

Jesus' Actions

Calling of Apostles



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- Jesus called 12 apostles (**Mark 3:13-19, Luke 9:1-5**)
- They were to be leaders of a new people (**John 4:21-24**)
- They were to be empowered to work for the restoration of Israel (**Acts 1:6-8**)
- They had end times significance (**Luke 22:29-30**)

Jesus' Actions

Eating with Sinners



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- Jesus ate with the socially undesirable, and was insulted for it (**Matthew 11:19**)
- Jesus' eating with sinners implied social integration for them. They would no longer be outcasts.
- Jesus' eating with sinners was a sign of extending God's forgiveness and fellowship to them
- In Jewish culture, eating with people had significant religious aspects. Meals were accompanied by prayers and blessings. The New Covenant Meal (i.e. the Lord's supper) is an extension of this into the church age.
- The uniting of all believers with Jesus at the end of time is compared to a feast (**Matthew 8:11, 22:1-3**)

Jesus' Actions

Cleansing the Temple



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- Jesus cleansed the temple (**Matthew 21:12-13, Mark 11:15-17, Luke 19:45-46, John 2:13-16**)
- An action of purification of what had become a corrupt system
- Maybe a hint of the coming future destruction of the temple?
- His actions at the temple were a Messianic demonstration, as no ordinary man had the authority to do what Jesus did

Jesus' Actions

Miracles



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- Even many skeptical scholars concede Jesus performed *some* miracles
- He especially performed miracles of exorcism, healing, and restoration of sight (**Matthew 8:1-4, 8:28-33, 11:2-5, John 9:1-7**)
- Jesus declared the miracles were a fulfillment of prophecy (**Isaiah 29:18-19, 35:5-6**)
- Jesus proclaimed the miracles showed the Kingdom of God was at hand, and that He Jesus was ushering in the Kingdom (**Matthew 12:28, Luke 11:20**)

The Miracles of Jesus

John 10:37-38

“Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father. But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that **the Father is in me, and I in the Father.**”

John 20:30-31

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.

Acts 2:22

“Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.

Reassuring John the Baptist During a Time of Trial

John 1:29

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Matthew 11:2-5

When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?” Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: 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.

Matthew 11:11

Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Greatest Miracle – The Resurrection

- Jesus rose miraculously from the dead after a barbarously cruel execution by ruthless Roman soldiers
- The risen Jesus was seen and heard by many eyewitnesses who knew He had died and was buried. The four gospels proclaim Jesus rose from the dead (**Matthew 28:2-10, Mark 16:1-7, Luke 24:1-8, John 20:19-23**).
- The miracles did not end with the resurrection. Jesus empowered His disciples to perform even more miracles in His name, which they did.
- The apostles moved in supernatural power as they spread the Good News

Acts 5:12-16

The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade. No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed.

A Wise Word from C. S. Lewis



C. S. Lewis
1898-1963

I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: "I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God." That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronising nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.

Translation, Resuscitation, and Resurrection

Translation - A person is taken directly up to heaven (or down to Hell) without first dying and being raised from the dead (e.g. Enoch in **Genesis 5:23-24** and **Hebrews 11:5**, Elijah in **2 Kings 2:11-18**)

Resuscitation - The raising of a dead mortal body back to earthly life. The resuscitated body remains mortal (e.g. Jairus' daughter in **Mark 5:35-43**, Lazarus in **John 11:38-44**)

Resurrection - The physical and bodily raising up of a dead person to new life. The resurrected person is immortal and will never die again (e.g. Jesus in the **4 gospels**).

True Resurrection

Isaiah 26:19

But your dead will live, Lord; their bodies will rise—let those who dwell in the dust wake up and shout for joy—your dew is like the dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead.

Daniel 12:2-3

Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

John 11:21-24

“Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

A Fictional Account of the Resurrection

from *Stealing from God*, by Frank Turek

Although we were initially skeptical of Jesus, we quickly realized that this man was special. We knew He would save us from our sins. So when that turncoat Judas brought the Romans by (we always suspected Judas), and they began to nail Jesus to the cross, we laughed at them. "He's God, you idiots! The grave will never keep Him! You think you're solving a problem, but you're really creating a much bigger one."

While we assured the women that everything would turn out all right, they couldn't handle the crucifixion. Squeamish and afraid, they ran to their homes screaming to hide behind locked doors.

But we men stood steadfast at the foot of the cross, praying for hours until the very end. When Jesus finally took His last breath and the Roman centurion confessed that Jesus was God, Peter blasted him, "That's what we told you before you nailed Him up there!" (Through this whole thing, the Romans and the Jews just wouldn't listen!)

Never doubting that Jesus would rise on the third day, Peter announced to the centurion, "We'll bury Him and be back on Sunday. Now go and tell Pilate to put some of your elite Roman guards at the tomb to see if you can prevent Him from rising from the dead!" We could hardly wait until Sunday.

That Sunday morning we marched right down to the tomb and overpowered those elite Roman guards. Then the stone (that took eleven of us to roll into place) rolled away by itself. A glowing Jesus emerged from the tomb and said, "I knew you'd come! My mission is accomplished." He praised Peter for his brave leadership and encouraged us on our great faith. Then we went home and comforted the trembling women.