

If I Could See A Miracle I Would . . .

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Through the years I have had some say that if they could see a miracle they would believe in God. Perhaps they really think that they would, but would they? I don't think so, at least in most cases, and I can use the scriptures to verify this. **John 12: 37:** "But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him."

If you read the gospels, you will see that Jesus did many miracles, everything from healing the sick, casting out devils, to the raising of the dead. Many of those who witnessed these events went away and plotted to have Jesus killed. Think of it. They saw miracles with their own eyes and yet did not accept Jesus as the Son of God. Some said that a normal man could not do these miracles, and they were right. Jesus, although a man, was also the Son of God.

If people in that day were present at a miracle and did not believe, why would it be any different today? The fact is that it would be

no different. Some would believe, and do, without a miracle to "prove" anything, and there are many who would deny Jesus, no matter how many miracles that they witnessed. Faith is defined in scripture, **Hebrews 11:1** as, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." That's it, faith! If a person has to have something 'proved' to him, then there is no faith.

Can you imagine what it would have been like to have watched Jesus do a miracle? How about the raising of Lazarus? There was no question of him being dead. When Jesus said to remove the stone, Martha didn't want the tomb opened. Why? **John 11:39:** "Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days." Jesus knew this and still called for Lazarus to come forth and he came from the tomb - alive! Some of the Jews believed on Jesus, yet, some went and reported to the Pharisees. They saw the miracle but didn't believe in Jesus.

In **Acts 4: 16** the Jewish council admitted among themselves that a man had been healed by a miracle. Here is what they said, "What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been

done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it." Did they believe and turn to God? No, for they went on to say, "But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name." And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus (**Acts 4:17-18**). These, and many others, witnessed miracles and continued in their wicked lives of sin and unbelief.

Miracles? God does miracles everyday. How many of us are here when doctors said that we could not live? How many walking when they were told that they would never walk again? Many other conditions that seemed impossible to man were changed by the hand of God. In my opinion, the greatest of these is when God takes a life that has been hardened by sin and changes that heart and makes a new person from an old sinner. Could anything be more wondrous than that? Instead of praising God and turning to the Lord themselves, some say that the person has went crazy. Like the unbelievers of long ago, they witnessed a miracle and still deny it.

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501 Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Exodus intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times.

JACOB'S TOIL

WHEN THE TIME CAME FOR JACOB TO CHOOSE A WIFE, ISAAC SENT HIM TO HIS KINSMAN, LABAN, SO HE WOULD NOT CHOOSE A HEATHEN MAIDEN. NOW....

...THE JOURNEY HAS BEEN AN ARDUOUS ONE FOR JACOB HAS OBEYED THE INSTRUCTIONS OF HIS FATHER ISAAC, AND GONE OUT OF HIS WAY TO AVOID ANY CONTACTS WITH THE CANNANITES ON HIS TRIP...

SOON NOW, I SHOULDST COME TO HARAN WHERE MY KINSMAN, LABAN DWELLETH.

...AS JACOB APPROACHES THE OUTSKIRTS OF HARAN...

THIS IS THE TOWN WHERE MY KINSMAN LIVES - I SHALL INQUIRE OF HIM!

MY BRETHREN, OF WHAT TOWN BE YE?

OF HARAN ARE WE.

KNOW YE LABAN THE SON OF NAHOR?

WE KNOW HIM.

IS HE WELL?

HE IS WELL.

AND, BEHOLD, HERE COMETH HIS DAUGHTER, RACHEL, NOW - WITH LABAN'S SHEEP.

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