

The Miracles of Jesus

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C. Elijah Bronner: You can change your life with just a decision today.

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(Music Playing: 00:00:22 - 00:00:47)

And now for 7835, The Miracles of Jesus, part 20.

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'd like to share just a little humor. An elderly woman walked in the sanctuary and a deacon would greet her at the door as an usher, and he said, "Where would you like to sit?" And she replied, "I would like to sit on the front row, please." And then he said, "You really don't want to do that," the deacon replied, "the pastor is really boring." The woman's eyes narrowed, "Do you know who I am?" she asked. "No," he replied. "I'm the pastor's mother," she replied. "Do you know who I am?" he asked. "No," she replied. "Good," he answered and ducked out of the door.

Well, we're doing part 20. This is the final part in the "Miracle" series we have covered. I'm not sure how many "Miracles" we've covered. We've covered quite a few of the "Miracles of Jesus," most of them, if not, all of them. I've just had a great time studying it and teaching it, and just walking with Jesus as He did miracles and ministry, and I had just learned a lot just being up close and personal with Him, and we're getting opportunity to see Him in the scriptures, how He operate it, how He healed, to see His authority, to see His compassion, to see the power of His word. And it just gives you faith and gives you confidence that when God speaks, when you have His word on it, the authority and the power that backs it. That disease and every curse and every problem has embowered mean to the name of Jesus and to His word.

And so, I just love just walking through the scriptures and walking through the different towns and seeing all the different

miracles. Each one of them had something that we gleaned and learned and we got a chance to see heaven impacting us here on earth. And so, we then study any of this account from a historical perspective. We studied them to glean, truth and principles for us today. And so, the Bible is always speaking to us. I don't view it as a historical book, I view it as a living book that speaks to me today. The Bible is God, speaking to me. Say that we with me. The Bible is God speaking to me. The Bible is God, speaking to me.

Today, we're doing the second part of something we shared last time which is Luke 6:6-10 and we'll read this brief account. "And it came to pass also on another Sabbath that He entered into the synagogue and talked." And there was a man whose right hand was withered. And the Scribes and Pharisees watched Him, whether He would heal on the Sabbath day, that they might find an accusation against Him. But He knew their thoughts and said to the man, which have the withered hand, 'Rise up, and stand forth in the midst,' and he arose and stood forth," then said Jesus unto them, "I will ask you one thing. Is it lawful on the Sabbath days to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?"

Looking roundabout upon them all, He said to the man, "Stretch forth thy hand," and he did so, and his hand was restored whole as the other." So, we're talking about the Miracles of Jesus. This is actually Part 20. Part 20, the final part of the "Miracles of Jesus."

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This is actually Part 2 of this account of "The Withered Hand". Just to review some things, we learned the compassion that Jesus operated in. They knew Jesus will see this man and they knew that he would be compassionate toward Him, they figured that He will move to heal him because that was his MO. Jesus had always demonstrated compassion and mercy. So that was His demo and so they were setting Him up to carefully watch, to see what He would do.

So, we get this picture of God, that God is always doing good in our lives. He is always working for our good. He's always yearning to help us, to heal us and to restore us. I love that. So, this man was broken and his physical body with Jesus was

yearning to help them. He was yearning to restore him. He was yearning to heal him.

I love something that Bishop Dale said. He says, “Brokenness is not the end of something good. It is an opportunity and invitation for new mercies and grace to be healed and restored.” And so, when you’re broken in life, that’s not the end of life. No, it’s simply an opportunity for new mercies and new grace, that will pour into your life for you to be healed and for you to be restored. So, Jesus was always on a mission. He was always on mission to heal. He was always on mission to restore. He was always on mission to renew us and he was always on a mission to make us whole again, to restore us back into quality of life and back into the joy and abundance of life.

And so, that’s why Jesus was always on a mission. So, God is always working in our lives to restore us and to release mercy and grace. And so, if you’re broken in life, just realize that you’re the perfect candidate for fresh dose of God’s mercy and grace to come in to your life to bring healing and restoration. He always seeks to heal us, to help us and to restore us, and to renew us. And so, this is exactly what He did. I love the definition of restore. Restore means to make as good as it has ever been. To make as good as it has ever been. It also means to completely renew.

And so, when God restores us, he makes us as good as we have ever been. He makes us completely new again. And so, He seeks to restore us. Notice, this man had a withered hand. He had a withered hand and that represents our withered hopes, withered dreams, with things have dried up, things haven’t gone right, things have lost their freshness or their vigor of their vitality or the usefulness. You’ve been incapacitated in different areas, your marriage, your finances, your health. Withered means something that was once strong, now is weak. Something that was once capable, now is incapable. Withered is something that was once alive and now is dead. So, withered things and withered places happen to all of us in different places in life. Sometimes, this represents our faith withers into worry or our love withers into selfishness, the envy and hatred.

We have different things in life that can wither, but Christ always comes to restore. He always comes to renew. He always comes to make us whole again. And so, we get a chance to catch Jesus doing good, showing kindness being merciful as He always is. I

like something that John Maxwell said, he says, “A great man shows his greatness by the way he treats little people.”

So Jesus, was always treating people well. He was the greatest but he always took time for people. He always noticed people. He always helped hurting people. He always helped people in need. That was a mark of his greatness. A great man shows his greatness by the way he treats little people.

I just kind of jotted out what I notice how Jesus treated people. He appreciated people. He encouraged people. He cared about people. He prayed for people. He believed in people. He shared his hope with people. He inspired people. He wanted the best for people. He wanted people to live out their highest potential. And so, that’s how I notice that Jesus always treated people. He always treated people that way. I have to give this man credit with the withered hand.

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He was in the right place around the right person. He was around Christ and that lesson is always surround yourself with people who make you a better person because Jesus certainly made him a better person. So, it lets us know, always be in an atmosphere where people make you a better person. He had one person there in that atmosphere and that changed everything in his life. So, always make sure there’s somebody around you, that you’re in a place, you’re around somebody, somewhere that would help to make you a better person.

That’s why I stay close to Clayton, I’m trying to make him a better person. His wife is out of town, so, I’m filling in for his wife trying to make sure that he’s okay. But Jesus spoke some words to him. Jesus said, “Rise up. We talked a little bit about that last time. Change your position and your posture. Get up from where you are. Rise up from lethargy and complaining and complacency and rise up. We were once withered in sin, stuck in sin and so we had to rise up, change where we are and there.” He told him to stand forth.

We talked about Ephesians 6:13 having done all the stance. Stand there for having your (00:11:16) what’s truth, putting on the helmet of salvation and breast plate of righteousness, be sharp, prepared with the gospel of peace, taking the shield of faith

and the sword of the spirit which is the Word of God. You stand there for you use God's arsenal. Use God's equipment. Use God's armor. You stand against all the wiles of the demons. So, Jesus told him to rise up. He told him to stand forth. And now, this is where we get to this time.

He tells him to stretch forth his hand. He said, "Stretch forth thy hand". So, he told him to do something that he couldn't do. So, we learned that what's impossible with us is made possible by him. He requires faith. He requires obedience, he requires us to leave our comfort zone and he'll always give us some instruction and when he gives us instruction, it sparks something on the inside of us, his power comes alive in us. His power enables us to do what he calls us to do and so, there's something powerful that happens.

And then their foreword, I just want to highlight, he says, "stretch forth thy hand". Everybody say, "Stretch forth thy hand". And the first word there is "stretch". Stretch means to challenge yourself to continue growing and developing so you don't become stagnant. Challenge yourself to continue growing and developing so you don't become stagnant. You know, stretching just on the physical sense, you know, if you do some floor exercises to stretch your physical body, just on the physical sense, stretching improves your flexibility and your range of motion. It keeps you from becoming stiff and rigid and just keeps you from being stuck in your old ways.

So, stretching just even in the natural keeps you from becoming stuck. And so, you want to keep moving. You have to keep moving and so, you have to stretch. You have to stretch to get out of from being stuck in old ways and so, Jesus told him to stretch. Stretching also implies flexibility, adaptability, being willing to change. Someone said that when you're through changing, you're through. And so, he says, stretch be flexible. Be adaptable. Be willing to leave your comfort zone, stretch.

Stretching also to me it has kind of it has connotation of reaching because this is actually what the guy was doing. He was saying, "Stretch forth thy hands," so, it gives you the implication that you're reaching for something. That lesson is, not always have something in front of you. You reach, you always have something in front of you. Paul said that. Paul says, "Forgetting the things that are behind me, I'm reaching for those things that are set

before me. So, you have to always have goals and dreams. You have to always have a project. You have to always have an idea. You have to always have something to work and you got to always have something you're working on.

You need something to believe in. You need something to do. You need something to look forward to and you need someone to love. So, you got to always have something to look forward to. Have a goal, a goal stretches us. Have a vision. A vision motivates us. You have to always have something that you're working on. If your days are boring, it's because you don't have anything you're working on. You're fine, the most exciting times in life was when you're working on a project or you're working on an idea, you're working on a business or you're working on a venture or you're working on a invention or you're working on something. You know, you're working on something.

So, you have to always have something in front of you, something that you're reaching for. Have a goal. I was watching a video the other day, this man said, I don't know, I think he said he was 700 pounds and he said, man, I got to lose four, 500 pounds if I want to live and so, he said, this has motivated me, and so, he was charting off and working every day but it gave him something to stretch for, getting motivated and getting him something to do and look forward to.

And so, that was his goal. He had a goal to live and so he knew he needed to drop four, 500 pounds if he wanted to live. And so, you have to always have something that you're reaching for. You have to always have something that you're reaching for that stretches you and this is what Jesus is saying. Also, notice this, notice that when you reach for something, it's out in front of you. That represents the future. That means don't let your past disappointments and your past failures, don't let that hinder you and don't let that bog you down. Don't let that control you.

I like something Bishop Dale said, he said, "Don't let mistakes and disappointments of the past control your future. Where you have been has expired. It's a new day." I love that. Where you have been has expired. This is a new day. This is a new day. This is a new day. Aren't you glad that God gives us a vision to reach and to stretch and to go for new things in our future, not being cumbered by the failures and blunders of our past? This is a new day. This a new day. Say it with me, this is a new day!

This is a new day. I'm going to reach for some things. I'm going to reach for some things. You can change your life with just a decision today. Now, you can't change your whole life in one day but you can at least set your life out on a new course. You can change one thing and that one thing if you do it consistently every day, it turns into a big thing. You can't change your whole life but you can change today.

And if you change today, do it again tomorrow and do it again the next day and do it again the next day and then you'll wake up and realize you have changed your life. So, you master one day at a time. Don't try to master your whole life. Just master one day. You can master today and then master tomorrow and then master the day after that. You realize that you've mastered your life. It's just a day and so, this is where Jesus told him, "Reach for those things that are in front of you." Reach for those things that are out in front of you.

New experiences stretch us. Developing new skills that stretches us. Learning new things that stretches us. Darren Hart, he said, "You can learn new things anytime in your life if you're willing to be a beginner. You're willing to be a beginner. See, everybody wanted to be an expert. Nobody wants to be a beginner. No, that's all the way you learn new things, you got to be willing to be a beginner. Be willing to be a beginner. Be willing to be a beginner. Man, it makes life exciting when you're learning something new. Don't be ashamed to be a beginner.

Roman states, the philosopher, Cato, he started the study Greek when he was 80 years old and when asked why he was tackling such a hard task at his age, he replied, it's the earliest age I have left. See, you're never too old to dream a new dream or to set a new goal or start something new. You're never too old. You're never too old to start something new. Never too old to have a new goal or new dream. Never too old to do something different. Never too old to do something different. So, that's what Jesus said. He said, "Stretch forth" and that has to do with moving forward.

Stretching yourself and then moving forward. Stretching yourself and reaching for some things. Stretching yourself dreaming again. Going after some things. Stretch forth moving forward and then he said, "thy" or we say, "thine". Stretch forth thy hand.

Notice, he said, "Stretch forth thy hand." He didn't tell him to stretch forth anybody else's hand. He says, "Stretch your hand". That's something powerful just in that one word. "Thy", that's yours. It means you have some abilities. It means you have some gifts. God has given every person something. Everyone has something.

I was reading an article that said the average person has 500 to 700 unique gifts and abilities that are undiscovered and they don't even realize they have and that they can do. You have five to 700 unique abilities and talents and gifts that you may not even realize. And so that's why you have to keep doing in exploring and trying new things because you don't know what you can do until you give it a try and so, that's why you reach, you stretch and it's yours, thy hand, your hand, it's your gift. It's your potential. You have to develop it. You have to have a relationship with Christ. You can't get to heaven off of your grandmama's relationship with Christ.

00:20:04

You have to know Christ yourself. Every time, he has to sit on his own bottom. I don't care how tall your grandfather is, you have to do your own growing. He said, "Reach forth your hand." He didn't tell him to stretch anybody else's hand out. He said, "You got to stretch your hand." Everybody say, "My hand." That's all you're responsible for. That's all you have because your gift is your potential.

You have to run your race. You have to make decisions. You have to make choices. You have to take action. You are the only person on earth who can use your abilities. No one else on earth can use your abilities. You're the only person on earth that can use your ability and you'll be amazed when you find out how uniquely we are really made. No people on earth are exactly alike. I don't care if you have identical twins, you're still not alike.

Everyone is unique. Everyone on earth is unique. When you study all of the biological patterns, all of the traits, the thinking patterns, the upbringing, the background, the physical things, when you study everything about a person, you will find no two people on earth are alike. You have your own DNA. You're uniquely created. You're one of a kind. When God made you, He

made no one else like you and so that's why He said, "Stretch forth your hand."

He's put something in you that He's put in no one else's as a gift, something in you that no one else on earth can do quite like you can. He does not need you to copy anybody else because He's already using them. He wants you to express yourself as I just love the uniqueness. I love the unique expression that God created us all different.

Look around. You'd notice no one in here looks just alike. We're all different so this shows a variety in all of the gifts that God set in. He gave everybody something unique and if we all develop them and let our gifts sign, we could bring glory to Christ and we become this beautiful symphony, this beautiful orchestra where we all play our tune on our instrument.

Also, well, that's the way God created us. That's the way God created us and so He says, "Stretch forth your hand" and that was the uniqueness, the individual, your gift, your calling, your destiny, your potential, you. He focused in on him then He said, "Hand." The hand represents you doing it. Hand represents you're doing. Normally, when you say head, that's your thinking, your thought process.

Your heart is your feeling or your passion. The hand is the doing. That's the doing of it and so He says, "Stretch forth your hand." In other words, He's saying you can do it. You can do it. Someone said most problems in life stem from two reasons. We act without thinking or we keep thinking without acting. No, you can do it. You can do it. I love this. Bishop Dale said this. He said, "Think it." Everybody say, "Think it." Think it, do it, review it, and improve it. That's the process.

Think it, aim(ph) it, do it, review it and improve it. You can do it. You can do it, so he says, "stretch forth your hand." That's the doing. That's the doing and the scripture let's us know it was this man's right hand that was with it. The right hand in scripture represents -- that was the hand that the patriots use to bless. They bless with the right hand. When you have somebody on your right hand, you've heard the saying, "That's my right-hand man," that's the position of favor, so position of blessing. It's a position of favor and it's even a position of being clean because in the

Jewish culture, your left hand was considered unclean because it had to do some things, but they ate with their right hand.

They did those things where they wanted to stay clean and did it with the right hand and so, it was this man's right hand that was withered, meaning that he felt unclean. He felt like he wasn't blessed. He felt like there was no favor, but watch this, through Christ Jesus, everything has been reversed. Now, we're clean. We're being blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus and we've been restored to favor with God. Praise God. Glory, glory. Do I have to shout out by myself?

So, He says, "Stretch forth your right hand." Your right hand. I think that it also means do what's right and do your very best because the Bible says, "Whatever you put your hand to, do it with all your might." So, when He says, "Stretch forth your right hand," do what's right and do your very best. Do what's right. Do your very best.

00:25:00

Praise God. And finally, this is my third closing. The right hand also means to grab. The word believes in the Greek means to grab so you grab hold, you grab hold of Christ. Grab hold, lay hold of eternal light the Bible says. It means to lay hold of the promises of God. Lay hold of who you are in Christ Jesus. You grab it by faith. The right hand symbolizes your grabbing it. You take it.

Faith is actually an action where it means to take, to grab, you lay holding on it. You need your hand to do that, so He is saying, "Grab hold of the promises of God." Grab hold of Christ Jesus. Lay hold on eternal life. Lay hold on who you are in Christ Jesus. You do that with your right hand with faith, praise God.

Well, you give the Lord a hand. We've concluded. We have concluded this series. Say this with me. I wrote this down. I heard Bishop Dale say this. It's a nice little confession. God has marked me for more. I will produce all that God has planted in my heart. I am focused, determined, and committed. I will stop only when I am finished. In Jesus' name, Amen. Give the Lord another hand. Clap for praise for His word, Amen. Praise God.

Well, that's the miracle of the healing of the withered hand. The Lord Jesus woke me up one morning, probably about 5 something

in the morning. He revealed that whole thing to me. I couldn't find any of that, any commentaries, He taught me himself. He taught me himself about the withered hand. The withered hand. Praise God.

So, I pray that something in it impacts your life and I just pray that it gives you a new focus forward, new focus of faith and acting and grabbing and reaching and moving forward in life and having some new dreams and goals, and being renewed and being restored. God wants us to know that He renews us. He's happy to renew us. He is happy to restore us. He is happy to have us on a place where we're reaching forward and developing our full potential in life so we are so grateful for His compassion, His love and His mercy to us all. Amen.

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