

August 20, 2017

Text: [Acts 9:36-43](#)**Title:** “Miracle Workers 2”

There was a Rabbi and a Priest who get into a car accident, and it's a bad one. Both cars are totally demolished, but amazingly, neither of the clerics is hurt. After they crawl out of their cars, the rabbi sees the priest's collar and says, “So, you're a priest. I am a rabbi. Just look at our cars. There's nothing left, but we are unhurt. Isn't it a miracle? And I believe this must be a sign from God. God must have meant that we should be friends and live together in peace the rest of our days.”

The Priest replies, “I agree with you completely. This miracle must be a sign from God.” The Rabbi continues, “And look at this, my friend. Here's another miracle. My car is completely demolished but this bottle of Mogen David wine didn't break. Surely God wants us to drink this wine and celebrate the miracle.”

Then he hands the bottle to the priest. The priest agrees, takes a few big swigs, and hands the bottle back to the rabbi. The rabbi takes the bottle, immediately puts the cap on, and hands it back to the priest. The priest asks, “Aren't you having any?” The Rabbi replies, “No . . . I think I'll wait for the police.”

Today we read another miracle story performed by Peter. This time he raised Tabitha who was dead. And the Bible says, it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. In other words, people began to believe in the Lord because of that miracle Peter did. I'm sure God used Peter to make many people follow the Christ by allowing him to perform a miracle. Yes, Peter was a miracle worker as his Master was.

And we remember what Jesus said in John 14:12: “Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in Me, will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these.” That means we Christians are to be a miracle worker. In fact, our Savior and the Lord asks us to be a miracle worker as He wanted Peter to be. Friends, don't you think it is great and wonderful to become His co-worker as we also perform miracles? Of course, the purpose of doing it is to make people believe in the Lord. But the question is how. How can we perform a miracle?

So I told you one possibility last Sunday that **we all can become a miracle worker. And that is by using our mouth wisely and graciously.** We even practiced it. Do you remember what we did? We said to one another, God bless you, my friend. And I love you!” Isn't it beautiful words we can say any time we meet someone? Why don't we do it again right now, if it is that good? But don't go around

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Now, I'd like to ask you this question: How often and how many times have you said it during the last week? Once, twice? Or none? Friends, please don't forget that we are to practice whatever we learn from Jesus.

Let me tell you a story since Jesus loved to tell stories. Some years ago, an elderly woman in her nineties was dying in a local hospital. Her son flew in to be with her. He walked over to the bedside of his aged and dying mother, leaned over, and kissed her on the cheek.

Then touched by that tender moment of seeing her so weak and vulnerable, he said, "Mom, you have been such a good mother to me. And I want you to know that I love you." Through tears, she said, "Son, that's the first time you've ever told me. Last Friday was your sixty third birthday, and this is the first time you ever told me." Friend, it took him sixty three years to say, "I love you" to his dear mother. What do you think?

Let me ask you something. Is there a word of love you'd need to speak today? If you are fortunate enough to still have your parents, how long has it been since you told your mom or dad how much you love them and appreciate them? Or, if you are married, how long has it been since you told your mate, "I love you." Friends, I don't mean a quick, routine, matter-of-fact "I love you," but a real heart-to-heart expression of your love in words.

And if you are a parent, how long has it been since you told your children how proud you are of them and how much you cherish them? It looks very simple thing to do, but we easily overlook and forget it, though we understand it is very important to exercise. Friends, let us not forget what Jesus said and practice what we learn from Jesus Christ, for that is the first way to be a miracle worker. And it leads us to my second point.

Friends, let us remember that each of us can be a miracle worker when our attitude shows something special and kind toward other people. Again this is a very simple truth, but people usually forget to practice it. Haven't you seen that the attitude of just one person who is joyful and positive can change the whole atmosphere of a place? It happens in every place. An office, a class, a neighborhood, a church, even a family; the whole situation can be changed, redeemed, made better by just one person. And it could be you!

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I'm sure most of us remember Julie Andrews as Maria in the movie "*The Sound of Music*." What happened to the Von Trapp family when she was hired as a governess?

The children were unhappy and resentful of the governesses that their father kept hiring, and had managed to run each of them off one by one. When Maria arrived, she was initially met with the same hostility, but her kindness, understanding, and sense of fun soon drew them to her and brought some much-needed joy into all their lives, including Captain's. Maria, just one person, changed whole things.

There is a famous story about Gordon Maxwell, a missionary to India a long time ago. Once he asked a Hindu scholar to teach him the language they speak. But he replied: "No, Sahib, I won't teach you my language, because you would make me a Christian." Gordon laughed loudly and said, "You misunderstand me, my friend. I am simply asking you to teach me your language." Again, the Hindu responded, "No, Sahib. I will not teach you, because no man can live with you and not become a Christian."

Isn't it something? What kind of influence or impression have we given to our friends or neighbors or even our own family? Friends, do we seriously understand that though we may not be eloquent speakers, people we encounter will be ministered to by the Christ-likeness of our daily lives, if indeed we *are* Christ-like Christian. That is why our Lord Jesus stressed the positive effect we can have on others when He said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). Jesus also said, "As I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

One day two little boys were playing, and one asked the other, "Wouldn't you hate to wear eye glasses all the time?" The other boy responded, "No-o-o, not if I had the kind Grandma wears. She sees how to fix a lot of things, and she sees lots of nice things to do on rainy days, and she sees when folks are tired and sorry, and what will make them feel better, and she sees what you meant to do even if you have not gotten things just right. I asked her one day how she could see that way all the time, and she said it was the way she had learned to look at things as she grew older. So, it must be her glasses." Friends, don't you agree that whenever grandma comes in, the whole situation can be changed? I believe it is because of her attitude and love toward other people.

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And you know what? That is what happened when Jesus came to us. He changed everything by His attitude. Remember how Jesus treated the woman at the well? She had nowhere to go. She had no one to speak with. Everybody looked down her and despised her. She had nobody who showed any concern to her until she met Jesus. But Jesus accepted her as she was and forgave her and gave her a new hope and a new life.

How about Zacchaeus who was hated by almost everyone? The woman who was to be stoned by the people. Mary called Magdalene. Matthew, the tax collector. There are countless sinners and sick people appeared in the Gospels. And we know how they were treated by Jesus Christ. Don't you think there are hundreds of people around us who would need a special touch by us, Christians?

Friends, do people know you as Christian? What kind of idea do you think they have about you? Or, what kind of attitude do you believe they will remember when you will be gone?

Everybody in the village was trying to convert Old Man Joe. Finally, Tom, a long-time friend tried. "Hey Joe," he began, "doesn't it make you feel good to know the Lord loves you?"

"You mean to tell me," snapped the old man, "that Jesus loves me when He does not even know me?" The friend thought about that carefully, and finally said, "Joe, it's much easier for Jesus to love you without knowing you, than He ever knew you like I do."

How about you, my friend? We can either become a miracle worker using a right attitude or become a person who acts like Joe. What kind of attitude do you usually show? Is it acceptable or unacceptable? Does it make people comfortable or uncomfortable? Do you usually give people peace or pain? How about smiling, for instance? Your smile tells others you have Jesus in you? Why don't we practice it right now? Please just turn around and meet your neighbors. Now show them you too have a good one. I mean, show your smile as holy as it could be. Make your smile as friendly as it could be.

Friend, you should be able to tell them you are Christian by smiling at them. And that is what God wants us to do every day and every moment. And that is to make us a miracle worker, raising someone who is dead in spirit and in stress and in their burdens of daily work. Why, then, not practicing it even from today?