

Sermon Title: The Miracles of Jesus, a Man or God?

Prelude

UMH #77 "How Great Thou Art"

TFWS #2088/Praise Book #199 "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"

Responsive Reading: UMH #757 Psalm 25:6-10

Greeting

Sharing of Blessings and Concerns

Children's Message: Why Don't We See More Miracles?

Apostle's Creed

John 2:1-11

Luke 5:12-13

Mark 6:45-56

Jeremiah 32:27

Sermon: The Miracles of Jesus, a Man or God?

Lord's Prayer

Sermon Song: UMH#368 "My Hope Is Built"

Offering

Doxology: "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH #95

UMH#664 "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

Sending Prayer

Benediction

Announcements/Dismissal

Postlude

Questions:

- 1) What was the first miracle Jesus performed in his ministry?
- 2) In our reading from Luke we saw that Jesus was willing to heal the man with leprosy. Is Jesus always willing to heal our ailments? Or is there more to it?
- 3) We often hear that Jesus is both fully God and fully man. How do the miracles that we looked at today prove this fact?

“The Miracles of Jesus, Man or God?”

03/10/2018

Pastor Jacob Hanson

Memory Verse: Jeremiah 32:27 “Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for me?”

Weekly Challenge: What in your life is too tough for you to handle? Give that over to the Lord today, for nothing is too tough for Him.

### **Opening Prayer**

Good Morning, and welcome here to Kasson/Pleasant Corners UMC. I am Pastor Jacob Hanson, and I hope you are as excited as I am for the season we now find ourselves in. We are now in the season of Lent, the time of the year where we are in preparation for Easter Sunday and are in remembrance over the acts of Jesus. If you pay attention in our congregations you will notice that we talk about Jesus a lot, but we are going to do even more of it during this time of the year. With services both on Sundays and Wednesdays from now until Easter, we are hopefully going to learn a whole lot about who Jesus was... and is. We begin this with our topic for today, the miracles of Jesus, proof of His humanity and divinity. This will set the tone for all of our Lenten services that follow.

First and foremost, we want to start off with our memory verse from Jeremiah 32:27, it undergirds everything we will look at this morning. It reads “Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for me?” Think about that, the Lord created everything. If you are wondering how it is that Jesus can be both fully God and fully man, don’t forget that nothing is too big for the Lord. Secondly, if we remember that the Lord is able to create everything, it makes the miracles that He does very small in relation to His power. Nothing is too big for the Creator of everything. Whether it be Him being fully God and fully man, doing miracles in the Bible, or doing the seemingly impossible in our lives, don’t forget that nothing is too big for Him. With that being said, let’s look at some miracles of Christ that show us who He is... fully God and fully man.

The first miracle that Christ performs according to scripture is the miracle at Cana, the turning of water into wine at a wedding. There are some things in this miracle that show Jesus as both fully God and fully man. The God portion is pretty obvious. Jesus commands some people to take and fill some jars with water, these enormous stone pots that were 20-30 gallons deep, and He makes the jars of water become jars of wine. It looks like something that God could do, and it mirrors creation, which God of course does in Genesis. But if you look a bit closer you can also see some elements that show that Jesus is fully human as well. He does something that we as humans constantly do... or at least should do... and that is listen to our mothers. It is Mary who asks Jesus to help the wedding party, and Jesus does so. You could make a joke here that even God Himself listens to His mother, but truthfully it shows a humility and love that is pretty universal to us as human beings. We are called to listen to and love our mothers. Jesus is fully God and fully man. That idea of Jesus being fully God and fully man will show up in the next miracle we look at as well, the miracle of healing the leper.

Luke 5:12-13 reads, "While He was in one of the cities, behold, there was a man covered with leprosy; and when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and implored Him, saying, 'Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.' And He stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, 'I am willing; be cleansed,' and immediately the leprosy left him." We again see Jesus show that He is both fully God and fully man in this miracle. He of course looks like God, because He heals the man of leprosy, a terminable (at the time) skin disease. The healing of leprosy is a classic miracle that can be seen all throughout scripture, so for Jesus to do it in the same way the prophets (through God) did it before Him speaks volumes about who Jesus is. In addition to the miracle, the speech of Jesus also belies that He is God in human flesh. "I am willing, be cleansed." There is compassion in Jesus's words, and compassion too stretches throughout scripture in regards to our Creator. No question there is also a voice of justice from our Lord, but compassion and justice go hand in hand with our Lord. So in these short two verses we get a couple of things that point us to Jesus being God, but again, He also looks to be human. In particular, think about how it is that Jesus heals the leper. We read that He stretched out His hand, and touched the man. I don't know if you know much about leprosy in Biblical times, but it was terminal, and it was spread through touch. A leper therefore would have to ring a bell everywhere they went, all day every day, so that no one would accidentally touch them. They would have to reside outside the city, and they would be ever in poverty because they could not work. To be a leper, was a terrible thing. The one thing, the only thing, that really eluded a leper in every form though was physical touch... and here Jesus does the unimaginable. He physically touches the man and makes him well. Jesus was not some ethereal spirit, or some ghost that looked human, He was a human being with flesh and blood and a heartbeat. Being God in human flesh, both fully God and fully man, in this miracle Jesus shows that He is both through His compassion and His actions. If you are wondering how it is possible for a leper to be healed, or for Jesus to be fully God and man at the same time, I refer you back to our memory verse for today... Jeremiah 32:27 "Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for me?"

Over the course of Jesus's ministry there are many other miracles that we could look at that show how Jesus is both fully God and fully man. But the last miracle we are going to look at today, the last showing of Jesus as both God and man, is one of the most famous things that Jesus ever did: Jesus walking upon the water. In Mark 6:45-52 we read the story about how Jesus comes to the disciples walking upon the water. We also read verses 53-56 to give us context, to show how Jesus then continues on with His ministry after this incident and continues to do great and wonderful things, but the focus from this story today is on Jesus walking on water.

It really is a fascinating miracle when you think about it. This story comes right after Jesus fed the five thousand with just a few loaves of bread and a couple fish. The crowds, having just been fed by Jesus, are then sent away by Jesus while the disciples are told to go on ahead to the other side of the sea. It is interesting to note that Jesus, after sending away the crowds, spends some alone time in prayer on a nearby mountain. During Lent, don't forget that you too need your alone time with the Lord, time spent in prayer. For the disciples, doing as they are told, they get into their boat and start towards the other side of the sea. We further read that it is in the middle of the night when things get rough for the disciples. It is the "fourth watch," which puts the time frame somewhere between 3-6am. It is dark, stormy, and the seas are rough. Knowing that half of the disciples were fishermen before following Jesus, it must have been a bad storm for them to struggle like this. While they are fighting the waves, then comes Jesus walking on the water to them. Understandably, the disciples think Jesus must be a

ghost, no man can walk on water. We of course then read that Jesus comes to them, that He calms the storm, and they arrive safely on the other side of the sea. So how does this scripture show Jesus as both God and man?

In the history of the church, this was the miracle that convinced us as Christians to take seriously the idea of Jesus being both fully God and fully man. Shout out to a guy named Athanasius. If you would like to check out some of his teachings via the internet you will see that he helped put together a lot of what we believe as Christians in an easily understandable form for the common man. But in regards to this miracle, we see that Jesus looks a lot like God when He walks on the water. This is obvious, because humans don't do that. No surfboard, no frozen lake, Jesus walks on water. But while He is very obviously God when He does that, we also see that Jesus is very human in His interaction with the disciples. If you read this same story out of the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus will actually allow Peter to walk on the water too, but He physically helps Peter back into the boat. In our reading from today He is recognized by the disciples as a human. He talks to them and He gets into the boat with them. Jesus is seen by His disciples here as fully human, even though He just did something only God could do. Throughout all three of these miracles that we looked at this morning, and every miracle that is in scripture, if you pay attention you can see that Jesus looks very much like the Lord, and also like a man. But what does this mean for you?

This truth that Jesus is fully man and fully God is relevant for us. It is relevant for us for many reasons, but I want you to remember two of them as you leave here today. The first is that we can take it to heart when the Lord says that nothing is too big or too great for Him. He is the Lord of all flesh, is there nothing He cannot do? He can turn water into wine, heal the leper, and walk on water. As we go throughout Lent we will see that He can do so many more things than what we often give Him credit for. There is nothing that cannot be accomplished through our Lord. It doesn't mean He answers every prayer how we want Him too, or that everything will go easy in life for us, but it does mean that we can always have hope. Remember that as we go throughout Lent, especially if you are giving up something for the Lord. Our God is great.

The second thing I want to leave you with is the idea that Jesus being both fully God and fully man makes Jesus the perfect sacrifice for us. As we approach Easter we will see that Jesus takes our place on the cross as a sacrifice for us, for our sins. His being human in this isn't only important, but necessary. More on that in the weeks to come. I guess you will just have to keep coming back throughout Lent in order to get how that works. Don't forget our verse, Jeremiah 32:27 "Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for me?" Let us pray.

### **Closing Prayer**