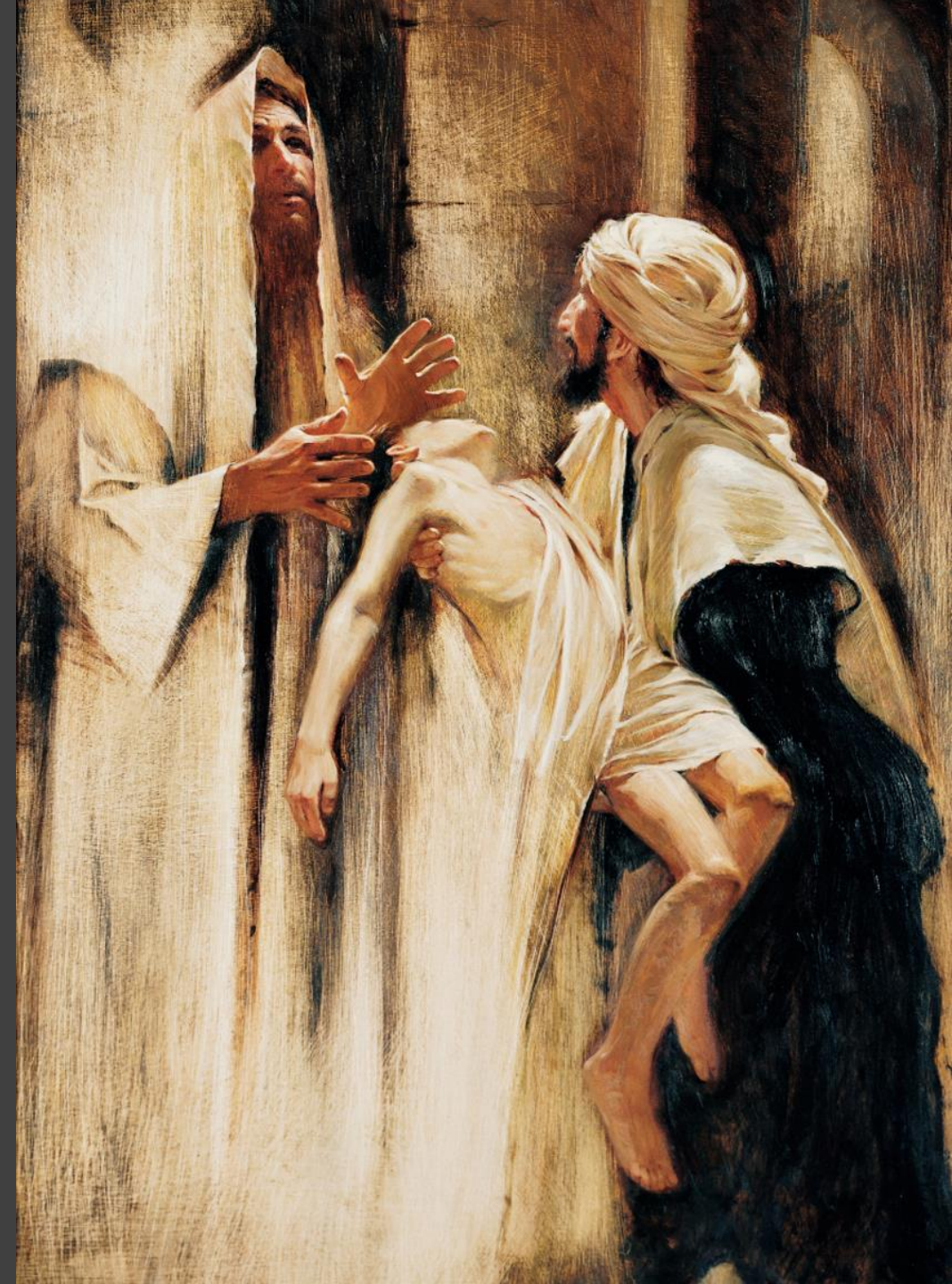




11: Jesus went about doing good
12: Miracles on the road to Palestine

Tuesday, September 29, 2020

When you think of the Savior's exemplary life, what of all the good He did in mortality stands out most to you?





Matthew 5.43-47

What makes this principle
hard to live?



Jesus went about doing
good

Matthew 9:9–13

Matthew 12:22–30

Mark 3:1–6

Mark 11:15–19

John 11:43–53

What did you notice about how the Savior responded to the persecution He experienced?

What thoughts or feelings might you have had if you had witnessed Jesus on that occasion?

What do you think Jesus would want you to learn from His words and actions at that time?

How we can respond to persecution

Matthew 5:9–12

Matthew 5:21–24 (see also 3 Nephi 12:22)

Matthew 5:38–41; 7:12

Matthew 6:14–15 (see also D&C 64:9–10)

Matthew 7:1–5

Two sides to balancing this principle

Matthew 17 (the coin) versus
Luke 9.52-54 (burn it down)





Stand Up

**“Defend your beliefs with courtesy and
with compassion, but defend them”**

(Jeffrey R. Holland, “The Cost—and Blessings—of Discipleship,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2014, 9).



Graciousness & Civility

“Followers of Christ should be examples of civility. We should love all people, be good listeners, and show concern for their sincere beliefs. Though we may disagree, we should not be disagreeable. Our stands and communications on controversial topics should not be contentious. We should be wise in explaining and pursuing our positions and in exercising our influence. ...

“When our positions do not prevail, we should accept unfavorable results graciously and practice civility with our adversaries”

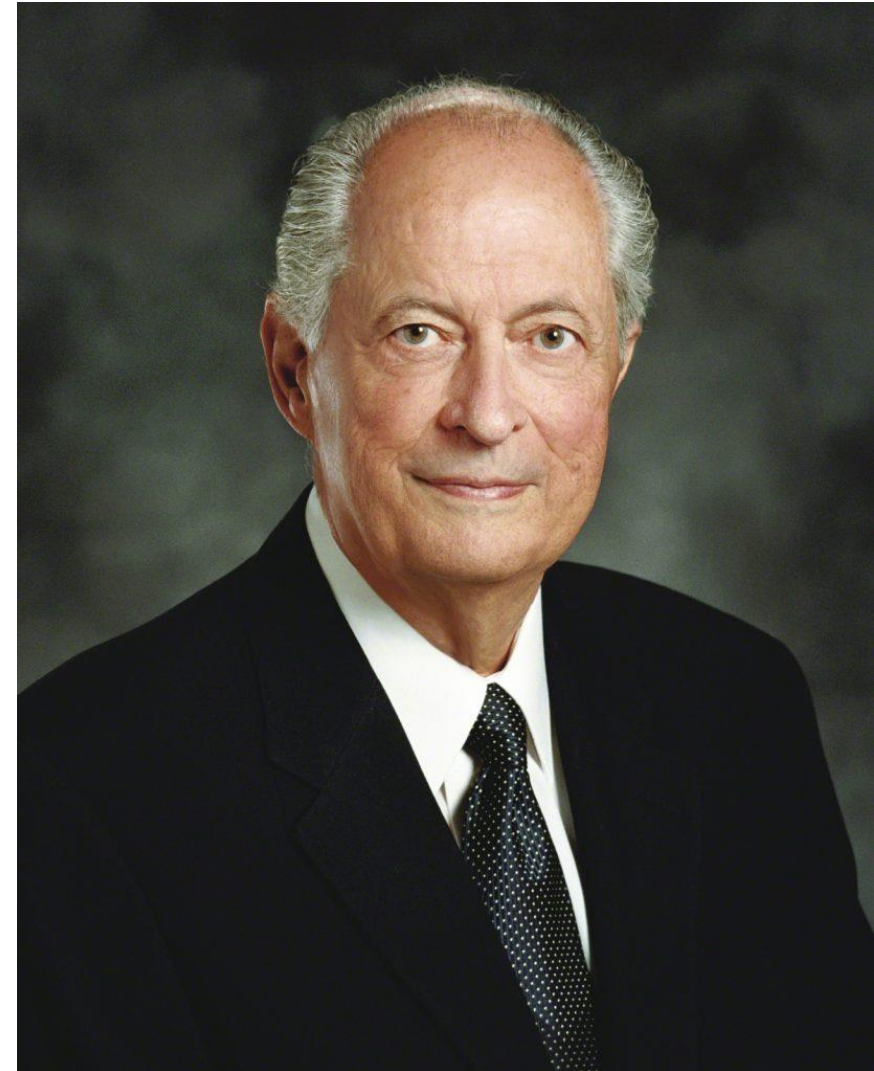
(Dallin H. Oaks, “Loving Others and Living with Differences,” Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2014, 27).

Tailored to the circumstance

“As we respond to others, each circumstance will be different. Fortunately, the Lord knows the hearts of our accusers and how we can most effectively respond to them. As true disciples seek guidance from the Spirit, they receive inspiration tailored to each encounter. And in every encounter, true disciples respond in ways that invite the Spirit of the Lord. ...

“As true disciples, our primary concern must be others’ welfare, not personal vindication. Questions and criticisms give us an opportunity to reach out to others and demonstrate that they matter to our Heavenly Father and to us. Our aim should be to help them understand the truth, not defend our egos or score points in a theological debate. Our heartfelt testimonies are the most powerful answer we can give our accusers”

(“Christian Courage: The Price of Discipleship,” Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2008, 72, 73–74).

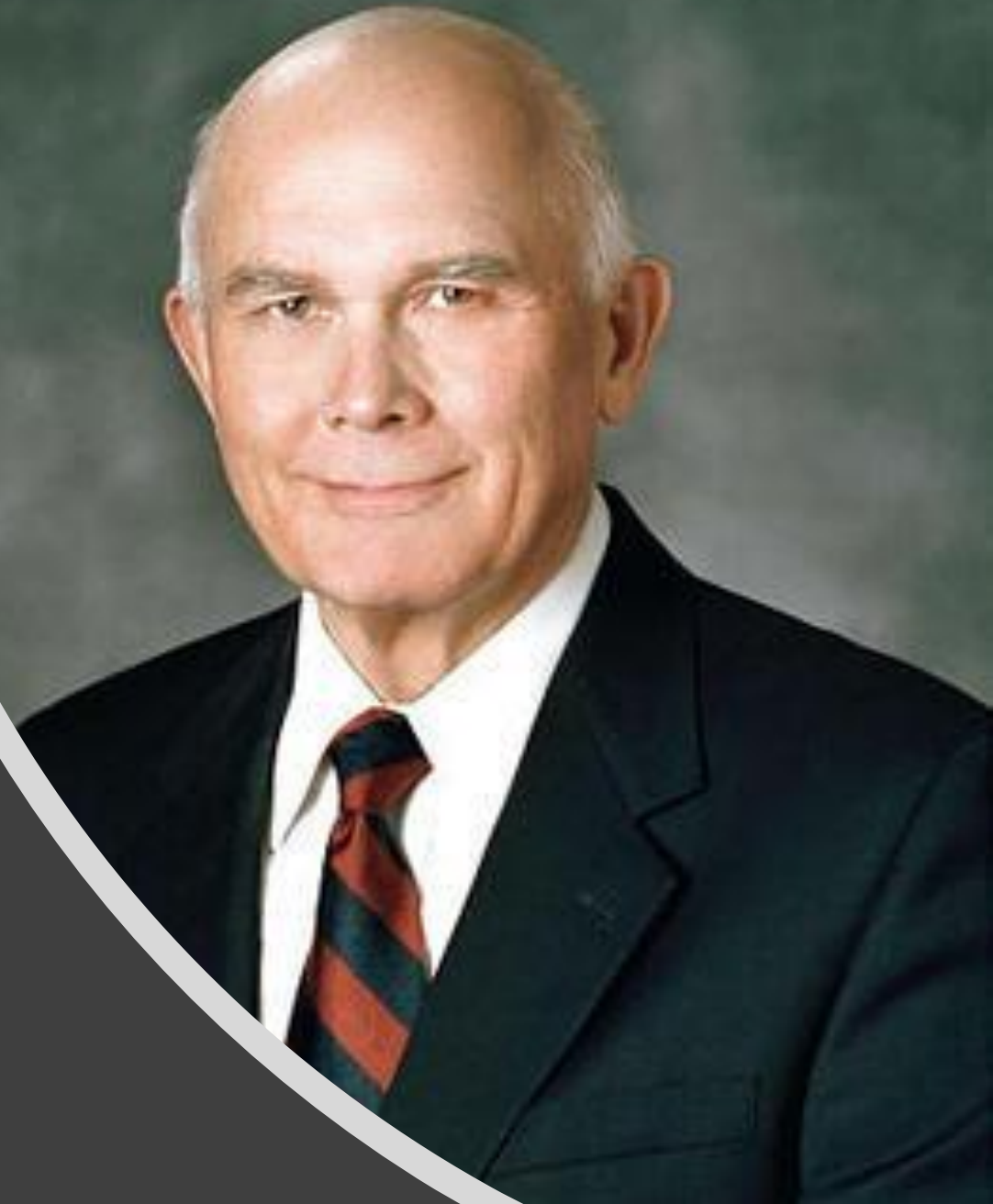


Miracles



“Miracles happen every day in the work of our Church and in the lives of our members. Many of you have witnessed miracles, perhaps more than you realize” (Elder Oaks, Miracles,” Ensign, June 2001, 6).

Why do you think we do not always recognize the miracles that occur in our lives?



Miracles play a role in our salvation

Our God and all other exalted celestial beings live in an environment that functions in the framework of celestial law, differing greatly from the law that governs our earth at this time. What celestial beings do is completely natural to their environment but not natural to our mortal environment. Thus the Lord, speaking to mankind through the prophet Isaiah said:

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts your thoughts”
(Isaiah 55:8-9)

Miracles – Robert J. Mathews

This contrast of conditions is also referred to in Doctrine and Covenants 29:34-35, in which the terms “spiritual” and “temporal” are used to designate the Lord’s situation as compared to mortal man’s situation. The Lord says, “All things unto me are spiritual” (v.34), meaning that he is a celestial being and lives in a celestial environment, and he works by celestial law.

Because of the Fall of Adam, we mortals have moved away from the presence of God and into a sphere where mortal laws reign: a place where death, sin, and temporal laws govern our existence while we are shut out from the presence of God.

Miracles – Robert J. Mathews

The purpose of the gospel of Jesus Christ is to raise and rescue man from his fallen state and change him into a state of redemption. Fallen man cannot redeem himself because his abilities are limited to the mortal sphere in which he lives, and salvation is not a condition natural to mortal law. Only a God-one not limited by or subject to mortal law- could lift man to a higher level and thus to a better life.



Miracles – Robert J. Mathews

When this is understood, it follows that unless a mortal human is influenced or delivered by a power that emanates from outside the mortal condition, he will remain without salvation. Everything about the gospel of Jesus Christ originated from a source beyond the bounds and conditions of mortality. Characteristics of the gospel are such things as divine priesthood authority, remission of sins, joy, revelation, spirit-born testimony, sanctification by the Holy Ghost, healings, callings, and resurrection of the dead- all of which originated in another world. Whenever any gospel power touches a human life, the process is a miracle because none of the gospel accoutrements or traits are natural to the mortal condition.

Since the devil lives in a nonmortal existence, he is able to perform signs and miracles. However, being limited to his own sphere and being unsaved himself, he has power to deceive but not to save or redeem. Thus the Lord warned us, “He that seeketh signs shall see signs, but not unto salvation” (D&C 63:7).

Miracles – Robert J. Mathews

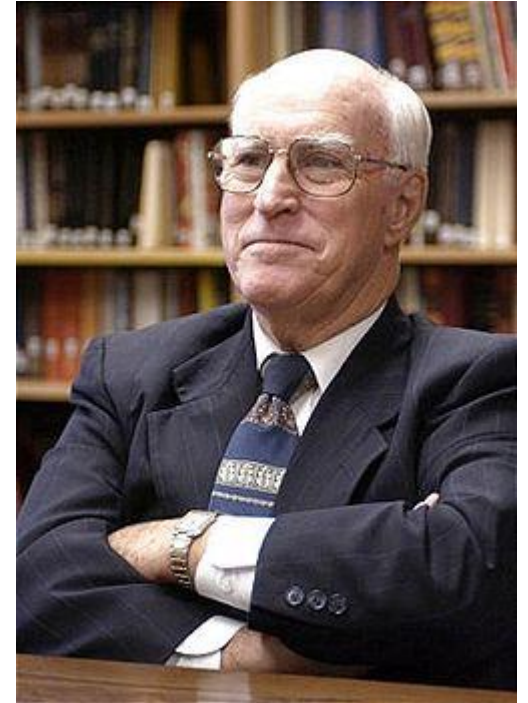
Is it not abundantly evident that without gospel miracles there can be no salvation? If remission of sins are necessary, it requires a miracle. If a testimony of Jesus through the Holy Ghost is necessary, it requires a miracle... Thus the prophet Mormon exclaimed that gospel miracles are necessary “as long as time shall last, or the earth shall stand, or there shall be one man upon the face thereof to be saved” (Moroni 7:35-38).

The greatest and the ultimate miracle is the permanent victory over death, the resurrection of the dead body. Death reigns in mortality, indeed “mortal” means being subject to death. But God is the God of the living (Matthew 22:32), for all live unto him. Man cannot resurrect himself, but God, who has power over death, will bring all men and all forms of animals, fish, and fowl to everlasting life (see D&C 29:24-25).

Miracles – Robert J. Mathews

It is not necessary that every man calm a storm or walk on water or turn water into wine. But those miraculous things that cleanse a soul, give testimony of Christ, administer divine authority, call people to serve, give revelation, and resurrect a dead body from the grave are indispensable to man's individual salvation.

(Sermons and Writings of Robert J. Matthews, p. 525-527)



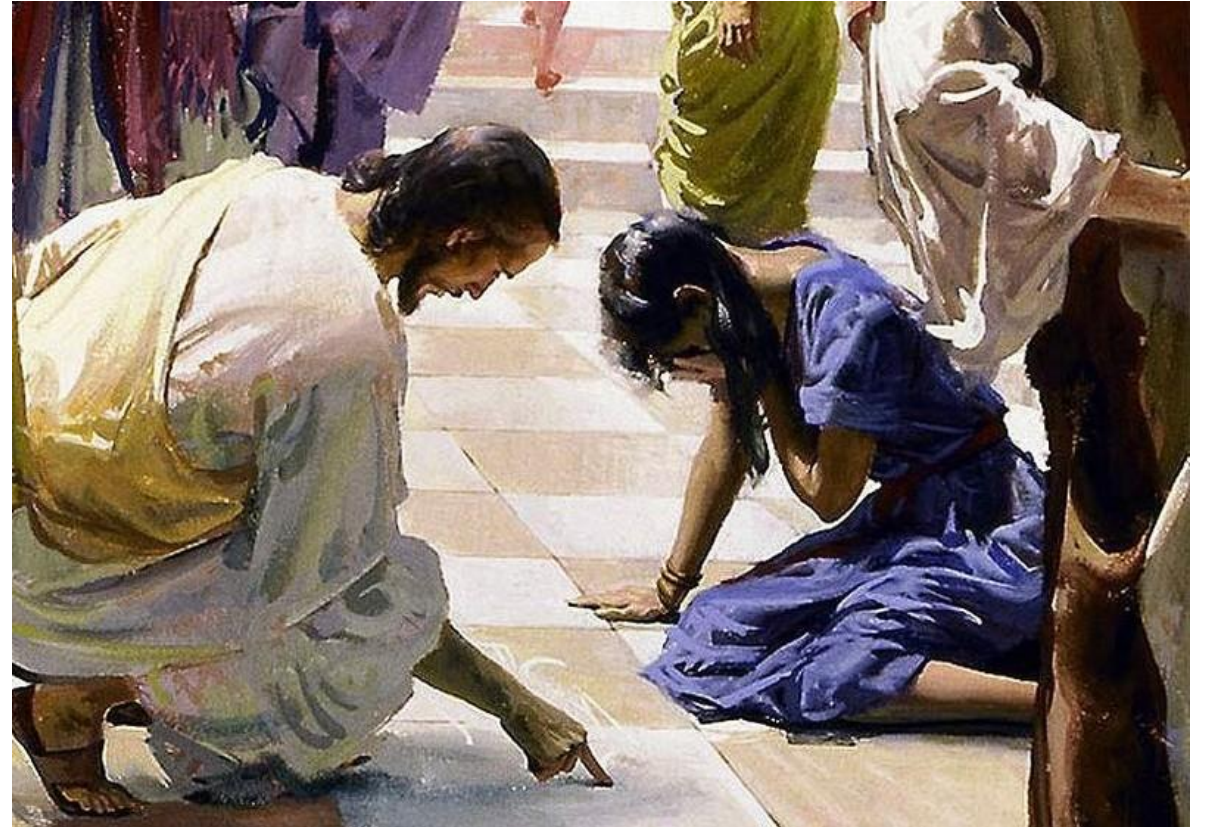
Why?

Why did Jesus do these miracles?

Matthew 9.35-36

Matthew 20.30-34

Luke 7.11-13,14-17





Matthew 9.20-22

Mark 5.25-34

Luke 8.43-48



What does this miracle teach you about Jesus?

How does this woman feel?

When he asks, “Who touched me? What is her thought?”

Who does she then think Jesus is?

Who is the “real” Jesus?

What is the point?