





Jesus

Lesson #7 Outlandish Claims?

Jim Hoffman




*What are some of the things
Jesus said that you think are
'over the top' or 'outlandish'?*






Context

- *We will discuss miracles today – but the discussion is not about what God is doing today and all of the usual issues that accompany miracles.*
 - *Our discussion is about the purpose of the healings and miracles both in Jesus' day and today.*
 - *Their purpose has not changed – to glorify God. All healings have a local personal benefit, and a more eternal purpose.*
- 




John 14:9-14

Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. 11 Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. 12 I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. 14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. NIV





Outlandish Claims?

- *When Jesus said that anyone who has faith in him would do the works he did and even greater ones, what did he mean?*
 - *If he meant greater miracles there is no evidence of such a claim – not in the bible, and not in history.*
 - *To say the church is to do greater miracles than Jesus is a cute, but frustrating claim.*
- 



Outlandish Claims?

- *Bear in mind that Jesus did not say 'greater miracles' – he said greater works.*
- *The teaching is in response to Philip's request to have Jesus show them the Father.*
- *Jesus' answer is – if you have seen me you have seen the Father and his 'works' (miracles) were the evidence that he is God.*





Two Issues

- *Issue #1 – Jesus was clear that his miracles gave testimony to his claim that he was sent by God. Nicodemus said, “For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.”*
- *Issue #2 – Jesus’ miracles were not the purpose of his coming – they were done to confirm who sent him. (God)*






The Purpose of Jesus' Works

- ***John 5:36 "I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the very work that the Father has given me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has sent me." NIV***
- ***John 6:28 Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent." NKJV***





So what are the 'greater works'?

- *If the true work of God in Christ was the redemption of the race, then what can be greater than pointing people to Christ?*
- *What is greater? The healing of the body or the redemption of the soul?*
- *Luke 10:20 However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." NIV* 



The greater works – greater numbers of souls have come to Christ since His resurrection than before.

What do you think about the greater works?

The greater works have little to do with performing miracles – they have everything to do with glorifying God through the spreading of the truth.



Ask anything and get it?

- *John 14:13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. 14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. NIV*
- *Mark 11:24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. NIV*
- *I suppose it is fair to say this does not pass my 1st rule of bible study – when the plain sense, makes common sense, seek no other sense.*





Ask anything and get it?

- *It is easier to say what these verses do not mean than it is to say what they do mean.*
- *We can shout “name it and claim it” all we want, but that does not make it so In fact, try it.*
- *Also, let me say quickly that tacking “in Jesus name” on to a prayer is not the secret phrase.*





Ask anything and get it?

- *What nags at my soul is this question – why did Jesus express praying as he did here?*
- *Is it possible that his disciples already knew the conditions for answered prayer so well that he did not have to repeat them?*
- *1 John 5:14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us — whatever we ask — we know that we have what we asked of him. NIV*






Ask anything and get it?

- *We walk a fine line with this subject – we don't want to teach things that are not true, but neither do we want to discourage ask, seek, and knock.*
- *We must pray in faith, asking for things that are in the will of God, and with the right motivation.*
- *We are not very old as Christians when we realize that saying "God give me a job – in Jesus name, Amen" does not necessarily yield a paycheck.*







Ask anything and get it?

- *God is not a vending machine where if you just press the right buttons the product you wanted falls out.*
 - *In fact, shortly after Jesus said these words he would be in prayer asking for the cup to pass, but instead yielded to the will of his Father.*
 - *If God responded to a formula or to magic words, he would not be God.*
- 



So what did he mean?

- *I have heard elegant explanations about what it means to act in the name of another person that are very convincing.*
 - *Given the context – I suspect the instruction has special importance to helping us reach the lost, but even then it is never as simple as “God save everyone. In Jesus name, amen.”*
 - *I think it means stay close to me and want the things I want - then you will ask for the things I want to provide.*
- 



I believe it is this simple – when we ask for the things Jesus would ask for (in my name) he always provides.

What do you think?

Therefore, the secret to answered prayer is to become like Jesus.





Questions

