

*Poetic Meditations
on the
Miracles of Jesus
recorded
In the Gospel of John*

Bud Morris

Preliminary edition
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Preface

Christ did enough miracles to fill the world with their accounts, but only eight of them are recorded in the Gospel of John. Each of them required the recipients to step out in the obedience of faith to receive the blessing God had for them:

To get the water changed into wine the servants had to pour ordinary water into the water pots and offer it to the caterer.

To find out his son was healed the nobleman had to accept Jesus's word and turn around and go back home.

To be able to walk, the cripple had to rise and pick up the bed that he had been confined to, and start walking.

To feed the five thousand, the apostles had to seat the multitude and hand out the paltry bit of food that Jesus gave them.

To get to the destination where the Lord had sent His disciples, they had to let Him into the boat with them.

To receive his sight the man who was born blind had to wash the mud out of his eyes in the pool of Siloam.

To get Lazarus raised from the dead Martha and Mary had to allow the stone to be rolled away from the door of the tomb.

To get a significant catch of fish, the disciples had to cast the net where Jesus told them to cast it.

If these particular miracles had been presented as pictures of the salvation of our souls, I doubt that the recipients of the blessings would have been asked to do anything to get them. We are saved by grace through faith, not of works, lest any man should boast. They seem to have been painted more to help us visualize our tendencies along the Christian path of faith. At least I've approached them from that perspective.

I hope these meditations will be an encouragement along the trail that meanders heavenwards. Feel free to copy and distribute the poems as you please, but please request (free) permission before publishing them.

Bud Morris

Changing the

(John 2:1-11)

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding.

And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have run out of wine."

Jesus said to her, Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come."

His mother said to the servants, "Whatever he says He says to you, do *it*."

Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them to the brim. And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take *it* to the master of the feast." And they took *it*.

When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the *guests* have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!"

This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.

Water into Wine

(John 2:1-11)

Some time we will be presented
As the church, the Savior's bride,
But we are already seated
In the heavens at His side;
We can feast upon the manna
Of His rich and holy board,
And enjoy the heavenly vintage
Of communion with our Lord.

But our faith is slow to fathom
Grace that flows so full and free,
And the joy of our salvation
Seems to ebb eternally;
But our Savior knew His children
Would be running out of wine,
So He gave us an example
We could follow down the line.

Gather with your Christian cohorts;
Take the Water of the Word,
Pour it into one another
Share your thoughts on what you've heard;
Draw out what you want to offer
As your worship at His feet,
And the Lord will change the water
Into wine as Christians meet.

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Healing

(John 4:46-54)

Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick in Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death.

Then Jesus said to him, “Unless you *people* see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe.”

The nobleman said to Him, “Sir, come down before my child dies.”

Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your son lives.” So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way.

And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told *him*, saying, “Your son lives.” Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better. And they said to him, “Yesterday about the seventh hour the fever left him.” So the father knew that it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, “Your son lives.” And he himself believed, and his whole household.

This again is the second sign that Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.

The Rich Man's Son

(John 4:46-54)

When the rich man's son was dying
And he heard the Lord was near
He rode twenty miles on horseback
Hoping Christ would interfere.
“Come with me,” the man requested,
“Come and heal my little one.”
“Must you see a sign?” Christ asked him
“To believe I am God's Son?”

“Sir, please come,” the father begged Him,
“For his fever is so high,
If you don't come down and heal him
He is surely going to die.”
“He will live,” the Savior answered,
“Go in peace, your child is well.”
And his servants came and told him
That was when the fever fell.

If the Lord had gone back with him
To the place the sick boy lay,
By the time they reached the bedside
He'd have likely passed away.
But our Savior sees solutions
To the worst of our affairs,
So we'd better leave the details
Up to Him in all our prayers.

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Rise,

(John 5:2-9 + 14)

Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep *Gate* a pool which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had.

Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew he had already been *in that condition* a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?"

The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me."

Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked.

.....
Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more lest a worse thing come upon you."

Take Up Your Bed & Walk

(John 5:2-9 + 14)

If you're saved but have a problem
That has crippled you within;
Some discouragement or failure,
Or some all-besetting sin,
That you cannot seem to conquer,
"Though you've tried and tried and tried,
Just remember that such problems
Are why Jesus bled and died.

If you really died with Jesus
You are risen with Him too.
You can walk the Christian pathway
In the life He gave to you.
But the resurrection highway
Isn't just presumptuous talk,
But a rising to the summons
To take up your bed and walk.

Rise and conquer every challenge
To accomplishing God's will;
Take control of what confines you
With the spiritually ill;
And the faith that moved the mountain
Of your sins from off your back
Will increase to move each mountain
That may loom up in your track.

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Feeding the Five Thousand with

(John 6:1-13)

After these things Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which *is the Sea* of Tiberias. Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased. And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples. Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near.

Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little."

One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?"

Then Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise the fish, as much as they wanted.

So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost." Therefore they gathered *them* up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten.

Five Loaves and Two Fish

(John 6:1-13)

Multitudes of folks were coming
And their needs must be addressed.
Festive food and fancy seating
Would insure they were impressed.
Lord, were going to need some money
If we're going to do this right,
But the end will justify it
In our heavenly Father's sight.

"How much do we have?" Christ asked them.
"Just a kid's meal, if you wish."
"That's enough," the Savior answered,
"Five hard rolls and two small fish."
Then He had them seat the people
On a hillside plush with grass;
Giving thanks, He gave it to them,
And they fed the crowd with class.

There was even some left over
To supply the worker's needs,
Each disciple got a basket
For his part in Jesus's deeds.
But if we can not accomplish
What we think we ought to do
With whatever God's provided,
He just might not want us to!

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In the Boat

(John 6:15-21)

Now when the evening was come, His disciples went down to the sea, got into the boat, and went over the sea towards Capernaum. And it was already dark, and Jesus had not come unto them.

Then the sea arose because of a great wind that was blowing. So when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near the boat; and they were afraid. But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid."

Then they willingly received Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land where they were going.

Without Jesus

(John 6:15-21)

Jesus had the twelve disciples
Sail across the choppy sea
To the place where He would meet them
On the shores of Galilee.
They were following His orders,
Doing what was really right;
But not making any headway
On the stormy sea that night.

Suddenly they saw the Savior
Walking to them on the waves,
And supposed He was a spirit
From those distant haunted graves¹;
But despite their first impressions,
When they let Him in the ship,
They were at their destination
In the middle of the trip.

Just because our seas are stormy
Doesn't mean we've missed God's will,
For our sacred destination
May not lead where seas are still.
But to want to be with Jesus
As we sail life's stormy sea,
And to feel His presence with us,
Makes us where we want to be.

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¹Luke 8:27

Insight

(John 9:1-11)

Now as *Jesus* passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And his disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; *the night* is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to Him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (Which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, “Is not this he who sat and begged?” Some said, “This is he.” Others said, “He is like him.” He said, “I am *he*.” Therefore they said to him, “How were your eyes opened?” He answered and said, “A man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed, and I received sight.”

On Being Born Blind

(John chapter nine)

Philosophically speaking,
Everyone would like to know
Why one person has it easy,
While another suffers so.
We forget that God is sovereign
And will always do what’s best
Without any other reason
Than to see His Son confessed.

Think of all the years of suffering
Inhumane humility.
Blindly groping for fulfillment,
Grasping at futility.
Then that meeting with the Savior;
Eyes anointed with the clay;
Faith’s obedient behavior
Washing all the dark away!

All those years of pain and sorrow,
Just God’s opportunity.
All erased in one great moment
Of divine gratuity.
What a joy to introduce Him
As the One who gave us sight;
And to share in His rejection
While we’re walking in the light!

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Raised

(John chapter 11)

Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and Martha...Therefore the sisters sent to Him saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick."

When Jesus heard *that*, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it."..So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was...So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days

...Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house. Now Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you."...Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here my brother would not have died."

...Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone...Then they took away the stone *from the place* where the dead was lying. And Jesus lifted up *His* eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that you always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said *this*, that they may believe that You sent Me."

Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with grave-clothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

In Grave Clothes

(John chapter 11)

Anxious sisters called for Jesus.
Lazarus was very ill.
Patiently the Savior tarried,
Waiting on His Father's will.
When he died the Lord come to them,
Comforted them as they cried,
Calmly bore their accusations,
"If You'd come He wouldn't have died."

See the Savior sigh with sorrow,
Feel His groans along the way,
Watch Him weep as He went with them
To the tomb where Lazarus lay.
Hear Him hail his helpless body,
Stand in awe as he arose,
Lurching out to greet his loved ones
Bound in layers of grave clothes.

Listen to the Lord's commandment.
"Loose him now, and let him go."
It would never do to have him
Hobble home so stiff and slow.
We've been raised with Christ our Savior
Set upon the Solid Rock
But we need to shed the grave clothes
That impede our Christian walk

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Fishing for

(John 21:1-11)

After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed *Himself*:

Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the Sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing. But when morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know it was Jesus.

Then Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any food?" They answered Him, "No." And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find *some*. So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.

Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on *his* outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea. But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish.

Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught." Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken.

the Will of God

(John chapter 21)

When the Lord was resurrected
The disciples were enthused,
But without His constant guidance
Even they became confused.
They were used to taking orders
Which weren't given any more,
So they found themselves out fishing
While the Lord was on the shore.

All night long they fished and fretted
As they plied their skillful net
But they never caught a herring
'Cause God wasn't ready yet.
Then the Savior simply told them,
"Cast the net off to the right,"
And they caught more fish that moment
Than they could have caught all night.

There are rules for every soldier
In the army of the Lord,
But we need precise instructions
To deploy a worthy sword.
We can find out from the Bible
What God wants us all to do,
But we need to ask our Savior
For specific orders too.

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