

## **A BREEDING GROUND FOR MIRACLES PRT 4**

This morning, we are continuing with our series titled **A BREEDING GROUND FOR MIRACLES**.

We have been looking at **PUTTING YOUR FAITH TO WORK**. Yes, when it comes to receiving a miracle from God, the prerogative is on God, but you must be in a state to receive.

Many people don't know how to receive that which has been made available through grace. It is like being asked to authenticate your identity before you can retrieve a gift sent to you.

This is not about works but it is about positioning yourself to receive from Jesus. By looking at the surrounding circumstances during which Jesus performed miracles, we will learn how the Kingdom of God operates.

- 1. Do not be familiar with God**
- 2. Ask God for a miracle**
- 3. Be persistent in your request for a miracle**

*Luke 5:1 And it happened that the crowd pressed on Him to hear the Word of God, He stood by the lake of Gennesaret. 2 And He saw two boats standing by the lake. But the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. 3 And He entered into one of the boats, which was Simon's, He asked him to thrust out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the people out of the boat. 4 And as He stopped speaking, He said to Simon, Launch out into the deep and let your nets down for a haul. 5 And answering, Simon said to Him, Master, we have toiled all the night and have taken nothing. Yet at Your word I will let down the net. 6 And doing this, they enclosed a great multitude of fish. And their net was being torn.*

- This is a familiar Bible story but in it we will find a couple of things regarding how to access our miracles, regarding how to position ourselves to receive from heaven.
- Peter and his friends had spent the whole night trying to catch some fish. I am sure tempers were flaring, nasty words were being said to one another, patience was thin and all they wanted was to go home and get some sleep.
- I don't know about you, but the last person you want to ask to come and serve in church is a person that finds themselves in Peter's shoes.
  - Peter was frustrated because he had caught nothing the whole night.

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- Peter was tired because he had been working the whole night and the human body is meant to be resting at night and not working.
- Peter was worried about the unpaid bills at home and now he had nothing to make up for them.
- Because of the night's failure. I would like to think Peter was beginning to doubt his prospects as a fisherman.
- This was not a pretty picture at all and naturally speaking, this person would not be nice to have in your team. This is a person who will do a no show or will show up but will not co-operate with the duties of the day.
- Surprise, surprise, that was the exact person that Jesus chose to serve Him during one of His open-air meetings.

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- This brings us to the fourth aspect of how to position yourself to receive a miracle.

### **4. Be willing to Serve the Lord at all times**

- Peter's response was amazing – he overlooked his inconvenience, his frustrations and his own lack to serve Jesus.
- He did not serve Jesus because he wanted a miracle, he did it because Jesus was Lord – Peter called Him master.
- Peter had seen Jesus around town, and he acknowledged that there was something about this man that was different from any other Rabbi.
- Something happens to us when we serve God even when it is a sacrifice to us.
- Jesus needed a boat and Peter needed fish – Peter had the capacity to further the ministry of Jesus and Jesus had the capacity to meet Peter's needs. What was required was a connecting point – the connecting point was the boat.
- Every time you avail your boat to God from a place of inconvenience, you position yourself to receive something special from God.

*John 12:26 If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there also My servant shall be. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.*

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- GOD will honor you! In another translation, it says that He will shower His favor upon your life. Honor and favor – those two await those who serve the Lord.
- The miracle of the big catch happened after Jesus had finished preaching *Luke 5: 4 And as He stopped speaking, He said to Simon, Launch out into the deep and let your nets down for a haul.*
- When you serve God, you remove the focus from your own needs or rather from your need for a miracle and put your attention on the miracle worker.
- It is not about the miracle or the breakthrough, it is about the one who makes the miracle.
- Whether we receive our miracle or not, we must continue serving Jesus because He deserves our attention.
- The moment of your greatest need should be your moment of your greatest service to God.
- Service changes people. It refines, purifies, gives a finer perspective, and brings out the best in each one of us.
- It gets us looking outward instead of inward. It prompts us to consider others' needs ahead of our own.
- When you serve others, you help them experience God's miraculous power, in return you will receive your own dosage of God's visitations (give and it shall be given to you).
- God's power to work miracles is available each time we partner with him on the mission field.
- If you want to see miracles, get involved in your father's business.

*Luke 9:1-2*

*9 When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, 2 and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.*

*Luke 10:17-1*

*17 The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."*

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*18 He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.*

- The people had come looking to hear the gospel that gives life – Jesus was able to reach them with the word, their lives were transformed in the process.
- After they had been fed spiritually, Jesus could not just say thank you to Peter and let him go hungry physically – this triggered a miracle for Peter.

*Hebrew 6:10 For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.*

- Serving Jesus, gives you access to His presence – the miracle happened because Peter was in the presence of the miracle worker.
- Serving causes you to see God at work in others and as you continue stepping out of your comfort zone, your faith for miracles will grow out of that.
- By doing so, you put a spiritual principle into action, you activate heaven by doing so.

*Exodus 23:25 And you shall serve Jehovah your God, and He shall bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you. 26 Nothing shall cast their young, nor be barren in your land. The number of your days I will fulfill. 27 I will send My fear before you, and will destroy all the people to whom you shall come. And I will make all your enemies turn their backs to you.*

- Numerous blessings and miracles accrue to those who serve God
  - He will bless your bread and water
  - He will take away sickness from your midst
  - There will be no miscarriage
  - There will be no barrenness
  - There will be no premature death
  - You will have long life and fulfill your destiny
  - Your enemies will turn away from you