

## Why Did Jesus Perform the Miracles?

A simple answer to this question would be that the Messiah or Anointed One would perform miracles as a sign of His mission. Jesus confirmed this aspect of His ministry when He stood up in the synagogue and read a portion of the Scriptures from Isaiah 61:1-3, as described in Luke 4:17-19 NLT: *The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to Him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written: "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, for He has anointed Me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the LORD's favor has come. "*

The quoting of these Scriptures was a declaration that the Messiah had come and was bringing with Him restoration to the people and to the land. This restoration was to take place in two parts. First would be the restoration of the people to God and later the restoration of the people to the land. For this teaching we shall focus on the first restoration of the people.

It must be understood that the people had continually strayed from the will of God and as a result, God would allow the enemies of Israel to overtake them as a form of discipline. As a result of these many acts of discipline and particularly with the seventy years of exile from the land, the nature of the relationship with God had deteriorated. The religious leaders of the land had substituted the performance religious acts and the obedience to ordinances that they had formed, in place of an intimate faith in their Creator. Jesus came to restore that intimacy by demonstrating the love of the Father through the miracles that He performed. The groups of miracles mentioned by Jesus speak of the special aspects of our relationship with our Father.

**Good News to the poor:** the first blessing that Jesus quoted in the Sermon on the Mount, the fifth through seventh chapters of Matthew, was a comfort to the people that were poor in spirit (that were humble before God). Jesus assures them that they will be comforted by restoring them to God's Kingdom, which was Good News indeed.

**Captives Set Free:** Jesus performed many healings, which showed that God was setting the people free from the bondages of their sins. The Jewish mind equated physical ailments as resulting from sin. Jesus was showing through the healing ministry that sin would no longer confine the people.

**The Blind Will See:** Jesus performed many healings where the blind received their sight. The way to God had been obscured by the many traditions and regulations that the religious leaders had placed on the people. Now Jesus was opening the people's eyes so that they could clearly see the way to God.

**The Oppressed Set Free:** Jesus performed many miracles where people were set free from spiritual oppression from the enemy of our souls. Jesus would speak His authority over the forces of darkness and they would flee.

**The Time of God's Favor:** The icing on the cake were the miracles that Jesus performed, like the walking on the water, the feeding of the five thousand and the calming of the storm that showed the authority of God was acting in behalf of mankind. God would use His power to benefit His children.