

Awed by Jesus' Power sermon **February 17, 2019**

In our current sermon series on "Living in Awe of Jesus" last week we discovered anew that Jesus was the Master Teacher. He awed and angered people through his teaching and he utilized a wide variety of methods to communicate God's powerful truths to people from every walk of life. One of the observations that people made several times was that he was different from their teachers of God's Law in that Jesus was one who taught with "*authority*".

This morning the focus of our awe is in Jesus power as displayed in his many acts of miracles. There is recorded in the 4 Gospel accounts a total of **37 specific miracles** that Jesus performed. In addition to that there are other passages which states that Jesus healed many and cast out demons. John states that Jesus performed many more miracles than what are recorded and that purpose of Jesus' many miracles was to lead us to a saving belief in Jesus.

John 20:30-31 (NIV) *Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

Just like in his teaching, Jesus used a **variety of methods** in his miracles.

- In Mark 7 is recorded an instance in which Jesus is brought a man who is deaf and can barely speak and his friends beg Jesus to heal him. Jesus proceeds to put his fingers into his ears and then he spit and touched the man's tongue then looked up to heaven, sighed deeply and commanded his ears and mouth to be opened and he began to hear and speak. The people's reaction is that of absolute shock. It says that the "people were overwhelmed with amazement." (Mk 7:37)
- On another occasion Jesus encountered a blind man and proceeded to spit into the dirt and make mud, then he applied it to the man's eyes and told him to go wash in the Pool of Siloam and when he did he could see.
- He healed a centurion soldiers' servant from a distance
- On the night he was arrested, Jesus picked up Malchus' ear and reattached it and it worked.

We could classify Jesus' miracles into a few different categories.

1. Jesus healed people of their diseases:

- Jesus healed lepers of their flesh eating disease
- Jesus healed several paralytics (on one occasion he forgave him of his sins first)
- Jesus healed a man of dropsy and a withered hand
- Jesus healed a deaf mute
- Jesus healed several people of their blindness
- Jesus' power flowed out of him and miraculously healed a woman with an issue of blood

2. Jesus performed multiple exorcisms. On one occasion he cast the demons into a herd of pigs who then proceeded to run off a cliff. These exorcisms were not just to free people from their captivity of evil spirits but to continue to demonstrate the superior power of God's kingdom over Satan's power.

3. Jesus raised people from the dead:

- He raised the daughter of Jairus, a leader of the local synagogue
- Jesus raised the son of a widow right out of the casket in the middle of the funeral procession
- Jesus raised Lazarus after he'd been in the grave for 3 days.

4. Jesus demonstrated his superiority over nature:

- In his very first miracle he turned water into wine at a wedding
- On 2 occasions he enabled the disciples to catch lots of fish after they'd been unable to
- On 2 occasions he fed large groups of people with just a few fish and a couple of pieces of bread
- Jesus rebuked the wind and the waves and they immediately stopped
- Jesus walked on the water in the midst of a terrible storm and when he climbed into their boat the wind and waves calmed down
- When asked about who to pay taxes to, Jesus miraculously produced a fish with a coin in it's mouth
- On one occasion he cursed a fig tree and it died.

Jesus declared that his miracles were proof that the Father had sent him.

John 5:36 (NIV) *"I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to finish—the very works that I am doing—testify that the Father has sent me."*

On one occasion, John the Baptist, who had been imprisoned, sent his disciples to Jesus to ask him if he was the long awaited Messiah. Jesus responded by quoting from the Old Testament prophet Isaiah, that the miracles were evidence that he indeed was the long awaited Messiah.

Luke 7:22 (NIV) *"Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor."*

The Jewish leaders of the time never tried to deny that Jesus wasn't performing amazing miracles. That would have been virtually impossible to do because they were done out in the open for all to see. There only recourse was to try to attribute Jesus' power as coming from Satan rather than God.

Even the 1st century Jewish historian, **Josephus**, declared that Jesus was *"a worker of amazing deeds."*

Growing up in this church I was taught all about Jesus' miracles. And I remember being amazed at them but it wasn't particularly shocking to me because after all, Jesus was God in human form. And God created this entire universe and parted the Red Sea and the Jordan river and did other amazing things throughout the Old Testament so, the miracles Jesus performed in the Gospels seemed like a natural extension of what I read in the Old Testament.

But as I grew older I discovered more and more Scriptures which drew my attention. Such as **Philippians 2:6-7 (NIV)** *Jesus, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.*

As I grew to understand this verse I understood it to mean that Jesus let go of his Godly qualities and became a real human being when he came to earth. Because if Jesus wasn't fully human, then him being tempted wasn't really much of a temptation, because he could just supernaturally resist Satan. And Hebrews 4:15 states that Jesus was fully tempted just like we are.

Hebrews 4:15 (NIV) *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.*

Then in John 5 Jesus heals an invalid who's been that way for 38 years. He instantly comes under criticism by the Jewish leaders because he healed him on the Sabbath which was considered banned work. In response to their criticism Jesus says,

John 5:19-20 (NIV) Jesus gave them this answer: *"Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed."*

This says that as Jesus watched the Father moving and leading Him, Jesus followed His lead.

In Luke, right after Jesus is tempted by Satan and ready to begin his public ministry we read that the power of the Spirit was upon Jesus.

Luke 4:14 (NIV) *Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.*

Shortly after that he cast a demon out of man in a synagogue in Capernaum. And people were amazed and wondered where Jesus got this authority and power to command demons to come out and they did.

In the very next chapter Jesus was teaching and it says: “*And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick.*” (Luke 5:17) It’s shortly after that when the guys tear the roof off of the house Jesus is teaching in and lower their paralytic friend down to Jesus and he first forgives the man’s sins and then heals him.

But this makes me scratch my head and wonder, so did Jesus need the power of the Lord to be on or in him in order to heal. And the conclusion I’ve come to is that Jesus demonstrated to us what a fully human person could accomplish when they are fully yielded to the Father’s will. God can do amazing things through anyone who is fully yielded to God working in and through them.

And as I continued to read the Scriptures I read such verses as:

John 14:10-14 (NIV) *Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. 11 Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. 12 Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.*

This came right after Philip asked Jesus to show us the Father. And Jesus says that the teachings and the miracles that you’ve witnessed for the last 3 years are evidence that the Father is living in Him and doing His miraculous works through Him. Then Jesus adds, that after I go, the same principle will be at work in Jesus’ followers. They will be empowered to do even greater works than Jesus even did. It’s not us that do great works – it’s Jesus’ followers that do greater things, not because they are powerful in an of themselves but they fully submit themselves to living for Jesus and as they do, they are filled and empowered with the Holy Spirit, just like Jesus was, and then they live everyday in God’s power and might and God commits to doing great things through them. However, they key is being fully 100% submitted to allowing Jesus to work in and through you. And that includes living lives that seek to honor God with their lives in every area.

John 15:5 (NIV) *“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”*

When you continue to read about the life of the early church in the book of Acts you see this promise acting itself out. People are being healed, demons are continuing to be cast out, people are being raised back to life and there’s even a passage in Acts 19:11-12 which mentions that people were being healed by coming into contact with handkerchiefs which Paul had merely touched.

Acts 19:11-12 (NIV) *God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.*

And then as I continued to read through the New Testament I continued to run across the following passages that talk about God’s power that’s available to his followers.

Ephesians 1:18-20 (NIV) *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,*

Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV) *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

Philippians 4:13 (NIV) *I can do all this through him who gives me strength.*

And throughout my life and ministry here at Knollwood, I've seen people healed and people who God has freed from various addictions as they fully submitted themselves to Him and His control over their lives. I've seen God coordinate amazing things, like the song selection Mike referred to earlier in the service.

I've become increasingly convinced that God wants to show His power in and through His people and through His church. He didn't just intend it to end after He got His church off the ground. God is still active and moving and powerful yet today.

I continue to be inspired by accounts from around the world of how God is powerfully moving healing lots of people, how Jesus is appearing to Muslims all over the world and drawing them into a relationship with Himself.

I was inspired the last few months in reading and rereading the book Eyewitness to Miracles in which the author Randy Clark and his team spent years investigating and documenting thousands of miracles of healing and even people being raised from the dead all over the world. They followed up on many of these cases to determine if they were real or merely a hoax. And while there are plenty of hoaxes constantly, there are certainly many accounts of God miraculously healing people constantly as his kingdom continues to come down and invade and beat back the kingdom of Satan.

When Jesus established his kingdom here on earth he declared that the Gates of Hell will not be able to stand against his kingdom. That's what we need to be about. Not just a nice little loving friendly church here on the corner of Highway 7 and Quebec Ave. We need to strive, through prayer and total surrender to Jesus, to be a place where the power of God is breaking the chains that bind people, heal their diseases and proclaim freedom for the captives. We need God to do a great thing, not merely a comfortable thing, in and through us and this church. We need to claim daily the power that God has promised to give us to miraculously live each and every day. We are told in Romans that *we are more than conquerors through Him who loves us*. We can't even begin to live that way in our own strength but we certainly can in and through His strength.

Please stand and I want to close us in prayer. And then we're going to close by reading a powerful Scripture that reminds us of God's mighty working within us in response to our total surrender to Him.

Pray

Read together:

Philippians 2:12-13 (NIV) *Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.*

Awed by Jesus' Power sermon
February 17, 2019

Jesus performed _____ miracles

Jesus used a _____ of methods to heal

Miracles Jesus performed

1. Jesus _____ people of their diseases
2. Jesus performed multiple _____
3. Jesus raised people from the _____
4. Jesus demonstrated his superiority over _____

Jesus declared miracles were proof that _____

What does Philippians 2:6-7 declare about Jesus?

What did Jesus attribute the power to do miracles to? (John 5:19-20)

What did Jesus mean that his followers would do even greater things than He did (John 14:10-14)?

What's the key to us doing great things? (see John 15:5)

How have you seen the display of God's power in and through you?

How have you see the display of God's power in and through others?

What do you need God to set you free from?

Awed by Jesus' Power sermon
February 17, 2019

Jesus performed _____ miracles

Jesus used a _____ of methods to heal

Miracles Jesus performed

1. Jesus _____ people of their diseases
2. Jesus performed multiple _____
3. Jesus raised people from the _____
4. Jesus demonstrated his superiority over _____

Jesus declared miracles were proof that _____

What does Philippians 2:6-7 declare about Jesus?

What did Jesus attribute the power to do miracles to? (John 5:19-20)

What did Jesus mean that his followers would do even greater things than He did (John 14:10-14)?

What's the key to us doing great things? (see John 15:5)

How have you seen the display of God's power in and through you?

How have you see the display of God's power in and through others?

What do you need God to set you free from?