we're going." Philip is like, "I don't know how we're going to feed these people." So, Philip didn't do well on a test.

One of the disciples did a little bit better. He said, "We found some food." He said, "We got a little boy, he got lunch." But, that little disciple messed everything because he said, "But what is that?" The Lord said, "Man, this guy is doing good, but then he messed up with this." But Jesus was just testing their faith. He wanted to see if they would believe larger, they will believe larger. If they would believe in possibility, if they will believe something greater was possible.

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They believe there was something bigger at play, they will believe that there's something greater that can happen. Don't settle for mediocre life. Believe for something greater. Believe that all things are possible with God. Nothing is impossible with God. So, Jesus was just testing just to find out where they

were in their thinking, where they were in their faith and the way approach life. Never limit God. We limit God by believing what is and what is impossible. Don't limit God.

God had fed the children of Israel when there was no boy's lunch. There was no lunch and God fed the children of Israel. God is not limited, so don't allow your thinking to put limits on God based on what you think what is not possible, have a tendency to limit God and that's what Jesus was illustrating and what he was teaching. And man, what a marvelous opportunity to demonstrate it and he share something here.

I like something that Steven Furtick said. He says, "If you're not daring to believe God for the impossible, you may be sleeping through some of the best parts of your life." You don't believe God for something that's bigger and greater. You might be sleeping through some of the best parts of your life.

Listen to this. This is a true story. George Mueller, he had an orphanage and I want you to hear this testimony. He says, "The children are dressed and ready for school but there is no food for them to eat." The house mother of the orphanage informed George Mueller. George asked her to take the 300 children into the dining room and have them sit at the tables. He thanked God for the food and waited. George knew God will provide food for the children as he always did. Within minutes, a baker knocks on door and said, "Mr. Mueller." He said, "Last night I could not sleep. Somehow, I knew that you would need bread this morning. I got up and baked three batches for you and I'll bring it in." Soon, there was another knock at the door. It was the milkman. His truck has broken down in front of the orphanage. The milk was spoiled by the time the wheel was fixed. He asked George, he said, "Could you use some free milk?" George smiled as the milkman brought in 10 large cans of milk and it was just enough for the 300 thirsty children. Praise God. God will furnish a table even in a wilderness. God will furnish a table even in a wilderness.

And so, never limit God by your limited thinking and your limited believing, take the limits off of God. All things are possible to Him that believing all things are possible with God. There is no limit with God. God controls everybody and everything. He owns this planet and this universe. He controls everything. There's nothing he cannot do.

And so, this is what Jesus wanted to impress as he asked Philip and these disciples. “How can we feed them? How can we feed them?” Well, here are some things that – I don’t know, maybe I’ll just stop here and we pick up next week. Somebody say, “Please don’t stop, please.” Praise God.

I think I’ve got to stop here. There’s some keys and some points in the story I wanted to share but I’m really out of time but I’m just glad to share on the miracles of Jesus. There’s some things that happens in these miracles that are very powerful. And I wanted to just go back through them and just highlight certain accounts and allow the Lord to speak to us because God wants us to realize that he is still the God who doeth wonders. He is still the God who doeth miracles in our midst. Miracles happen everyday and so it’s an exciting time to be alive. It’s an exciting to believe God for some great things and not limit ourselves by our own limited thinking and believing in by what things look like.

I remember a few months ago when we went to the Dream Center. I happen to hear testimony from the pastor of the Dream Center. He talked about the whole experience when they got that Dreams Center. He said they had \$40,000 in the bank when they went to buy this hospital. He said they only have \$40,000 to buy this multi-million-dollar facility. But he said, “They follow God and they went on to do it.” And he said miraculously within a couple of days of pursuing it, someday stepped up and donated a million dollars right away.

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And he said, the man who donated a million dollars, had said, “Hold on, I’m going to call my son. I will get him to donate a million as well.” They went from \$40,000 to \$2 million within a couple of days just from one man coming out looking at the facility.

It just goes to show you that when God shows you something big, don't limit Him based on your bank account. Don't limit Him based on the resources that you think are available. God owns it all. It's all His. So, we don't limit the purpose and the plan of God based on our finite resources and thinking. He is

the Almighty God and he is the God who doeth wonders. He is a God who doeth wonders. Praise God.

So, we're going to continue. Are you all excited about this God who doeth wonders? He's a God who doeth wonders. He's God who doeth wonders.

We'll will stop right there. We'll pick up and we'll finish next time. Praise God. Well, stand to your feet and let's pray. Father, we just thank you so much, Lord. Thank you for being the God who doeth wonders in our lives. Thank you for stretching our faith, Lord, and stretching our trust in you, Lord. Thank you for believing for greater things and the way things look now. Sometimes, we feel like we're trapped or things will never get better or this is all there is. But Lord, thank you just inspiring us to believe for greater, to believe for more, to see you work in our lives, to do things that we'd never would have imagine because you are the God who doeth wonders. You are the God who still works miracles today. We love you and we praise you Lord and we are so excited, and Lord we ask you to do wonderful things through us. Use our lives to touch the world. In Jesus name we pray. Let every heart say, "Amen." Amen, amen, amen.

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