

International Conversation Café

Community Group: Do Miracles Contradict Science?

Before we answer that question, let's define what we mean by "miracles" and what we mean by "science."

How would you define a miracle?

"The supernatural force of God is introduced into a situation, negating the effect of the natural law."

Millard Erickson, Christian Theology, p. 408.

So the Laws of nature are not suspended but superseded.

--Example: resurrection (verifiable)

--seen by over 500 people

--multiple written accounts

How would you define science?

Science is the study of the physical and natural world.

--Miracles lie outside of science, which by definition deals with the natural, the repeatable..." -

Philosopher Michael Ruse

It is said that science answers the questions of "How?" and "When?" The study of God looks for the answers to "Why?" and "Whom?" *Do you think this is true? Can you give an example?*

God interacts with the world in natural and supernatural, miraculous ways.

Natural: set up cycles (sun, moon, & stars)

Supernatural: physical healings without natural medicines

Why does God do miracles?

To show **His power** and glory — *John 9:1-11*

Because he is **compassionate** — *Matthew 14:14*

Like a Father

What miracle does Jesus do?

What are the reasons he heals the man?

What do you think the man's response should be?

What is your response?

Why do you think people resist the idea of miracles? Have you ever seen a miracle? Is it possible to believe in the reality of something you have never experienced?

Jesus' compassion motivated him to bring spiritual healing and forgiveness along with physical healing.

In Luke 5:17-26, Jesus healed a paralyzed man and forgave his sins.

One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick. Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."

Discussion

Describe how Jesus healed the man?

Jesus healed him spiritually by forgiving him and physically by giving him the ability to walk. Do you think both of these healings are important? Is one more important than the other?

What does Jesus' ability to do both kinds of healing say about him as a person?

Do you think Jesus can still do miracles today?

What would you like him to do for you?