

The Miracles of Jesus, Part II

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

Sermon Number: **7817**

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C. Elijah Bronner: Never think you are too young or too old to be of service to Christ.

Female: You are listening to brothersoftheword.com. This is part two of the series titled "The Miracles of Jesus" by C. Elijah Bronner. This message is number 7817. That's 7-8-1-7. Listen to over a thousand free messages on brothersoftheword.com.

(Music Playing: 00:00:21 - 00:00:48)

Female: And now for 7817, The Miracles of Jesus, Part II.

C. Elijah Bronner: 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 in brothersoftheword.com or Facebook Live, welcome to today's service. Always a wonderful, delight and joy to have you to tune in and join us.

We would like to share just a little humor. Three boys are in the schoolyard bragging about their fathers and the first boy says, "My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper. He calls it a poem and they give him a \$100." The second boy says, "That's nothing. My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song and they give him \$200." And the third boy says, "I got you both beat. My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon and it takes eight men to collect all the money."

Well, we are sharing in a particular series entitled, "The Miracles of Jesus." and this is part II. The Miracles of Jesus wants you to know that Jesus is still in the miracle working business and I just prayed that during the course of this series that he work miracles in our midst. He work miracles in our lives, in us, for us and through us. Praise God, praise God.

Well, the first miracle we're studying is over in the Gospel of John Chapter 6. The Gospel of John Chapter 6 and we read verses 1 through 14 but just to save some time, we will just pick up at Verse 5 today. John Chapter 6. We would pick up at Verse 5 and you can read along with me there in Verse 5.

It says, "When Jesus lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, "Whence or where 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, “Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.” And so, I just want to sort to teach through some of these verses as we read along John Chapter 6 verses 5 through 14. Here in these verses as we have stated, I wanted you to see the care and the concern that Jesus has for people. Notice the care and the concern that Jesus has for people.

Ministry is about people, say that with me, “Ministry is about people.” You need people in order to do anything great. No man is an island unto himself. Everybody needs someone. We have to help one another, we have to pray for one another, we all need one another. We all need one another and so people are important in all aspects of life but Jesus had great concern and care for people. And so, you have to know how to connect with people whenever you’re building something, whenever you’re trying to do something worthwhile, anything of significant. You have to know how to connect with people.

So, Jesus had this great ability to connect with people. He had care and concern for people. I like something that John Maxwell said about connecting with people, he said, “In order to connect with people, you need to focus on people, focus on people.” He also said, “You need to be likable, need to be likable.” He said, “Next, show others that you care, show others that you care.” People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care. Then he said, “Remember everyone’s name.” Remember everyone’s name. There is a little technique for remembering a person’s name, it is called the SAVE technique. Everybody say “SAVE.” S-A-V-E. It’s a little technique you can use to remember a person’s name.

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The “S”, when you’re meeting a person for the first time and you want to make a decision to remember the name, the “S” is “Say” it. So, you say their name. You say their name three times during the conversation so you know you’re saying, “Willabee (ph)? That’s an interesting name.” So, you want to say the name, you want to say the name. You want to say the name at least three times. So, everybody say, “say it, say it”. So, you want to say the name at least three times during the conversation.

Then the “A” in the SAVE technique for remembering a person’s name, the “A” is to “Ask” a question about the name. “So how do you do you spell Willabee?”

You ask a question about the name. And then the “V” is to “Visualize” something on the person that connects them to the name. So visualize. So, you’re looking real good and you might notice that they have a little mole right about their nose so you connect that to Willabee. So you visualize something, so you say their name, you ask a question about the name that’s the “A”. “V” is to visualize something.

And then the “E” is the “end”, you end the conversation with their name. “So, I’ll see you later Willabee.” That’s the SAVE technique for remembering a person name. Well, that helps you to connect with people. So you focus on people, you will be likable, you show others that you care, you remember everyone’s name and you walk slowly through the crowd and be generous.

Well, that how Jesus connected with people and when there’s great multitude, there’s great crowd, Jesus connected with them and so he used this leadership technique of connecting with people. Everybody say “Connect with people”. Connect with people. And then this is just some review points that we shared last time. Notice that Jesus asked Philip “How are we going to feed these people or where we could buy food enough for these people?” And so, we said that that was a test.

So, we shared that God tests our character, God is always testing our faith. He is always testing our obedience, our love, our loyalty. God is always monitoring our response to people. So, there are difficult people in your life but they are merely there for a test. God is always monitoring your response to difficult people. He is always monitoring your response to difficult challenges and difficult situations. These things are putting your life merely as a test. So, he was testing Philip to know what was in his heart, to locate his faith. He was testing Philip.

So life itself is a test. Our character is revealed by tests. Our character is developed by tests so tests are very important and so life itself is a test so God is constantly testing us. He is constantly testing our quality. Here are some ways that you are tested. You will be tested by unfair treatment. You will be tested by

undeserved criticism. You will be tested just to see how you are going to respond when you have been treated unfairly, you've been criticized undeservingly. You will be tested by delayed promises. You will be tested by impossible situations or unanswered prayer or delayed dreams. You will be tested. So these things happen in our lives simply as a test.

I think one of the people in the Bible who had a great test was Joseph and Joseph made a 100 on this test. He passed every test. Think about all the unfair treatment he received. All the undeserved criticism. He was sold into slavery by his brothers, betrayed by his brothers, he was lied on by Potiphar's wife, put in prison, hadn't done anything wrong, in fact he had done just the opposite. He was doing everything right. He honored God and he cared for great attitude and he always did excellent work. Those are the three qualities of Joseph through all of his tests. He honored God, he kept a great attitude and he always did excellent work. Man, what a great response when life is unfair to you.

Honor God, keep an excellent attitude and do great work. That's what we're supposed to do when life is unfair to you. When things aren't going your way, when you're in difficult situations. Honor God, keep a great attitude and do great work. That's what Joseph did. He passed every test but God was testing him and his quality was just flawless. His quality was flawless. So, he'd really had an imperishable character. There was something strong character about Joseph but he went through a strong testing. When he was sold in the slavery, he was about 17 years old and by the time he came to the throne where he reigned in Egypt, he was about 30 years old.

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So, you're talking about a 13-year test that Joseph went through constantly but he never complained. Never got angry, never questioned God. He just simply honored God, did his very best and kept a great attitude. That's how you handle a test. It's like Joseph reveals to us how to handle a test, but life itself is a test. See, we're tested every day.

So, every day you give an opportunity to trust God, every day you give an opportunity to love people and every day you are given the opportunity to develop your character. Every day is a test. Just remember that when you wake up in the morning, today is test

day. Today is test day. So, be resolved when you leave home or when you get out of the bed, I got to pass my test today.

And so, when your spouse says something sideways to you, you just know that's the test, that's a test, it's only a test. Just say to yourself, it's only a test. And you smile right back and say, "Sweetie, I love to take you out tonight." It's only a test. It's only a test. So, every day is a test.

And then, here's another point we covered last week concerning this particular miracle that Jesus performed is that we limit God by assuming something is not possible. We limit God by assuming something is impossible. And so, I believe this account here encourages us to believe larger, to believe greater. God is not limited by what you have. God is not limited by what you have. I want you to say this with me. Say, "In me is infinite power".

Audience: In me is infinite power.

C. Elijah Bronner: In me is endless possibility.

Audience: In me is endless possibility.

C. Elijah Bronner: And around me is boundless opportunity.

Audience: And around me is boundless opportunity.

C. Elijah Bronner: Well, see, God is in you and that's why there's infinite power within you because greater is he that's in you. There's infinite power on the inside of you. There are endless possibilities because with God, all things are possible. And around you are boundless opportunities. There are opportunities abounding around you for God wants to show up and show himself strong through you and through your lives. There are wonderful opportunities all around you and in you. Infinite power and endless possibility.

So, when you see some sad situations, believe God, that he'll use you to do something about it. That he'll use you to make a difference. So, in you is infinite power and endless possibility and around you is boundless opportunity. There always is wonderful opportunities for God to show up and do something wonderful because you believe him and you put yourself in the position to be used by him.

John Hagee(ph) said, "Attempt something so great for God that it is doomed to failure unless God be in it." Robert Schuller said that, "Possibility thinking reaches inside of us and cause these powers to be turned on." When you believe that something is possible, it reaches on the inside of you and causes power to be turned on. So, Jesus tested Philip just to see if he will believe it was possible for God to do the miraculous. So, God is always testing us. He's always testing us.

Let's read verse 8 and verse 9. Notice verse 8, John Chapter, verse 8 says, "One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him. "There is a lad here which hath five barley loaves and two small fishes but what are they among so many?" Now, the principle here that this miracle teaches us, is don't worry about what you don't have, focus on what you do have, focus on what you do have. Use what you have. Try to say, use what you have. Use what you have.

And so, Jesus actually gave them the instruction -- if you read this account in the Gospel of Mark, Chapter 6 Verse 38. Jesus actually told them to, "Go and see how many loaves you can find." He said, "Go and see." And so, Jesus is saying -- a lot of times there is something nearby, there is something nearby that you can use. He said, "Go and see. Go and see."

So, he lets us know that we have to explore and take inventory right around us. You have to explore your own life and your own surroundings, take inventory because there is something there inevitably there is something there that can be used. If you explore and take inventory of your own life and surroundings, there is always something there that can be used.

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So, Jesus said, "Go see how many loaves." And otherwise, just say, "Go see what we have. Go find what we have. Don't worry about what we don't have." He says, "Let's find what we have and let's use what we have."

And so, you have to look at your life and say, "What is it I have?" That could be a small insignificant gift or talent, maybe some ability that you've overlooked. Oftentimes, they are right around us but we overlook it. We don't think it counts. Now Jesus said, "Find out what we have. Take inventory. Explore. Take the time

to look around you, look within you. See what there is.” God gives everybody something. He gives everybody something.

And so, this is the principle that we see here, we are to explore, we have to take inventory and we had to look around us, look within us. Because often times, there’s something nearby that’s been overlooked or discounted that God can use. I’ve read several accounts of people who didn’t know what they had. I read an account about a man, he operated a driving range so he was a golfer. and he operated a driving range for years. But getting close to the point where his two daughters, they were going to be going to college, he didn’t have the money to pay for the college. And so, he said, “I have to do something.” And so, he took inventory. He explored. He did exactly what Jesus said. He started looking around to see what is it he could do, what he had. He said, “Wait a minute.” He said, “I’m a golfer.” Now, he had never been on the tour but he was about 50 years old but he said, “I’m a golfer.” And he said, “I’m pretty good. I give lessons. I’ve been a professional. I’ve never played on tour.”

And so, he made up his mind. He said, “What I need to do is get on the senior tour, because the senior tour begins at age 50.” He said, “I need to go on the senior tour.” And so, sure enough, he developed to himself and he get on the senior tour and he became a phenom. He become a phenom. He starts winning the millions of dollars on the senior tour. He didn’t even know all along that was there and he didn’t even know it. He had to go look. He had to take inventory. He had to explore to see what he had.

So, often times, there’s something nearby, there’s something that God can use that we already have. It’s already enough surroundings, it’s already in our giftings, it’s already in our abilities and talents. We’ve often overlooked it or discounted it. And so, that’s why Jesus said, “Go and see. Go see what we have. Go see what you can find.”

There’s another lady, her husband had died at a young age and she was a widow, and she said, “Lord, what am I going to do? How am I going to survive without my husband?” And one day, she was at a wedding and she was eating the cake at the wedding. And the cake was dry and kind of hard and the Lord whispered to her. And the Lord said, “You can bake cakes better than this.” She said, “I can.” She went into the cake business and ended up

owning a multimillion-dollar cake business. See, she already has that ability, she just didn't know.

And so, God often times use something that you already have. It's already nearby. Check what's in your house. Remember in the Old Testament, prophet asked a lady, he said, "What's in your house?" The debtors were coming, the creditors were coming to take her sons to be slaves and she called up to the prophet for help. He said, "What's in your house?" She said, "There's nothing in my house except the pot of oil." That's it. That's all he needed was something to work with. He said, "Bring me the pot of oil and go borrow all the vessels you can. "Lady, you're about to go into the oil business." And then God did a miracle there with the oil. The oil kept flowing and filled up all the containers, all didn't stop flowing until they ran out of containers.

Sometimes our believing is smaller than what God can really do. Man, think if they had brought barrels and tanks in there, they had to fill it up. The oil would've kept running as long as there were containers (00:19:01). They didn't believe large enough. But anyway, God did enough to get them out of debt and rescue them and so forth. But it was something already in the house.

So, God uses something that we already have. He uses something that we already have. (00:19:15) said, "Go and see, what you already have." There was a woman in the bible and she delivered Israel using a hammer and a tent peg. She used a hammer and a tamp pad and deliver all of Israel. Man was running. He was one of the leaders of the enemy army and he was on the run. And he ran into this woman's tent to hide. And she lured him off to sleep. She said, "Have some cake and cookies and some milk." She gave him some warm milk and cookies and cake and put him to sleep. Once that (00:19:46) guy slept, she took that hammer and tent peg and drove it through. She nailed his head to the ground but she just used what she had. She used a tent peg and delivered all of Israel.

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There was another woman that used a millstone. She was on top of a wall and once again, the leaders of the army was below the wall. She just happened to look down. She took that millstone and just dropped it down on his head, burst his skull, killed. So, use what you had, tell me what, use what you have. It's not the

great things that we often think. Sometimes it's just little things that we've overlooked that can be used to do significant and great things in the hand of God.

When God puts his hand on it, that's what makes it powerful. That's what makes it powerful. David just used the slingshot and five stones that he had on his hand already. It wasn't expensive equipment and all the armament. No, God used exactly what was in his hand. (00:20:45) of what's in your hand, what's in your hand. Use what's in your hand, use what's in your hand. Take inventory and explore. But that's what Jesus did, that's what Jesus did. It's not about how much you have but using what you have, using what you have. Not about how much you have but using what you have, using what you have. Praise God, praise God.

If somebody said that your future doesn't lie ahead of you waiting to happen, it lies deep inside of you waiting to be discovered. Your future is on the inside of you, waiting to be discovered. Your future is on the inside of you waiting to be discovered. One woman said, "There's a piece of wonderful news in every person." And she said, "The news is you don't know how great you can be." She said there's a piece of wonderful news in every person. The news is you don't how great you can be. Praise God

Well, back to our account here, back to the miracle here that Jesus did. Notice this little boy gave off his lunch and that just shows his generosity, showed that that little boy was special and I'm sure this is not in the story but the Holy Spirit just quickened this. Jesus followed that little boy home, and bragged that little boy to his parents. I'm sure he did, I'm sure he did. If you know anything about Jesus, you know that he wouldn't miss that opportunity to encourage that little boy. I'm sure he went home and told that boy's parents. You'll be proud of your son a day now he is able to do a miracle because of your son.

This little boy is special. This little boy is going to be great. I'm sure that Jesus encouraged. That little boy and highlighted that little boy to everybody because after all, it was that little boy who gave up his lunch and that's not an easy thing to get a kid's lunch, to get the kid to give up their lunch but Jesus highlighted him, that boy. He is not in the Scripture but I just have the inkling by the Holy Spirit that that little boy turned out to be something great. He did something great in the Kingdom of God simply

because he was generous and he was willing to share and be used by God.

Here's a (00:22:46) that this teaches us, "Never think you are too young or too old to be of service to Christ, just a little kid. God used the little kid to do one of the greatest miracles in the bible. Never think you are too young or too old to be of service to Christ. Look at Verse 10 quickly and I'm almost out of time, Verse 10.

Then Jesus said, "Make the men sit down." Now, there was much grass in the place so the men sat down in a number about 5,000, sit down. Look at this, they had to sit down when there was no food. There was no food when he told them to sit down. Faith signals the Holy Spirit to go into action. There was no food when he told them to sit down. So, this was an act of obedience and Jesus wanted to test them again to see if they would obey. So, this is a test. Test of faith, a test of obedience. They sat down when there was no food.

And Jesus took the loaves and when he had given thanks, verse 11. He took the loaves and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples and the disciples to them that were sat down. So, the food went from Christ to the disciples to the crowd. So, between the hands of Christ and the hungry crowd is room for ministry.

So, notice that the food went from Christ to the disciples to the crowd. So, God always allows us to have room for ministry. If you want a miracle, there are three things that are required for every miracle. Number one, there must be a need. Everybody say "Need". You have to have a need. Number two, you have to be willing to be participate, you have to be willing participate. So, notice that the disciples participated in the miracle. They participated, they had to go, see what they can find. They had to distribute the foods so you have to be willing to participate. Number three, it requires faith and obedience, requires faith and obedience. So, those are the three things that are required in every miracle. So, notice that that there's always room for ministry between the hands of Christ and a needy world. He allows us to participate in all of his work and all of his wonderful miracles. Praise God.

Well, we're going to stop right there. I guess the last point I'll make is when you read this account, you'll notice that there was not enough at the end of the story. There was over and above, in between not enough and over and above was give thanks. So, we went from being not enough to being over and above and that was connected right in the middle. When there was not enough, Jesus gave thanks and then there was over and above. And so, when you don't have enough, give thanks. You'll end up in over and above, praise God. Give the Lord a hand for his word, we'll stop right there. Praise God, Praise God. Praise God.

There are a couple more points I want to share in this particular miracle and we will move on to the next miracle. There are some powerful things that I just want to share that are so relevant to our lives and the work of the Holy Spirit and the miracle working power of God. I believe God loves doing miracles in our midst. He loves doing the impossible. He loves working wonders in our lives. And so I'm excited and so just release your faith and I just pray that God will do some miraculous things in our midst during this series. Be some miraculous miracles taking place, praise God, praise God. God loves touching his people and showing out and doing the impossible. He loves to show that he is God. He loves to show that he is God and he gives us the opportunity to participate if we will just yield ourselves to him and have faith and obey him. He allows us to participate in his wonderful works, praise God, amen.

Well, stand to your feet and we are prepared to be dismissed. Amen. Well, let's pray. Father, we just thank you and we love you Lord and thank you so much for your Word. Lord, we thank you for the Ministry of the Holy Spirit. Thank you for working wonders and miracles in our lives. Thank you for giving us the faith to believe you for more Lord, to believe you for greater, to know that with you all things are possible and Lord, we thank you for allowing us to participate and cooperate with you and the earth to do mighty things and wonderful things. Lord, we thank you Lord that there's just boundless opportunities around us and infinite power within us. Lord, we just thank you and we love you and praise you. This in Jesus name we pray, let every heart say, Amen. Amen.

Female:

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