

Discipleship Moment

Text: John 20:30-21:14

Miracles are unbelievable, according to the materialist worldview. This worldview assumes that only what can be observed through the five senses is real. If it can be seen, touched, or measured, it is trustworthy. But if something stands outside of these senses, it is not real or trustworthy. The Scriptures are full of miracles: events that are unexplainable to the senses. Those who were dead coming to life, the sick being healed, the lame walking, the lost found, the lonely befriended, the hurting given comfort. Our senses cannot measure everything. We cannot smell love. We cannot see comfort. We cannot touch sacrifice. We cannot prove, with our senses, that miracles happen.

This brings us back to the undeniable evidence: the eyewitness accounts. This group of people devoted their lives to Jesus and the proclamation of the Kingdom of God. Not only did they devote their lives, but their deaths, too. These men and women who witnessed to Jesus' miracles were butchered and martyred for their faith in God's Kingdom, and its king, Jesus. People don't give their lives for lies. Maybe one or two or even a dozen, but not hundreds or thousands over 2,000 years. These people experienced something real. There's nothing else to it.

Our faith couldn't survive a merely human Jesus. If Jesus was just a human, a good teacher, who taught tolerance and love and peace his movement wouldn't have lasted. But here we are. Miracles seem to stand against a purely materialistic view of the world, but we are left with our materialistic worldview broken. When people give up their lives for others, when people give up their possessions for the good of others, when people are freed from the pain, guilt, and shame of sin and brokenness, the material worldview has no explanation.

When sicknesses are healed, when broken marriages are restored, when people lay down their lives for others, we see the miraculous. Some of these miracles are more commonplace than others, but they are miracles nonetheless. These daily miracles draw us into either wonder or complacency. We can become lazy to the work it takes to receive miracles, or we can be drawn into life with God. John, with his Gospel, invites us into greater wonder.

Look around, and witness miracles.

Going Deeper

Use this resource to start conversations about this week's sermon for your personal devotions, with your family, or with your Life Group. You can use one question per day or all at once

- 1 Have you experienced something unexplainable? What was it? What was it like?
- 2 How do you explain the unexplainable? When you tell people about the experience from the last question?
- 3 Why don't people believe in miracles? Do you think they have valid reasons?
- 4 What are some of the everyday miracles we miss? How can these miracles draw us closer to Jesus?
- 5 Why did John write his Gospel, according to John chapter 20?
- 6 How do these eyewitness accounts give us assurance and conviction of our faith?