

Caught In The Middle Of A Miracle . . . But Missing The Point.

III – Janet in Uganda

We laugh at this, but I'm not sure Janet was laughing then, when people came expecting their miracle. However, I wonder, to how many of us God is saying today "receive your miracle", but we're missing it altogether . . . we can't see what God is doing for one reason or another.

III – Man drowning in boat.

So I've titled my message "Caught in the middle of a miracle . . . But missing the point." Incidentally, it's not a rare occurrence. When you look at the bible, you see many people who were caught in the middle of a miracle . . . but missing the point.

Let me give you a couple of quick examples – turn with me to **Ex 3**.

1. Moses was caught in the middle of a miracle. God was trying to say something to Moses in the miracle – *"Moses, Moses, look at the burning bush – an unnatural phenomenon, a bush that burns brightly but is not consumed, in a place where the air is alive and electric, with the voice of God speaking to you, and I've just turned the staff in your hand into a serpent . . . hellooooo Moses, anyone home? Don't you believe that I who did all this can take care of Pharaoh?"* Moses was caught in the middle of a miracle, but he was missing the point – he was too caught-up in his own insecurities to see the miracle of the moment!

How many of us have ever been there – God is doing something miraculous, something awesome and great through a ministry we know of or are even a part of; and they ask us come speak, or lead, or sing, or teach, but we are too caught up on our own insecurities to see the miracle - *"Nah, Lord . . . I can't speak, send Susan"*

2nd example – **Ex 15:12 – 17**. This is a long passage so allow me to narrate some of it. The context of this passage is the escape of the Israelites from bondage in Egypt. God had done 10 miracles. He had unleashed 10 plagues, and then parted the red sea for the Israelites to escape Pharaoh's army. He then supernaturally set before the Israelites a cloud that led them by day, and a pillar of fire that led them by night.

- But when they got into the desert, they lacked sufficient water. Ex 15:22 . . .
- When they went out a little further into the desert they lacked sufficient food. Ex 16:1
- When they got out a little further they grumbled again about water Ex 17:1

These people were caught in the middle of a miracle, but they were so busy grumbling about their creature comforts, that they missed the point. Have you ever done that – God has brought miraculous healing in your family, but you miss it because you're too busy complaining that the medical bill was too high, or that there are too many medicines to swallow. Now maybe you are right – Even the needs for water and food for the Israelites were legitimate. BUT the God who did ALL the other miracles could solve these needs too.

3. A 3rd example . . . **II Kg 6:24/ 7:17**. This soldier was caught in the middle of a miracle, but he lacked faith, and never lived to see the miracle. His questions were legitimate, how can commodity prices fall so drastically in one day? He could have asked Elisha, what are your forecasts based on? Inflation is running at an all time

high, there are no reserves in Central Bank, and the stock exchange is on the verge of collapse. He didn't know it but he was caught in the middle of a miracle, but his lack of faith was his ultimate undoing.

4. A 4th example - **John 11** – the raising of Lazarus. I would give anything to have been in Palestine at the time of Jesus, to be able to see the miracles for myself; to hear the voice of Jesus; and to talk to Lazarus. Those were the days of the miraculous, like we have never seen again . . . and the Pharisees were there, they were a part of it, many times they were even in the honored, front row of the crowds where they could see with their own eyes. They were caught in the middle of a miracle, but they were too busy being critical that they missed the point.

III – my early yrs at Chapel, Elizabeth and the Muriithi chickens.

Too busy being cynical, looking for mistakes, finding fault. The Pharisees were so busy finding fault; they missed the point of the miracle.

Now these are just a few, there are many other examples in scripture of people who missed the miracle because they were not in tune with God's Spirit. They were too self focused and too busy running around. But what about you? Are you caught up in God's miracle, or are you missing the point?

- Miracle as a visitor
- At workplace
- **The story of the Chapel**

We too are caught up in the middle of a miracle, and this month we are going to be looking at aspects of that miracle, and the calling that God has placed on us. Are you in tune with that miracle, with the changes ahead of us? There will be many changes especially as we

relocate the church, it will be easy for us to forget the miracle, and miss the point.

- We might miss the miracle because we are unhappy about the lack of comfort in a tent – tents get hot and dusty.
- We might miss the miracle when we are called upon to serve God, but we are feeling insecure
- We might miss the miracle when we lack faith that this is a work of God and that he who has miraculously provided in the past will also provide now
- We might miss the miracle when we focus on the many, many things that will fall through the cracks as we try and get things together in a new area of service, and as we try and deal with the new challenges that will face us.

And, good people, as we shall see next week, our relocation isn't even the point! There is a greater miracle taking place right here. Sometimes because we are at the center we don't see it, but what has happened at the Nairobi Chapel is nothing short of a huge miracle thus far (**note from old member last week**).

It's a miracle that is not even of our own doing, but that is founded on the prayers of the many who gathered here in the 70's and 80's and prayed for God's work in this place, who laid the foundation, who were willing to turn to another church and ask for help.

It's a miracle of how God is glorifying himself in this place

- of how many have found salvation right here,
- of how many churches, beyond the chapel have been impacted by the ministries here
 - Crossroads,
 - Internship
 - ROPES
 - Clinics