

Exegeting a Miracle Account

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The Genre "Miracle Story"

■ Definition:

- ◆ A narrative focusing on a miracle as its main feature

■ So the genre is a subgenre of narrative:

- ◆ So use features of narrative analysis.
- ◆ Recall Ryken's categories of narrative in the Gospels include miracle story (p 40).

Usual Features of This Genre

Besides the usual narrative features:

- A **problem** is narrated.
- A **request** for help is made.
- The **actions** of the miracle worker are described.
- The **results** are noted:
 - ◆ Healing, deliverance, etc.
 - ◆ Response of demon
 - ◆ Response of spectators, etc.

Function of Miracles in the Gospels

- They display the **person of Jesus** thru his actions & power (Jn 20:30-31; Jn 5:36).
- They picture God's activity in **redemption**.
- Sometimes they point:
 - ◆ Forward to the end of the age
 - ◆ Resurrections
 - ◆ Backward to creation
 - ◆ Water into wine?

Healings in the Gospels



- Man w/ leprosy
- Centurion's servant
- Peter's m-in-law
- Gadarene demoniacs
- Paralyzed man
- Woman w/ bleeding
- 2 blind men
- Mute possessed
- Shriveled hand
- Blind mute poss
- Canaanite's dau
- Boy w/ demon

Healings in the Gospels



- Deaf mute
- Man possessed in synagogue
- Blind at Bethsaida
- Crippled woman
- Man w/ dropsy
- Ten lepers
- High priest's servant
- Official's son
- Sick man at Bethesda
- ~22 narrated

A Healing: Gadarene Demoniac

Mark 5:1-20 and parallels

- **Problem** (vv 2-5): man possessed by spirit; no one could subdue him; lived in tombs, shouting, hurting self
- **Request?** (6-7): runs to Jesus
- **Action** (8-13): resist Jesus' commands, reveals size of problem, seeks to negotiate

A Healing: Gadarene Demoniac

■ Results (13-20):

- ◆ Pigs drown in lake
- ◆ Keepers run to report
- ◆ People astonished, fearful, ask Jesus to leave
- ◆ Fellow sent to tell others

A Healing: Gadarene Demoniac

■ Person of Jesus:

- ◆ Able to subdue demons by thousands
- ◆ Has compassion for demoniac
- ◆ Lets people turn him down

■ Redemption:

- ◆ Saves demoniac
- ◆ Drives out Satan's forces

Nature Miracles in the Gospels



- Calming storm
- 5000 fed
- Walking on water
- 4000 fed
- Coin in fish's mouth
- Fig tree withered
- Transfiguration
- Catch of fish
- Water to wine
- Another catch
- ~10 narrated

Nature Miracle: Calming Storm

Mark 4:35-41 and parallels:

- **Problem:** boat about to go under in storm
- **Request:** Disciples: "Don't you care?"
- **Action:** Jesus shouts at wind & waves
- **Results:**
 - ◆ Immediate calm, both wind & waves
 - ◆ Reaction of disciples: "Who is this?"

Nature Miracle: Calming Storm

- Person of Jesus: cp Psalm 107
- Redemption:
 - ◆ Rescue from danger
- Pointing forward or backward?
 - ◆ Looking back at creation?
 - ◆ Looking forward to new heavens & earth?

Resurrections in the Gospels

- Jairus' daughter
- Widow's son
- Lazarus
- (Jesus)
- 4 narrated



Resurrection: Widow's Son

- Luke 7:11-17:
- Problem: only son of widow has died
- Request: no explicit request
- Actions: Jesus speaks to dead man
- Results:
 - ◆ Comes back to life
 - ◆ People filled with awe, praise God

Resurrection: Widow's Son

- Person of Jesus: able to raise dead
 - ◆ Contrast with OT prophets re/ method
- Redemption: saved from death
- Looking forward:
 - ◆ Resurrection at the last day

The End

Try to see what the Gospel writer is teaching as he narrates each miracle.

