

THE MIRACLES OF JESUS

April 3, 2009

Cursed A Fig Tree

Matthew 21:18-22 Mark 11:12-14, 20-25

- This is our Thirty-first sermon in this series on the “THE MIRACLES OF JESUS”. Our focus today is on – “Cursed A Fig Tree”. How appropriate this miracle is in our generation because just as the tree was not fruitful, there are abundant spiritually unfruitful believers. What is the cause of unfruitfulness in believers? Of course, it is the sin of unforgiving spirit. When you are unwilling to forgive others, it makes you a spiritually fruitless believer. And of course it will only take a miracle from Jesus to liberate such individuals with unforgiving spirit.
- As we discuss this miracle, be mindful that throughout history of mankind the miracles that Jesus performs always have specific purposes. And in case you have missed it, we have consistently in this series defined a miracle as the violation of natural laws to suspend them permanently due to a supernatural divine intervention involving deity. The word deity is very significant and relevant in this definition since it refers to the Godhead (the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit) whereby Jesus is the Son, who performed miracles in diverse places. It is Deity alone that performs miracles!
- This Thirty-first miracle took place after Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem, when He rode on a donkey. It took place between Bethany and Jerusalem. And the scripture reports that as He enter Jerusalem, “a very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest!" When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee." Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the benches of those selling doves. "It is written," he said to them, " 'My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it a 'den of robbers.'" The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple area, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were indignant. "Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him. "Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, " 'From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise'?" And he left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night” (Matthew 21:8- 17).
- Thus the text for the day reads in Matthew’s Version, “Early in the morning, as he was on his way back to the city, he was hungry. Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, "May you never bear fruit again!" Immediately the tree withered. When the disciples saw this, they were amazed. "How did the fig tree wither so quickly?" they asked. Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done

to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer" (Matthew 21:18-22). Mark's version reads, "The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard him say it" (Mark 11:12-14). "In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. Peter remembered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!" "Have faith in God," Jesus answered. "I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins" (Mark 11:20-25).

- An unforgiving spirit is the main SIN that makes the believer unfruitful and invites the curse of God to be unproductive. This is because if you do not forgive others you stand not forgiven before the Lord. This is a dangerous ground to stand, as you will become unfruitful! Recall the fig tree was full of leaves but without any fruit. The Lord cursed it and it immediately withered. Mt Traveler members please allow me to ask you a serious question: Are you beautiful like the fig tree full of leaves but have no spiritual fruit? Then be careful because you stand on the slippery grounds of being cursed, never to bear fruit again! On the other hand if you have faith, you can say to the unforgiving spirit to depart and it will, such that you can readily forgive others.
- Therefore, as Mt Traveler continues with its outreach evangelism, it is my sincere desire and earnest prayer that the Lord will convince you of the need of His Kingdom building through soul winning as you forgive those who offend you and begin to bear fruit doing the right things worthy of being His ambassadors. Likewise, I pray that the Lord will touch you personally and increase your faith to join the band wagon of Mt Traveler Outreach Evangelism Ministry to reach out into our community and touch other people's lives, nurturing them with the word of God so that they can see clearly the dangers and effects of the chronic disease called sin that is making them "social outcasts" in God's Kingdom.
- The significances of this miracle are as follow:
 - This miracle proves that the Lord Jesus Christ is Deity as He has authority over nature.
 - An unforgiving spirit is the root of unfruitfulness and would cause the Lord not to forgive you. Then you may apparently be a beautiful believer but unproductive.
 - If you fail to forgive others, you stand the chance of not receiving forgiveness from God. Rather you will receive a curse that you will wither and never bear fruit again.
 - Forgiveness is key to building relationships; and relationships lead to fruit bearing spiritually. This because a forgiven soul prays in faith and receives whatever it asks of God.

- **This miracle is teaching us about faith in God for with God all things are possible. Moreover, it is only faith that pleases God.**
- **It takes faith to thank God for His forgiveness and to receive it so as to forgive other even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven us!**
- **And so as we conclude this worship experience, allow me to suggest to you that sin is a chronic disease that causes individuals to have unforgiving spirits and become unfruitful in God's Kingdom. However, whenever Jesus comes into a life, the individual becomes a believer and begins to see things clearly from God's perspective. For he or she has been forgiven, adopted into God's family and kingdom, thereby becoming a better citizen of this earth and a great ambassador of heaven with a heart full of the spirit of forgiveness. Such an individual is also forgiven and assured of eternal life. Eternal life is the salvation that Jesus purchased for you and me by His precious blood through His sacrificial death on the cross. As we commemorate this unique act that occurred at Easter to provide this salvation free of charge as a gift to all mankind, whosoever would receive it, we pray and hope that you too can receive this free gift and begin to enjoy it from this moment and for eternity. For God so loved the world that He sent His only Son that anyone who believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. You believe in Jesus when you come to Him in faith and accept Him as your personal Lord and savior as you humbly repent of your sin and receive your forgiveness.**
- **Hence we cannot conclude this worship experience without extending an opportunity and an invitation to someone with a chronic disease of sin that needs a savior. All you need to do is to accept Jesus into your heart and then confess with your mouth your faith in Him that He is Lord, and you will be saved.**
 - **And so, if you are here and desire to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and personal savior today, why don't you come now.**
 - **And if you have already said yes to Jesus at a point in your life, but you have lost focus on Jesus and allowing sin rule you to have an unforgiving spirit thereby making you unfaithfulness in following Him, we invite you to reach out to Jesus in faith and be reconciled to God today.**
 - **Perhaps you are new in the area or have been searching for a Church home, where you can continue to experience God's love, deliverance, joy of salvation, true worship and fellowship with other believers who have made total commitment to discipleship with humility and faith to serve Him and become fruitful in His Kingdom, we invite you to consider Mt. Traveler and unite with this local body of Christ. For at Mt Traveler, we are "a Caring Church with Ministries aimed at Changing Lives, Connecting People, and Creating Friendship and Favor with God and Man".**
 - **Remember it is a choice that you must personally make! The word has been preached and the invitation has been given. May God bless you as you come either as a candidate for baptism, rededication or as one with Christian experience. Why don't you come as the Choir leads us in a song?**
- **And if you are reading this on the Internet why don't you pray asking Jesus Christ to be your Lord and savior, then write and tell us at pastordatiri@mttraveler.org?**

THE MIRACLES OF JESUS

April 12, 2009

Raising of Lazarus

John 11:38-44

- This is our Thirty-Second sermon in this series on the “THE MIRACLES OF JESUS”. Our focus today is on – “Raising of Lazarus”. How appropriate this miracle is to be discussed on resurrection morning, as Jesus Christ is the resurrection! I salute you on this commemorative resurrection morning in Jesus’ Name. The miracle of Jesus’ resurrection is what won victory for us, Christians.
- As we discuss this miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead, be mindful that throughout history of mankind the miracles that Jesus performs always have specific purposes. And in case you have missed it, we have consistently in this series defined a miracle as the violation of natural laws to suspend them permanently due to a supernatural divine intervention involving deity. The word deity is very significant and relevant in this definition since it refers to the Godhead (the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit) whereby Jesus is the Son, who performed miracles in diverse places. It is Deity alone that performs miracles!
- This Thirty-second miracle is the third miracle in which Jesus raised a dead person during His ministry. The other two miracles were: Raising a widow's son (Luke 7:11-17) and Raising Jairus' daughter (Matthew 9:18-19, 23-25; Mark 5:22-24, 35-43; Luke 8:41-42, 49-56). The raising of Lazarus took place in Bethany after Jesus had attended the Feast of Dedication at Jerusalem; there in the temple area walking in Solomon's Colonnade the Jews gathered around Jesus and challenged him, saying, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one.” Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus said to them, “I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?” “We are not stoning you for any of these,” replied the Jews, “but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.” Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your Law, ‘I have said you are gods’? If he called them ‘gods,’ to whom the word of God came—and the Scripture cannot be broken— what about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world? Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, ‘I am God's Son’? Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does. But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.” Again they tried to seize him, but he escaped their grasp. Then Jesus went back across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing in the early days. Here he stayed and many people came to him. They said, “Though John never performed a miraculous sign, all that John said about this man was true.” And in that place many believed in Jesus” (John 10:24-42).

- It was in this region beyond the Jordan where John the Baptist ministered that word came from Bethany to Jesus that His friend Lazarus was sick unto death. “When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. Yet when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days. Then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews tried to stone you, and yet you are going back there?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? A man who walks by day will not stumble, for he sees by this world's light. It is when he walks by night that he stumbles, for he has no light." After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him” (John 11:4- 15).
- Then, “On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world"" (John 11:17-27). Then when Jesus saw all those mourning were weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled and He wept also. "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied.
- Thus the text for the day reads, “Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go” (John 11:38-44).
- This miracle assures us that Jesus is the resurrection. The resurrection message is one of hope. On this resurrection morning we rejoice because we are commemorating this message of hope. Jesus is alive! Hallelujah!! And because He lives, we can face tomorrow full of hope and life is worth the living just because He lives. Resurrection message is also one of victory because Jesus overcome Satan, sin

and death to grant us victory and eternal life. Therefore it is imperative for us at Mt Traveler to be excited in spreading this good news of hope, salvation and eternal life, which Jesus obtained for us through His victory!

- Therefore, as Mt Traveler continues with its outreach evangelism, it is my sincere desire and earnest prayer that the Lord will convince you of the need of His Kingdom building through soul winning as you spread this good news of hope, salvation, eternal life and victory over sin and the ability to bear fruit by doing the right things worthy of being His ambassadors. Likewise, I pray that the Lord will touch you personally and increase your faith to join the band wagon of Mt Traveler Outreach Evangelism Ministry to reach out into our community and touch other people's lives, nurturing them with the word of God so that they can see clearly the dangers and effects of the chronic disease call sin that is making them "social outcasts" in God's Kingdom.
- The significances of this miracle are as follow:
 - This miracle proves that the Lord Jesus Christ is Deity as He has authority over death.
 - He is the resurrection and the life. The resurrection message is one of hope, salvation, eternal life and victory.
 - Jesus understands what we go through in life and is always deeply moved and trouble in His spirit to weep when we weep and to rejoice when we are rejoicing.
 - Jesus is compassionate towards those suffering and always gives them hope for living.
 - Sin is the grave clothes that wrap us up in death. For the wages of sin is death but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore it is necessary to unwrap the grave clothes of death to enjoy the newness of life in Christ. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go".
- And so as we conclude this worship experience, allow me to suggest to you that sin is a chronic disease known as grave clothes that deprive us the freedom to enjoy the newness of life provided by Jesus through His resurrection. Sin also causes individuals to be wrapped up in their grave clothes of sin thereby becoming unproductive and unfruitful in God's Kingdom. However, whenever Jesus comes into a life, the individual becomes a believer, gains the freedom to a newness of life in Jesus Christ and begins to see things clearly from God's perspective as he or she has been forgiven, adopted into God's family and therefore now belong in God's kingdom. Such an individual therefore becomes a better citizen of this earth and a great ambassador of heaven. Such an individual is also assured of eternal life. Eternal life is the salvation that Jesus purchased for you and me by His precious blood through His sacrificial death on the cross. As we commemorate the victory Jesus wrought for us through His resurrection that occurred on Easter Sunday, we pray and hope that you too can receive this free gift and begin to enjoy it from this moment and for eternity. For God so loved the world that He sent His only Son that anyone who believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. You believe in Jesus when you come to Him in faith and accept Him as your personal Lord and savior as you humbly repent of your sin and receive your forgiveness.

- Hence we cannot conclude this worship experience without extending an opportunity and an invitation to someone with a chronic disease of sin that needs a savior. All you need to do is to accept Jesus into your heart and then confess with your mouth your faith in Him that He is Lord, and you will be saved.
 - And so, if you are here and desire to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and personal savior on this resurrection morning, why don't you come now.
 - And if you have already said yes to Jesus at a point in your life, but you have lost focus on Jesus and have allowed sin to wrap you as grave clothes that you have become unfaithful, ineffective and unfruitful in your newness of life in Christ, we invite you to reach out to Jesus in faith and be reconciled to God today.
 - Perhaps you are new in the area or have been searching for a Church home, where you can continue to experience God's love, deliverance, joy of salvation, true worship and fellowship with other believers who have made total commitment to discipleship with humility and faith to serve Him and become fruitful in His Kingdom by unwrapping their grave clothes of sin, we invite you to consider Mt. Traveler and unite with this local body of Christ. For at Mt Traveler, we are "a Caring Church with Ministries aimed at Changing Lives, Connecting People, and Creating Friendship and Favor with God and Man".
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Mt. Traveler Missionary Baptist Church, Waverly, Alabama
Synopses of Sermons Preached by Rev. B. C. Datiri, Pastor

THE MIRACLES OF JESUS

April 19, 2009

Healing Bartimaeus of Blindness

Mark 10:46-52

- It is our Thirty-third sermon in this series on the "THE MIRACLES OF JESUS". Our focus today is on – "Healing Bartimaeus of Blindness". Bartimaeus was sitting by the roadside begging because he was blind and could not get around easily to do things for himself. This miracle is very relevant in our generation as many people are spiritually blind that they are living under the rule of darkness and just begging for possession, position and power. What they need is a miraculous deliverance from the power of darkness into God's marvelous light. Jesus can restore your spiritual sight as He did Bartimaeus such that you can begin to see and perceive things from God's perspective.

- **As we discuss this miracle of healing Bartimaeus of blindness, be mindful that throughout history of mankind the miracles that Jesus performs always have specific purposes. And in case you have missed it, we have consistently in this series defined a miracle as the violation of natural laws to suspend them permanently due to a supernatural divine intervention involving deity. The word deity is very significant and relevant in this definition since it refers to the Godhead (the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit) whereby Jesus is the Son, who performed miracles in diverse places. It is Deity alone that performs miracles!**
- **This Thirty-third miracle is the third miracle in the gospels which Jesus provided sight to blind people around Jericho during His ministry. The other two miracles were: the accounts in Luke 18: 35-43, which does not name Bartimaeus but just a blind man who was sitting by the roadside begging as Jesus approached Jericho, and Matthew 20:29-34, which says that as Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him and two blind men were sitting by the roadside. The healing of Bartimaeus also took place when Jesus, His disciples and the crowd following Him were leaving Jericho on their way to Jerusalem. Considering these differences I believe that these were three different miracles since Jericho was one of the great commercial cities during the time of Jesus Christ's ministry. People traveled back and forth, to and from Jericho, which was on a major trade route. Mark informs us that "They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the 'Twelve' aside and told them what was going to happen to Him. "We are going up to Jerusalem," he said, "and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise." Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask." "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory." "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?" "We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared." When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:32-45).**
- **Thus the text for the day reads, "Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (that is, the Son of Timaeus), was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called to**

the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see." "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road" (Mark 10:46-52).

- This miracle assures us that Jesus cares about our circumstances, conditions and situations; and hears us when we call to Him in faith for mercy. No one really knows how long Bartimaeus was blind because we are not told. Most probably he was blind all his life. His circumstance is that all his life he was without any visual contact with the environment; His condition - he was sitting there by the road; and his situation – he was begging. For sure, he must have heard what Jesus did to other blind men and how they received their sight. He must have longed to be one of those that would meet Jesus. He was not shy about his circumstances, condition or situation. As soon as he heard that Jesus, the healer that can give him sight, was passing by the road where he was begging, it came to him naturally to use what he had – his ears and his voice. And so he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many people rebuked him and asked him to hush up, but he will not. Instead, he shouted the more for Jesus to have mercy on him. Jesus always hears a prayer for mercy! And so Jesus stopped and paid attention to Bartimaeus, the name with an interesting meaning; 'son of Timæus'. Timæus in the original means UNCLEAN or CONTAMINATED in a religious sense. Thus we can conclude that he came from a 'contaminated' religious background and had no vision and thus no walk! There may be someone right now in this church that fits this description, let me assure you that if you call on Jesus for mercy, He will hear you and stop by you to offer you clear vision concerning your life that would be pleasing to Him. He Jesus stopped, He request that Bartimaeus be called. At the call, he was excited that he threw his cloak aside, jump unto his feet and came to Jesus. Today we shall make an alter call very soon. When you hear God's voice, please take off your grave clothes of sin, be bold to jump on your feet and come to Jesus. When Bartimaeus came to Jesus, he asked him what He would do for him. The blind man, who knew his need of Sight answered reverently that he wanted to see. Is that what your desire today? Do you want to see clearly from God's perspective so as to live a life that would be pleasing to Him? Then you need to respond in faith to Jesus when you hear his voice. When Bartimaeus responded in faith, Jesus said to him, go your faith has healed you. Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road. When Jesus honor your faith and grants you spiritual vision to see clearly the dangers of sin (the grave clothes), you must follow Jesus along the path of righteousness.
- Therefore, as Mt Traveler continues with its outreach evangelism, it is my sincere desire and earnest prayer that the Lord will convince you of the need of building His Kingdom through soul winning as you spread the good news of hope that Jesus hears our cries for mercy and delivers us from our circumstances, conditions and situations to grant us salvation, eternal life and victory over sin and the ability to bear fruit by doing the right things worthy of our calling to follow Him in the paths of righteousness. Likewise, I pray that the Lord will touch you personally and increase your faith to join the band wagon of Mt Traveler Outreach Evangelism Ministry to reach out into our community and touch other people's lives, nurturing them with

the word of God so that they can see clearly the dangers and effects of the chronic disease call sin that is making them “social outcasts” in God’s Kingdom.

- **The significances of this miracle are as follow:**
 - **This miracle proves that the Lord Jesus Christ is Deity as He healed Bartimaeus the blind man**
 - **He is the resurrection and the life. The resurrection message is one of hope, salvation, eternal life and victory.**
 - **Jesus understands circumstances, conditions and situations.**
 - **All you need to do for Jesus to hear you is to humble yourself and at the same cry without shame for Him to have mercy on you.**
 - **You must not allow the crowd to silence you rather you should cry more loudly for mercy so that Jesus can restore your spiritual sight to see that sin is the grave clothes that wrap you up in death. For the wages of sin is death but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**
 - **Therefore it is necessary to take off the mask of pretense, unwrap the grave clothes of death and jump up to meet Jesus in faith and enjoy the newness of life in Him.**
- **And so as we conclude this worship experience, allow me to suggest to you that sin is a chronic disease that wraps you as grave clothes and deprive you the freedom to enjoy the newness of life provided by Jesus. However, whenever Jesus comes into a life, the individual becomes a believer, gains the freedom to a newness of life in Jesus Christ and begins to see things clearly from God’s perspective as he or she has been forgiven, adopted into God’s family and therefore now belong in God’s kingdom. Such an individual now follows Jesus along the paths of righteousness that make him or her a better citizen of this earth and a great ambassador of heaven. Such an individual is also assured of eternal life. Eternal life is the salvation that Jesus purchased for you and me with His precious blood through His sacrificial death on the cross. We pray and hope that you too can receive this free gift and begin to enjoy it from this moment and for eternity. For God so loved the world that He sent His only Son that anyone who believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. You believe in Jesus when you come to Him in faith and accept Him as your personal Lord and savior as you humbly repent of your sin and receive your forgiveness.**
- **Hence we cannot conclude this worship experience without extending an opportunity and an invitation to someone with a chronic disease of sin that needs a savior. All you need to do is to accept Jesus into your heart and then confess with your mouth your faith in Him that He is Lord, and you will be saved.**
 - **And so, if you are here and desire to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and personal savior, why don’t you come now.**
 - **And if you have already said yes to Jesus at a point in your life, but you have lost focus on Jesus and have allowed sin to wrap you as grave clothes that you have become unfaithful, ineffective and unfruitful in your newness of life in Christ, we invite you to reach out to Jesus in faith and be reconciled to God today.**
 - **Perhaps you are new in the area or have been searching for a Church home, where you can continue to experience God’s love, deliverance, joy of salvation, true worship and fellowship with other believers who have made total**

commitment to discipleship with humility and faith to serve Him and become fruitful in His Kingdom by unwrapping their grave clothes of sin, we invite you to consider Mt. Traveler and unite with this local body of Christ. For at Mt Traveler, we are “a Caring Church with Ministries aimed at Changing Lives, Connecting People, and Creating Friendship and Favor with God and Man”.

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Mt. Traveler Missionary Baptist Church, Waverly, Alabama

Synopses of Sermons Preached by Rev. B. C. Datiri, Pastor

THE MIRACLES OF JESUS

April 26, 2009

Drove 7 demons out of Mary Magdalene

Luke 8:1-3

- **It is our Thirty-fourth sermon in this series on the “THE MIRACLES OF JESUS”. Our focus today is on – “Jesus Drove 7 demons out of Mary Magdalene”. This miracle is very relevant in our generation as many people are possessed and influenced by as many demons as Mary Magdalene. And unless one is set free from demon possession and influences, he/she cannot be an effective and dedicated disciple.**
- **As we discuss this miracle be mindful that throughout history of mankind the miracles that Jesus performs always have specific purposes. And in case you have missed it, we have consistently in this series defined a miracle as the violation of natural laws to suspend them permanently due to a supernatural divine intervention involving deity. The word deity is very significant and relevant in this definition since it refers to the Godhead (the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit) whereby Jesus is the Son, who performed miracles in diverse places. It is Deity alone that performs miracles!**
- **We are not aware of when or where this thirty-fourth miracle occurred. All we know is that Jesus drove seven demons out of Mary Magdalene. But who is Mary Magdalene? In the Biblical accounts available in Mark 15:40-41; Mark 15:47; Mark 16:1-2 Mary of Magdala is described as a Galilean disciple and a witness to the crucifixion as well as the mystery of Jesus of Nazareth's resurrected body. Luke 8:2-3 adds to Mary's persona by alluding to her having had seven demons cast out of her, which some have suggested to signify a perfected status within the movement of Jesus Christ. Together with other female followers, Mary accompanied Jesus on his journey to Jerusalem (Mark 15:41; Matthew 27:55-56; Luke 23:55) and witnessed the Crucifixion (Mark 15:33-40; Matthew 27:45-55; Luke 23:44-49; John 19:25-30). Mary remained at the cross until the body was taken down and laid in a tomb (Mark**

15:46, Matthew 27:59-60, Luke 23:53, John 19:41). In the early dawn of the first Day of the week, when the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene with other women (Mark 16:1-2, Matthew 28:1, Luke 23:55-24:1, John 20:1), came to the sepulchre with spices to anoint the body. They found the sepulchre empty and were informed of Jesus' resurrection. She was the first witness to the empty tomb, then she shared the good news with the other close disciples of Jesus (John 20:1-2). According to John, she was the first witness of the Resurrection appearances of Jesus, though, at first, she did not recognize Him. Then when He said her name, she recognized Him and cried, *Rabboni* (meaning "Lord" or "Master"). She wanted to cling to him, but he forbade her (John 20:17): "'Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.''" This is the last mention in the canonical Gospels of Mary Magdalene, who now returned to Jerusalem and probably included in the group of women who joined the Apostles in the Upper Room in Jerusalem after Jesus' ascension (Acts 1:14).

- However, considering the context of today's text, Luke at the end of Chapter seven reported "Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, and as she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, 'If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner.'" Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," he said. "Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said. Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little. Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace" (Luke 7:36-50).
- Thus the text for the day reads, "After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Cuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means" (Luke 8:1-3).
- This miracle assures us that Jesus cares about those that are oppressed by demons. Demons are real and are what deter people from committing their lives to Jesus

Christ to become his dedicated disciples and supporters of His ministry. Here we see that Mary Magdalene had been delivered from seven demons. The truth is that when you realize how much God has done for you, you will be more appreciative and dedicated to Him and the ministry. Mary Magdalene represents most of us because she was completely delivered from demonic influences. For those of you who are students of the scriptures, you know that the number seven is the number of perfection or completion. When Jesus delivers you completely from sin, Satan and eternal death, you will become a dedicated disciple who fully supports the work of the ministry. It is my sincere desire and earnest prayer that the Lord will convince Mt Traveler that building His Kingdom and a healthy Church requires our appreciation of how much God had forgiven us and freed us from sin, Satan and eternal death. To show this appreciation we need to dedicate ourselves to kingdom building through worship, fellowship, evangelism, discipleship and outreach ministry.

- **The significances of this miracle are as follow:**
 - **This miracle proves that the Lord Jesus Christ is Deity as He has authority over demons to completely deliver us like He did Mary Magdalene.**
 - **Jesus is Deity because only Deity can forgive sin and deliver from sin.**
 - **Faith in Jesus Christ brings forgiveness and peace**
 - **People, who have been completely delivered and forgiven, follow Jesus wholeheartedly and support His ministry with their means so that the Good News can be proclaimed. They also enjoy the newness of life that Jesus grants through this deliverance.**
 - **Their support of the ministry involves dedication in building a healthy Church through worship, fellowship, evangelism, discipleship and outreach ministry.**
 - **This miracle is about the degree of forgiveness and the degree of appreciation, worship, dedication and devotion.**
- **And so as we conclude this worship experience, allow me to suggest to you that sin is a chronic disease that deprives you the freedom to enjoy the newness of life provided by Jesus. However, whenever Jesus comes into your life, you becomes a believer, gaining the freedom to a newness of life in Jesus Christ and begin to see things clearly from God's perspective as you are forgiven, adopted into God's family and therefore now belong in God's kingdom. As you follow Jesus along the paths of righteousness that make you a better citizen of this earth and a great ambassador of heaven. You are also assured of eternal life. Eternal life is the salvation that Jesus purchased for you and me with His precious blood through His sacrificial death on the cross. We pray and hope that you too can receive this free gift and begin to enjoy it from this moment and for eternity. For God so loved the world that He sent His only Son that anyone who believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. You believe in Jesus when you come to Him in faith and accept Him as your personal Lord and savior as you humbly repent of your sin and receive your forgiveness.**
- **Hence we cannot conclude this worship experience without extending an opportunity and an invitation to someone with a chronic disease of sin that needs a savior. All you need to do is to accept Jesus into your heart and then confess with your mouth your faith in Him that He is Lord, and you will be saved.**
 - **And so, if you are here and desire to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and personal savior, why don't you come now.**

- **And if you have already said yes to Jesus at a point in your life, but you have lost focus on Jesus and have allowed sin to wrap you up that you are not dedicated to worship, fellowship, evangelism, discipleship and outreach ministry thereby becoming unfaithful, ineffective and unfruitful in your newness of life in Christ, we invite you to reach out to Jesus in faith and be reconciled to God today. If you have been a member of this local body of Christ but for some reason have been away from church and desire to come back today, why don't you come also for us to officially welcome you back home?**
- **Perhaps you are new in the area or have been searching for a Church home, where you can continue to experience God's love, deliverance, joy of salvation, true worship and fellowship with other believers who have made total commitment to discipleship with humility and faith to serve Him and become fruitful in His Kingdom worship, fellowship, evangelism, discipleship and outreach ministry, we invite you to consider Mt. Traveler and unite with this local body of Christ. For at Mt Traveler, we are "a Caring Church with Ministries aimed at Changing Lives, Connecting People, and Creating Friendship and Favor with God and Man".**
- **Remember it is a choice that you must personally make! The word has been preached and the invitation has been given. May God bless you as you come either as a candidate for baptism, rededication or as one with Christian experience. Why don't you come as the Choir leads us in a song?**
- **And if you are reading this on the Internet why don't you pray asking Jesus Christ to be your Lord and savior, then write and tell us at pastordatiri@mttraveler.org?**