



paralytic lying on a bed” (Matthew 9:2). Once again Jesus proved His power by healing the paralytic man. We’re told that the man “**got up and went home. But when the crowds saw this, they were awestruck, and glorified God, who had given such authority to men**” (Matthew 9:7-8). Those who observed this miracle were moved to give glory to God!

This is the reaction that Jesus desires from

all people. His mission on earth was to show people His Father. As Christ’s life drew to a close He told His disciples, “**If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him**” (John 14:7). God and Jesus are one. Therefore, when we see Christ’s power we ought to be motivated to give all praise and glory to God. How great a God we serve that saw fit to send His Son to earth to demonstrate His power to lost humanity.

Conclusion

For the son of a simple carpenter, Jesus Christ made an enormous impact in the course of human history. People have been reacting to Jesus from the beginning of His ministry, and they continue to do so even today. What will our reaction be? Will we marvel at His abilities, attempt to get rid of Him, or recognize who He is and glorify God?



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ISSUE

16.3

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

January 19,
2014



Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM

10:20 AM

6:00 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Pat Ledbetter

Jeff Nunn

Kyle Pope

Deacons:

Dean Bowers

Eddie Cook

Steve Dixon

Jack Langley

Neil Ledbetter

Brady McAlister

Walker McAnear

Lance Purcell

Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope

Andrew Dow

Reactions to Jesus

By Andrew Dow

It was about thirty years before Jesus stepped into the public eye and began His ministry (Luke 3:23). Prior to His baptism He had only been known as the son of a simple carpenter. To those around Him, He would have been the least likely person to change the world. When He was only twelve years old He was found “**in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were amazed**” (Luke 2:46-47, NASU). No one expected Jesus, the son of a carpenter, to be engaged in such a discussion.

Even after He had grown, His humble reputation followed Him. When Philip came to Nathanael and told him that they had “**found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph**” (John 1:45), Nathanael replied, “**Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?**” Once again we see that Jesus, who had “**no stately form or majesty... nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him**” (Isaiah 53:2), was not a likely candidate to become the most important person in human history.

It must have been odd to see this unlikely character teach an altogether different message than the religious leaders of the day. Do not misunderstand how unorthodox Jesus' teaching was. This is the man who spoke the paradoxical beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12), taught that the scribes and Pharisees were not righteous enough (Matthew 5:20), and took many of the Old Covenant laws to a whole new level (Matthew 5:21, 27, 31, 33, 38, 43).



When we notice these circumstance, it helps us understand why there were so many different reactions to our Lord's teaching. In this article we will examine three reactions to Jesus that occurred early in His ministry.

Some Were Amazed

Following His sermon on the mount, in which Christ made many challenging statements, we are told that **"the crowds were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes"** (Matthew 7:28-29). They recognized something about the way he spoke that was different. Shortly after this, Jesus and His disciples boarded a boat. When a storm arose Jesus **"got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became perfectly calm"** (Matthew 8:26). Having just witnessed this miracle **"the men were amazed"** (Matthew 8:27). Only a short time into His ministry Jesus amazed men with the things He taught and the miracles He performed.

During His lifetime Jesus did some amazing things. The gospel of John records a few of the marvelous miracles that Christ performed so that we would know about them and be in awe of His power. John's gospel is concluded with the declaration, **"there are also many other things Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written"** (John 21:25). Who cannot help but be amazed at the life Christ lived.

We must be careful, however, that our relationship with Christ does not end here. Too often people are content to be in awe of Christ without following Him further. We live among a world of "scholars" and "free-thinkers" who study the Bible to learn about who Christ is. Often they are amazed

at what He accomplished in His short life, and the effect it has on us today. They see who He is and say, "Wow! What a remarkable man!" They are amazed by Christ, but they do not obey His commands. Just as King Agrippa answered Paul, **"In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian"** (Acts 26:28). Are we merely amazed by the spectacles that Christ produced, or are we fully persuaded to follow His every command?

Some Were Repulsed

Immediately following the incident that amazed Christ's disciples, Matthew records another miracle with another reaction. Matthew 8:28-34 tells us of a time when Jesus cast a multitude of demons out of two men. The text tells us that the demons **"came out and went into the swine, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and perished in the waters"** (Matthew 8:32). Unlike the previous miracle, which resulted in amazement, the nearby city had a different reaction. Were they afraid of Jesus? Did they fear what might happen to their own livestock? We are not told, it is simply clear that they were repulsed by this display of Christ's power. **"And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they implored Him to leave their region"** (Matthew 8:34). After they had witnessed His power, they were quick to remove Christ from their presence.

This was a reaction Christ anticipated. While preparing His disciples to go out and teach He told them, **"Whatever city you enter and they do not receive you, go out into its streets and say, 'Even**

the dust of your city which clings to our feet we wipe off in protest against you..." (Luke 10:10-11). This is a reaction we see today as well. People frequently come to recognize who Christ is, they see His power and Lordship, and then turn away from Him. We must never let this be our reaction towards Christ. When we come face to face with Christ and His teaching will we embrace it, or will we wish it away and pretend our lives are not affected by it?

Some Glorified God

Notice one more reaction to Jesus that takes place, according to Matthew, immediately following the swine incident. After Jesus had been rushed out of **"the country of the Gadarenes"** (Matthew 8:28), He crossed the sea of Galilee and returned **"to His own city"** (Matthew 9:1). Upon his arrival some people **"brought to Him a**