



# WHEN MIRACLES DISAPPEAR

a church in the World

## ABSTRACT

a curious occurrence happens here in Nazareth  
that didn't happen in the other towns, ...

June 22, 2025

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## Scripture of the Day

*I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup>with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. . – Ephesians 4:1 – 6*

## Introduction

Last week we were with Jesus being in the synagogue teaching. However, the townsfolk, friends, and family instead of being excited to see their hometown hero return, they doubted Him and were even offended by Him.

So as we continue looking at this situation today a curious occurrence happens here in Nazareth that didn't happen in the other towns that Jesus visited, the miracles disappeared.

Let us Pray ...

## Body

### Matthew 13:54 – 58

*<sup>54</sup>and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works? <sup>55</sup>Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? <sup>56</sup>And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" <sup>57</sup>And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household." <sup>58</sup>And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.*

What is clear is that because of the people's unbelief, the miracles happening everywhere else Jesus went almost completely disappeared here in Jesus's hometown. We know it's their unbelief and we know that their unbelief is because they cannot believe that regular Jesus who they knew who was nothing special could do this, but there is something that the people are missing that is causing that unbelief.

## God Will Accomplish What He Wants

However, before we delve into what that is, I need to address a common misconception that regretfully gets taught by some pastors, ministers, evangelists, and teachers. That is, people's

lack of faith can keep God from accomplishing what He wants to do.

Because when we read Mark's account of this event:

### **Mark 6:5**

*And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them.*

Which is slightly different than saying, as Matthew states: "He did not do many mighty works there." That is a significant difference; saying Jesus could not and saying he did not are not the same thing. As always, we will continue to beg everyone to read the entire Bible. For 99.9% of the issues you may encounter in studying the Bible, Scripture itself will give you the answer from its own pages.

So can human beings stop God from doing what He wants to do? Mark is implying that Jesus couldn't do any mighty works in His hometown because of their unbelief. Folks can interpret that as humans preventing God from getting what He wants to get done because of their unbelief. Is that true?

### **Isaiah 46:8 – 11**

*<sup>8</sup> "Remember this and stand firm,  
recall it to mind, you transgressors,  
<sup>9</sup> remember the former things of old;  
for I am God, and there is no other;  
I am God, and there is none like me,  
<sup>10</sup> declaring the end from the beginning  
and from ancient times things not yet done,  
saying, 'My counsel shall stand,  
and I will accomplish all my purpose,'  
<sup>11</sup> calling a bird of prey from the east,  
the man of my counsel from a far country.  
I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass;  
I have purposed, and I will do it.*

### **Ephesians 1:11**

*<sup>11</sup> In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,*

There are more Scriptures similar to this. The Bible answers that question emphatically. God does What He wants, How He wants, and When He wants without any restriction of what any human may or may not do, think, feel, etc.

Let me give a specific example:

### **2 Kings 5:9 – 14**

*<sup>9</sup> So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha's house. <sup>10</sup> And*

*Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean." <sup>11</sup> But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, "Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. <sup>12</sup> Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage. <sup>13</sup> But his servants came near and said to him, "My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?" <sup>14</sup> So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.*

Do you see this? Naaman had an attitude. He had traveled more than a day's journey from Damascus to Samaria to be healed. When he heard what Elisha was telling him what God wanted him to do, Naaman thought it was ridiculous and was going to leave except for his servants begging him to do it. To say Naaman's faith and belief in God for his healing was not strong is an understatement, but God healed him anyway.

## Blessing for Those Who Know They Need

So this leads us to the key point of understanding this passage. The Believer's Bible Commentary states it beautifully:

*Unbelief largely hindered the Savior's work in Nazareth. He healed only a few sick folk there (cf. [Mark 6:5](#)). It was not because He could not do the works; man's wickedness cannot restrain God's power. But He would have been blessing people where there was no desire for blessing, filling needs where there was no consciousness of need, healing people who would have resented being told they were sick.*

The people in Jesus's hometown did not see themselves as in need. Their hearts were not in the right place. They are like the people that James talks about:

### James 4:2 – 4

*<sup>2</sup> You desire and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and wage war. You do not have because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup> You ask and don't receive because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.*

This was not Naaman. He may not have had the best attitude or belief, but he knew he was in need and in verse 15 from 2 Kings 5 he shows us that his heart was in the right place:

### 2 Kings 5:15 – 19

*<sup>15</sup> Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and he came and stood before him. And he said, "Behold, I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel; so accept now a present from your servant." <sup>16</sup> But he said, "As the LORD lives, before whom I stand, I will receive*

*none." And he urged him to take it, but he refused. <sup>17</sup> Then Naaman said, "If not, please let there be given to your servant two mule loads of earth, for from now on your servant will not offer burnt offering or sacrifice to any god but the LORD. <sup>18</sup> In this matter may the LORD pardon your servant: when my master goes into the house of Rimmon to worship there, leaning on my arm, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, when I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, the LORD pardon your servant in this matter." <sup>19</sup> He said to him, "Go in peace."*

## Take Aways

### Humility Precedes Faith

What we see here with Naaman is even though he wasn't willing to listen initially he did finally humble himself and was willing to follow the instructions of his servants. Not a king or a governor, but a servant in his employ.

There is a humility that is necessary, before we can have the faith to believe.

#### Zephaniah 2:3

*Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land,  
who do his just commands;  
seek righteousness; seek humility;  
perhaps you may be hidden  
on the day of the anger of the LORD.*

#### 2 Chronicles 7:14

*If My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and heal their land."*

#### James 4:6

*"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."*

This is what the people in Jesus's hometown were missing. Humility. God is not going to move in our lives when we are prideful or envious or selfish. We see all of these attitudes displayed by the townsfolk.

I want you to see the mix of humility and faith together:

#### James 1:5 – 8

*<sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. <sup>6</sup> But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup> he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*

Do you see the humility in verse 5? The acknowledgement that if you have a need for wisdom. That you don't have all of the answers. And in that humility you ask in faith without doubting. Because there is no need to doubt. This is a promise from God. It is written in Holy Scripture.

## Being in God's Will

People often wonder how to know if they are in God's will. We usually overcomplicate it. It is just following his commands:

### John 14:15 – 17, 26

*<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, <sup>17</sup> even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.*

...

*<sup>26</sup> But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*

When we know God's commands, then we know His heart, we know how we are supposed to live so when we ask, we shall ask with that heart and there is an amazing promise God has given us:

### 1 John 5:13 – 15

*<sup>13</sup> I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.*

*<sup>14</sup> This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. <sup>15</sup> And if we know that he hears whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of him.*

As there is a vacuum of power in Nazareth about 2000 years ago there is a vacuum of God's power with God's people. So many people, especially in the West do not experience the power of God, the miracles have disappeared, because their humility and understanding their need for God in every aspect of their lives has disappeared.

BE LED ...