

LESSON 11

Foundations Curriculum

Jesus Accomplished a Tremendous and Glorious Work

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Introduction

Jesus Accomplished a Tremendous and Glorious Work

In this eleventh lesson, we will understand the reason behind the miracles and signs that Jesus performed, what the main objective of this display of power was, and how He conducted Himself in the face of the publicity that the people He healed — and the crowds — often sought to attribute to Him.

1) Jesus Accomplished on Earth a Work That No One Had Ever Done

As a man, Jesus needed the anointing and power of the Holy Spirit

Here, it is worth recalling the greatness, authority, and power that God the Father bestowed upon His Son.

Some examples:

Jesus made the blind see, the mute speak, caused the lame to walk, multiplied loaves and fish, turned water into wine, walked on water, and raised the dead. He did all of this to demonstrate His authority. While all of this was taking place, He was making disciples. He made disciples while carrying out this tremendous work. Jesus made disciples who later spread His message throughout the whole earth and proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God.

This was His greatest work! And as a man, Jesus needed the anointing and power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish it.

“When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’”

Matthew 3:16–17 (NKJV)

“how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.”

Acts 10:38 (NKJV)

The text above makes it clear that Jesus did not venture to carry out the work without first receiving and depending on the Holy Spirit.

2) The Miracles and Signs of Jesus Were Not “an End in Themselves”

The miracles were intended to generate faith in people’s hearts that He was the expected Messiah, and thus open them to His word!

As stated earlier, the miracle was not an end in itself. The performance of miracles had a specific purpose: to open people’s minds to receive and believe that He was the Messiah.

“This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.”

John 2:11 (NKJV)

“Then they said to the woman, ‘Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.’”

John 4:42 (NKJV)

“Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, ‘This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.’”

John 6:14 (NKJV)

See also supporting texts: John 7:31 and John 20:30–31.

In John chapter 4, in the episode of the Samaritan woman, through her testimony to the people — after believing and recognizing Jesus as the Messiah — it became possible to open doors for an entire city to believe in Him.

In another passage, when the guards came to arrest Jesus, many people questioned whether there could be greater signs than those He had performed. They recognized in Jesus the Messiah.

There was an expectation for the coming of the Messiah, and when they saw the signs, they connected one fact to another.

The miracles and signs were meant to reveal the Messiah — not to generate fame or popularity for Jesus. They were a key to open people’s hearts to the Gospel.

3) Jesus Did Not Publicize His Miracles

Jesus always sought discretion in the things He did

In Mark 7:34–35, when Jesus healed a man who was deaf and mute, the man could not stop speaking.

“Then, looking up to heaven, He sighed, and said to him, ‘Ephphatha,’ that is, ‘Be opened.’ Immediately his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was loosed, and he spoke plainly.”

Mark 7:34–35 (NKJV)

Jesus did not seek publicity; He did not go about broadcasting His miracles. It was the people who received the miracle who took it upon themselves to spread the news — such was their joy over the healing they had received.

The discretion of Jesus stands in contrast to the attitude and publicity of certain leaders of our time, who are always seeking fame, broadcasting “their miracles,” and attracting crowds.

“But when Jesus knew it, He withdrew from there. And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all. Yet He warned them not to make Him known,”

Matthew 12:15–16 (NKJV)

As stated before, it is impossible for the so-called “opportunistic prophets” not to publicize their “own miracles” — whether healing one person or many at a time. In contrast to them, Jesus always demonstrated the same attitude: not to seek fame or glory for Himself.

In Matthew 9:30–31, when Jesus healed two blind men, He gave the same instruction, asking them to keep silent and be discreet.

See also supporting texts: Matthew 8:3–4 and John 7:3–4.

The goal of Jesus was not to become famous, but to manifest the kingdom of God.

4) Jesus Never Accepted Human Glory

He always attributed to the Father the credit, the reason for being, the honor, and the glory for His miracles and teaching

In John 5:41, Jesus said: “I do not receive honor from men.” He did not accept glory that came from men. In our own times, there are many men who believe they received gifts by their own merit.

The text of John 6:14–15 recounts how people wanted to make Him king, and He evaded it, refusing to seek such recognition.

“For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.”

John 12:49–50 (NKJV)

Jesus was constantly performing signs, and always attributing the honor to God the Father. This was a rule in His life, and it must be a rule in ours as well.

5) The “Focus” of Jesus Was to Proclaim the Kingdom of God

The miracles had a clear purpose: to cause people to open their hearts to receive the kingdom of God.

“Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.”

Matthew 9:35 (NKJV)

This text makes it clear that Jesus did not go out to heal or perform signs. He went out to proclaim the kingdom of God, to preach the Gospel of the kingdom of God. The signs were a consequence of that contact with the people.

Praying for people was not the focus of Jesus — preaching the Gospel was. Prayer was a consequence, a circumstance, an opportunity that arose through the contact and closeness that occurred. But what drove Jesus was proclaiming the kingdom of God so that hearts would be converted.

In Mark 1:38, He said to His disciples: “Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth.”

“And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. And He began to teach them many things.”

Mark 6:34 (NKJV)

It is necessary to bring these good news of the kingdom of God to people. For this we were called and established: to cause the kingdom of God to grow and prosper — whether through signs,

wonders, and miracles. But we must never lose sight of the focus of the work. The goal is to bring the kingdom and to glorify God.

Jesus valued works greatly — so much so that He even said we would be able to do works greater than those He had done. But let us maintain the same attitude He had: giving honor to the Father.

May we have the same motivation He had: glory to the Father.

CONCLUSION

In this eleventh lesson of the Foundations Curriculum, we learned the reason behind the miracles, wonders, and signs that Jesus performed among the people. The main objective of this display of power was to preach the kingdom of God and give honor and glory to God the Father. For this very reason, Jesus did not seek fame or publicity through the healings He performed. He wanted to proclaim the kingdom of God and reach lost hearts, and He used the displays of power with this aim.

CONSIDER CAREFULLY

- 01 If Jesus was a man, how was He able to perform so many signs and have such great authority?
- 02 What was the purpose of Jesus in performing all those signs?
- 03 What was the attitude of Jesus toward fame?
- 04 To whom did Jesus attribute the credit and glory for the signs He performed?

“having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.”

Ephesians 2:20 (NKJV)

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