

Prayer & Miracles: Part 1

The New Testament * Week 9 * Opening Collect: Proper 22, BCP 234

- I. Jesus on Prayer (Continued from last week)
 - A. Humility – Luke 18:9-14 – Parable of Pharisee and Tax Collector
 - B. Glory to Father, and obedience to Jesus – John 14:13-15: "I will do anything..."
 - C. Abide in Jesus and his word abide in us – John 15:7: "If you remain in me..."

1 John 5:14-15

- II. Miracles are:
 - A. Any event beyond our experience of the way things usually are:
 - B. Any event that seems supernatural ("over" or "outside" of nature). "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic" (science fiction author Arthur C. Clarke).
 - C. Any events without an easily explainable cause:
 - D. Often a question of timing.
 - E. Not a problem for God.
 - 1. Loopholes!
 - 2. God not limited

- III. Miracles happen
 - A. To meet needs:
 - B. To prove God is God:
 - C. "Because I can."

- IV. Miracles are not just a New Testament thing
 - A. Moses and the Exodus:
 - B. Elijah (1 Kings 17-19; 2 Kings 1-2) --
 - C. Elisha (1 Kings 19; 2 Kings 2-8,13) –

- V. Jesus' miracles
 - A. Already in Old Testament – (Luke 9:51-56) --
 - B. 23 healings – “Healing” = “Wholeness” = “salvation”
 - C. 9 miracles over nature
 - D. 3 bringing the dead back to life
 - E. John tells only 7

Closing Collect: 3rd Sunday of Advent, BCP 212

Preparation for next week: Read Acts 1-14