

The Miracles of Jesus

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Speaker: **C. Elijah Bronner**

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C. Elijah Bronner: Don't let your failures immobilize you. Don't let them stop you from pursuing your dreams.

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Automated Voice: And now, for 7833, The Miracles of Jesus. Part 18.

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 at brothersoftheword.com or Facebook Live. Always a wonderful delight and joy to have you to tune in and join us. We would like to share just a little bit of humor. A priest and nun are on their way back home from a trip when their car breaks down and they're unable to get it fixed. So, decide to spend the night in a hotel. And the hotel in the town has one room available. And so, the priest says, "Sister, I don't think the Lord won't have a problem under these circumstances if we spent the night together in this room. I'll sleep on the lounge and you have the bed." And the nun replied, "I think that would be okay". And they prepare for bed and each one takes their agreed place on the room. 10 minutes later, the nun says, "Father, I'm terribly cold" and the priest says, "Okay, I'll get you a blanket. And he does 10 minutes later the nun says, "I'm still terribly cold" and he replies he said, "Okay, sister I get you another blanket" and he does. 10 minutes later, the nun says, "Father, I'm still terribly cold. I don't think the Lord would mind if we acted as man and wife just for this one night." And, the priest replied he said, "You're probably right, get up and get your own blanket."

Where we are sharing in a series entitled, The Miracles of Jesus and today, we're looking at an account over in the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 5, and we will read Verses 1 through 11, Luke Chapter 5 Verses 1 through 11. When you get there, say "Amen." Luke Chapter 5 beginning with verse 1. "And the reason says, 'and it came to pass that as the people pressed upon Him to hear the Word of God, he stood by the lake Gennesaret and saw two ships standing by the lake, but the fishermen were going out of them and they were washing their nets. And He entered into one of the

ships, which was Simon's and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land.

And He sat down and talked to the people out of the ship. Now, when He had left speaking. He said unto Simon, 'Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a drouth.' And Simon answering said unto him, 'Master we have toiled all the night and have taken nothing. Nevertheless, at Thy Word, I will let down the net'. And when they had this done, they enclosed a great multitude of fishes and their net broke and they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship that they should come and help them. And they came and filled both the ships. So, that they begin to sink. When Simon and Peter saw it, he failed down at Jesus's knees saying, 'Depart for me for I am a sinful man, Oh Lord.' For he was astonished and all that were with Him at the drought of the fishes, which they had taken. And Saul, was also James and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon.

And Jesus said unto Simon 'Fear not from His fort though shall catch men.' And when they had brought their ships to the land, they four slipped all and followed Him." So, we're talking about the Miracles of Jesus. This is actually part 18 and we've been tracing different miracles that Jesus performed in his earthly ministry.

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And we've been receiving application into our lives today. Miracles were miraculous then, but they speak into our lives today. God always works on so many different dimensions. And so, He would do things yet, on other dimensions they are powerful revelations and powerful truths. And so, I never studied the Bible merely as a history book, but I always studied it, in terms of application till today. How it effects my life today. How I can use it to today.

And so, the Bible is always speaking to us today. And the Bible is God's Words speaking to us today. So, in this particular account, this miracle here of his great catch, there some different principles and truths I just want to point out throughout this particular account. Now, in this particular scenario, they were at the lake of Gennesaret, which is actually the Sea of Galilee and this crowd had encompassed Jesus and so, there were so many of

them and they were pressing Him. So, He was just up to the edge and saw, it was so many people that He was almost blending into the crowd. He couldn't really effectively teach them where He was, because they couldn't see Him, they couldn't hear Him, because He was blending in, because they were on Him so, closely because He was on the same level with them, called in their multitude.

And so, Jesus look around and He'd saw two ships and He got in one of them. Now, that speaks something to us, always look around, always, always look around with an open mind. Always look around with an open mind. When you're pursuing your goals, or you're pursuing your dreams, always look around with an open mind. I like, something that John Maxwell said, he says, "Keep your body fit, keep your heart flexible, keep your mind open, keep your comfort zone expanding." So, always look around, don't make the mistake of missing things that are close by. Jesus used something that was close by. He used something, He was in a situation and He needed to remove Himself from the crowd. So, that he could effectively minister. And so, He had to quickly analyze, strategize. He had to think and He had to make a move.

So, don't make the mistake of missing things that are close by, be open to ideas, be open to ideas. So, Jesus had to come up with an idea. Someone said that, "Small minds talk about people, average minds talk about events, but great minds, they discuss ideas." And so, Jesus was thinking of ideas. He had to come up with an idea and when He came up with this idea, it was something different, it was something unique, it was creative, it was really a fresh start. No one had ever done this before. He preached out of a boat. No one had ever done that and lo and behold, I'm preaching out of a boat. Well, Jesus originally had that idea. So, we simply copied Jesus's idea. But I love that, that He did something different, He did something unique, He did something creative, He did some thinking, He came up with an idea. So, Jesus was very creative. He was unique, think about it. God is the Creator. So, God is very creative. God is very unique. He's different. So, He's always fresh in His approach and that's what Jesus used. He employed that in this particular instance.

And He lets us know, that God wants to do some new things in our lives, some unique things in our lives, some different things in our lives. Don't be stagnant where you are. Don't be stuck where you are. Don't be complacent where you are. Have a fresh

approach, take time to think, take time to strategize, take time to do something unique, creative. This is to me, “Do all you can with what you have where you are. Do all you can with what you have, where you are.” Don’t ask, “Can I?” Ask, “How can I?” Ask, “How can I?” It changes your approach to any situation. Don’t ask, “Can I?” Ask, “How can I?”. That employs your creative juices and employs you think. And so, that’s what Jesus did. He focused on what was possible.

I like something that John Burrow said, he said “The lure of the distant and the difficult is deceptive. The great opportunity is, where you are.”

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It was right there at Him. There were two ships right behind them. He used what was right at hand, He got himself out of the crowd and He got into a platform. So now, they were able to see Him, they were able to hear Him, it was perfect. So, He used what He had. So, it just teaches us to be resourceful and that we are always surround by great opportunities. A lot of times, we just don’t see it. We are always surrounded by opportunities. Many times, we simply fail to see them. Remember Abraham? Well, the ram was right in the thicket, and God opened His eyes and Abraham saw the ram that he used. It was right there, right at hand.

So, God is always saying to us, “That we have everything we need around us already, if you open your eyes and be open. If you use your imagination, your creativity, your resourcefulness, you’ll be surprised what you already have. You already have everything you need.” That’s an interesting thought. Everything you need to accomplish what you need to accomplish is already around you, it’s already around, it’s already around you. So, Jesus had it, it was already there. It was already there and He used it. John Maxwell said, he said, “Great attitudes precede great opportunities.” Who you are determines what you see? You don’t see things the way they are, you see things the way you are. So, who you are determines what you see? And so, Jesus saw the ships and now, He said, “I can use that. I can make one of those a platform.”

So, Jesus had great imagination no one had ever done that. It wasn’t being done. Everyone preached in the synagogue. So,

nobody had ever preached out of a ship. So, Jesus did something new, He did something unique, He did something different and I just love that, I love that, but He had a great attitude. He saw the opportunity and He used it. I like Jesus. Jesus was a lot of fun. He was lot of fun. I mean, He was just always on the move. You couldn't calculate Him because that's the way God is, it's just incalculable. His greatness is unsearchable and I just love that. I love that. John Maxwell he also said that, "Opportunity is berthed out of problems. If want to opportunity, look for a problem."

So, Jesus had a problem, He had a problem and then, He also found an opportunity in that problem. So, opportunities are located in your problems. And the more opportunities you pursue, the more you find behind them. And so, you can pursue an opportunity and because you're on the move, because you're doing something. Oftentimes that opportunity that you're pursuing will open up other opportunities. I see that, in the life of Ruth, when Ruth was with her mother-in-law Naomi. And Ruth decided to get up and go out to try to find some work, so that, they could eat. And when she went out to find work to eat, she ended up bumping into her husband. She didn't set out to look for a husband. She set out to look for something to eat. She set out to work to get something to eat, but because she saw one opportunity, she bumped into another opportunity.

And so, opportunities often open up other opportunities. And so, Jesus, when He entered into this boat, He was on looking for one opportunity to preach, He ended up going fishing as well. See, one opportunity opened up the second opportunity. He wasn't really setting out to go fishing. He was coming to preach, but He says, "It starts here, we might as well go fishing too." So, opportunities always open up other opportunities. When you pursue one opportunity, you'll find others behind it and when Jesus got in the boat, noticed He sat down, He sat down. Now, sitting represents a place of authority. As a seat of authority, a seat of authority, it's a seat of power. You ever notice that judges are always seated, you haven't notice that? You enter a courtroom everyone stands when the judge enters.

He sits down. See, the judges are always seated. It's a seat of authority. You ever notice kings are always seated on their throne. It's a place of authority. And so, Jesus everyone is standing on the shore, but He takes a seat. It's a seat of authority.

And guess what? Here's the good news, we have been invited to sit with Him. He has raised us up and made alive with Him and we're seated together with Him in heavenly places. We have authority, and believers, children of God are oftentimes missing out on the authority that we have as believers.

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As children of God, we don't realize that we're are seated with Christ. We reign with Him. We have His authority, isn't that good? That's good news, that's good news.

We have His authority in Christ, Jesus. We've been raised, we've made alive with Him, raised up with Him. Now we're seated together with Him. We share in His authority. The believer has great authority. Now, Jesus the crowd and these people were very hungry. They were hungry for the Word. I love the crowd in that instance. They were really hungry for the Word. This is a different crowd, most of the other occasions in the Scripture, when you see the crowd pressing, they were coming for fish and loaves, or they would come in to see a miracle. But this crowd was a little different. They press Him to hear the Word. They wanted the Word, they wanted to hear about the kingdom of God, they wanted to hear Godly principles and heavenly principles, they wanted to hear spiritual principles, they wanted His life, they wanted the Word.

And so, this crowd pressed upon Him for the Word. Now, I really admired that about -- this crowd, they were a little different than other crowds. So, this was genuine crowd, they just wanted to hear Him. They wanted to hear Him. What a great message when you just want to hear God's Word. You want to just hear God's Word. Well, God's Word has power and I want to commend all of you all for coming to hear God's Word because it says something about you, it says something the sincerity of your heart, it says something about your nature, your desire and God's Word actually benefits you as well. It's life to you, God's Word is life to you, health to all your flesh. And I believe that as you come and hear the Word of God, your body is enlivened, your life is enlivened, because Jesus said, "My words of Spirit and they are life."

So, we are blessed by God's Word and this crowd, they came merely to receive God's Word. What a wonderful, wonderful

crowd. And then, after Jesus teaches the crowd, after He completes His ministry to the crowd, He now turns His attention to Peter. And so, there's a switch in the scene, from ministering to the crowd, to now, ministering to one. He lets us know that, you're not just a face in the crowd. That God knows you personally. You matter to God. You matter to God. Everybody point to yourselves and say, "I matter to God". You matter to God. You matter to God. You're not just a face on the crowd, but God He longs for personal, intimate relationship with you. He's concerned about you, you personally. Not just a crowd, but you personally. So, He changes His ministry to the crowd and directs it to one individual.

He ministers to one that lets us know that we have individual, personal relationship with Him. We are invited to have individual personal, intimate relationship with Him. In fact, Jesus even told Peter. He said, "Launch out into the deep, launch out into the deep." A lot of people don't realize this, but Peter had become acquainted with Jesus, but it was casual. He wasn't fully committed yet and that's why he was back fishing. This was not Peter's first-time meeting Jesus; he had already been with Jesus. In fact, Jesus had healed his mother alone a chapter before this one. So, Peter was very well acquainted with Him, but he wasn't committed. Peter was very casual in his relationship with the Lord and no wonder Jesus said, "Go out a little deeper." You need a deeper relationship with Me, Peter. You've been casual with Me, but I want you to come out deeper, have a deeper, more intimate, more personal relationship with Me. Isn't this interesting?

I don't think Jesus was so much interested in fishing as He was in reeling in the heart of Peter. They were going fishing, but the fish Jesus was really after was Peter's heart. Peter was the fish. Jesus was reeling in Peter. And so, it looked like, they were going fishing, but Peter was the fish and Jesus was reeling him in. I want you to have a deeper relationship with Me. You've had a casual acquaintance with Me.

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I want you to know Me better. I want you to live your life with Me. So, He ministers to Peter's heart. So, he brings him from a causal relationship and you will find this -- I'll tell you what, let's skip to the end of the story then we'll come back and fill in some

more, but flip down to verse 11, look at verse 11. Mark chapter 5 verse 11 and notice this.

“And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsake all and followed Him.” Notice that, the word “followed” in Greek, it means, deep inward attachment. They gave up their fishing business and followed Jesus. They had a deep inward attachment. So, Peter had moved deeper into his relationship with Christ. Now, he was fully committed to be at the side. Before, he wasn’t, before he was on the outskirts, he was an acquaintance, casual in his relationship. He went to church on Sundays, but very casually. He’s just a casual acquaintance, but God calls us into deeper relationship. He wants to know you on Monday and Tuesday and Wednesday and Thursday. Well, you want to hear Thursday and Friday and especially Friday night and especially Saturday night. He calls us into a deeper relationship.

And so, notice that God will different circumstances to bring us closer to Him. And so, for Peter he used this little fishing expedition to bring him closer. And notice in this passage, “launch out into the deep.” He tells Peter, “Launch onto the deep.” That has to do with your heart, because the mind is very shallow. And so, oftentimes, we can have doubt in our minds, but you have faith in your heart. So, you have to move beyond the shallowness. The voice in your mind, the uncertain and interfering and the doubt, that’s in your mind, they have to down to the surety, the confidence of your heart. God is in your heart. See, still water runs deep and this what he called. Peter, and He said, “Launch out into the deep.” Still water runs deep. The Bible says that, “Counsel in the heart of man is like, deep water and a man of understanding draws it out.”

So, you have to get quiet that’s why God says, “Be still and know that I am God.” So, God is deep, He’s deep down into the recesses of your heart. His not up here in your head, his down in your heart. And so, Jesus was saying, “Learn to know me down in your heart, the deep recesses of your heart.” And we have to bypass the things that are in our head, the fear, and the uncertainty and the doubt and so forth. You have to move down until you know that you know, that you know. Until you’re nowhere, that’s your spirit man down in your heart, that’s what God is. Launch out into the deep, launch out into the deep, launch out into the deep, praise God. And so, notice that Peter’s says some things here. I’m

getting ready to close. But Peter tells him, he said “We worked all night and we caught nothing.” That says to us, that God shows up at His best when we are out our worst. His strength is made perfect in our weakness.

When Peter could not, then God shows up to say that even though you can't, I can. So, when we are at our worst, that's when God is at His best. His strength is made perfect in our weakness. And it's so odd, because Peter was a professional. He was professional fisherman. And they worked all night, caught nothing. Jesus says, “Let's go back out.” And Peter was probably thinking, “You are an awesome preacher, but you don't know nothing about fishing now.” Peter is like, “I'm the fisherman.” And Peter knew that, you didn't fish in the daytime not with nets, because fish can see the net and so, that's why they fish at night time. So, the fish couldn't see the net. And so, Peter knew all of this, so with all of his knowledge, with all of his experience, Jesus said, “Let's go back out.”

Now, Jesus was saying to Peter, here something powerful. I realized; Peter had just failed in his attempt at fishing the day before Jesus was asking him to do something that he had just failed at. He had just failed, but Jesus said, “Let's go and do it again.” That says to us, “Don't let your failures immobilize you.” Don't let them stop you from pursuing your dreams. Don't be afraid to try again. Failure simply gives us an opportunity to begin more intelligently. Here's an acronym for fail. Fail, F-A-I-L. First Attempt In Learning. So, fail means, it's your first attempt in learning. And so, I think, Jesus does that. He tells and then, “Go out and do something that he had failed in that” to let Him know that failure is not final. Don't be afraid to try again. Don't be afraid to go back out and to do it again. Praise God.

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And so, they go back out and they catch this great miracle, net breaking, boat sinking load of fish. And it was so miraculous they had never seen anything like this. You know, Peter and the other fishermen, they had never seen anything like this catch and it was miraculous. And they knew it was miraculous. They had so many fish, that it was sinking two boats. They had never had a catch like this. And in fact, it was so astonishing, Peter failed down on his knees and repented, because he knew this was the hand of God. He knew this was the grace God. He knew this was

the power of God. The goodness of God. He repented, because he's like, even a simple man like me, God, His goodness overwhelmed him, His grace overwhelmed him, His power overwhelmed him. And failed down at his knees,

Jesus was happy to do it for Peter, because Peter had loaned Jesus's boat. You can never beat God giving. When you've served Christ and when you give up yourself to serve Christ, He pays you back so abundantly. Praise God. You could never beat God giving. And so, the power of God was at work right there and this net that broke was a sign of Peter's limited thinking. Jesus told Peter to let down the nets, plural. Peter said, "I'll let down the net." Singular. It showed his limited thinking. He didn't really believe. He was just trying to appease Jesus. They had already cleaned the nets, put them up. So, Peter said, "I'm not going to the trouble that using those nets that we just cleaned and put up." He had an old net. That's why the net started breaking. It was an old net. And so, even though, he obeyed Jesus, it was kind of half-hearted obedience and this net begin to break, but that net is a picture of our lives, even when our lives are broken. God could still use us.

He could still use us with broken lives even though the net was broken. It brought in the catch. Praise God. Well, I'm going to stop right there. Give the Lord a hand for His Word. Oh, men. Man, so many of us, we settle for too little and God wants to do bigger and better and greater things in our lives. And so, this miracle had just so many messages at so many different levels and they're so powerful. And so, we're just grateful to see the power of God at work in our lives. In fact, repeat after me. This are some confession I took straight out of Scriptures. Say, "the power of God is at work my life." Say, "God is continually working something good in me." Say, "He works in me mightily." Say, "the Word is effectually working in me." One more time.

"The power of God is at work in my life." "God is continually working something good in me." "He works in me mightily." Now, all of these are actually Scriptures. I pull those confessions out of actual Scriptures, that's what God's Word says. God is working in us mightily. He's continually working something good in us. He is at work on the inside of us. Praise God. Isn't that good news? God's at work, God's at work on the inside of us. God is at work. The power of God is at work. When Jesus entered that boat that was the power of God coming into that boat. Power of

God is at work, the power of God went to work in Peter's fishing business. The power of God is at work in our lives. When you partner up with Him, the power of God is at work in your life. The power of God is at work. Praise God, praise God. God is so good; God is so good. Amen.

Stand to your feet. Let us pray, Father, we just love you, we praise you and we are just so grateful to you Lord. We are grateful to your grace, your love, and your kindness. Thank you for doing miraculous things in our lives. Lord, thank you for allowing us to be with You and You with us and You're working mightily in us and through us and for us. And Lord, we're just so grateful. We're grateful to serve You. We are grateful Lord and we're just so thankful. Use us for Your glory this week Lord. May we be a blessing everywhere we go, because Jesus is in us. And this in Jesus Name we pray. Let every heart say, "Amen, amen."

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