

## Miracles- The Risk!

Scripture used: Luke 18:35-42 (NLT)

### OVERVIEW

We continue our series on miracles and focus on risking with boldness! The Gospels are full of miracles: from changing water to wine (with happy wedding guests), to the resurrection of Jesus. In this week's message we look at the actions Jesus took to intervene in the life of a blind beggar. When the beggar learned it was Jesus walking by, he shouted to gain Jesus' attention. The beggar had a hope for God to meet his need to see, and he wanted Jesus to act in a miraculous way. He shouted out to Jesus to get His attention, and Jesus heard him! The beggar's courage and hope in God was based upon a desperate need for what only God could do. Others were telling the beggar to shut up, but he persisted. The beggar's story teaches us to pray to have God do the extraordinary.

How do YOU define a miracle? Webster says it is an extraordinary event manifesting Divine intervention in human affairs. Miracles always point toward the very presence of God, and the love God holds for us. What do we want God to do in our lives? If it takes faith to believe in miracles, then it takes audacity to ask and expect God to release miracles into your life. We pray to ask God's intervention when faced with impossible situations. We hope, and we believe. While prayer engages the mystery of God, it comes with no guarantees.

### KEY POINTS

**Big Idea: God wants the impossible to happen in your life.**

Why risk it? Why should we pray for the impossible?

- 1) Our TRUST in God grows as we ACTIVATE our faith! Our faith then becomes a witness and encourages those around us. He wants to do the impossible on our behalf to prove Himself to us and His love for us.
- 2) What shapes our prayer for the impossible?
  - a) It's an inspiration. God speaking into our lives through some means leads us to seek His face and pray for the impossible. An example is the guy who was compelled to start the school program. He saw the inspiration, took the risk, and God used it to expand his work to the other schools.
  - b) It's in desperation. Only God can address some needs. There is no other solution available to us.
- 3) How do we pray for the impossible?
  - a) Be Passionate. Ask and fast. Don't be afraid to tell God, "I want to know you better."
  - b) Be honest when we express our feelings. Honesty begins with ourselves and flows toward God as well.
- 4) Be persistent. Something drives us and our actions. Use that need to drive toward God and persevere.
- 5) Be precise.
  - a) Be specific with your prayers.
  - b) Write them down. Writing them down helps to clarify the need.
- 6) What happens when we pray for the impossible?
  - a) When we pray for the impossible beyond our reach, the miraculous happens in us.
  - b) God begins with our need, in order to move us into His purposes and a deeper relationship with Him. As a result, others around us see our example and are encouraged to trust as well.

### DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** When you call out to God, are you expecting Him to hear you? Are you surprised when God stops to tend to your needs? Do you sometimes feel you don't deserve to have God act on your behalf?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** What needs do you currently face where the solution is way beyond your abilities and resources? Where do you feel God must act on your behalf (and only God can act)? How do your prayers reflect that urgency and desperation?
- 3) **DO and PRAY** When you dare to pray for the impossible, you have to push past your doubt, even when everything tells you to shut up. Take your most pressing need, write it out and ask someone to pray with you. Expect God to reveal His strong right hand to you in action. Share your praises and thanksgivings!