

Restoration

When Jesus was here, He performed many miracles. He fed the 5,000, He healed the sick, He cast out demons, He calmed the sea, He turned water into wine. Some say that His miracles exhibited the power of God while He was here. Others say that they were supernatural and exhibited His power over the natural world. But if that was Jesus' intent, wouldn't He have picked more amazing things to do? If His goal was to wow us with his power, it seems He would have done things like flown through the air, made things disappear or created lavish feasts out of thin air. Think of what magician's do to wow us. Jesus would have done a magic act times 10. It would have been the most amazing show ever seen if His intent was to wow us. He could have created a second moon. But He didn't. He didn't do His miracles to wow us, but rather He did them to display the restorative power of the Gospel, the restorative power of the Kingdom of God.

Jesus came to restore us to the natural state that God intends for us. He came to restore the creation to its original state. There was no hunger, no death, no disease, no poverty, no injustice, no pride, no violence, etc. in the Garden of Eden before the fall. Every time Jesus faces the effects of the fall, he restores the situation to the natural "pre-fall" state. His ministry was a ministry of restoration. The gospel is a message of restoration, that God is restoring the earth to its former glory through His Son.

We have lived so long in a sin stricken demonized world that we think it is normal. We think that death, hunger, disease, pride, arrogance, hatred, violence, etc. are natural. But they are not. One of the evidences that this is true is that it bothers us when we see these things. When they happen to us or to a friend we don't want to accept it, we ask why, we don't like it, etc. We don't like it even when it happens to strangers. We want justice, fairness, etc. If evolution were true, then we would expect death, hunger, disease, etc. - survival of the fittest. Violence would make sense and would not bother us in a world made by evolution. But we know deep down inside that violence is wrong, that disease is not good, that hunger should be eradicated, and that justice should prevail. We know that there is something wrong in the world and it needs to be fixed.

Another evidence of this is the fact that almost every great story or movie has a deliverer that restores these things in the story. We know that things are not right and need to be corrected, and we know that it is outside of our power to correct it. So we invent superheroes and create superhumans such as Bond, Bourne, Arnold, Rocky, Harry Potter or any number of other heroes who step in and make things right. We know there is something wrong with the world and that it is not operating as it should. And into this fallen world steps Jesus.

Every time He faces the effects of the curse, the curse is lifted and creation is restored. Like a light being turned on in a dark room, the effect of the curse was removed in His presence time after time. Rather than His miracles being unnatural things, they show us what natural really is, the way God created us. Like a light coming on, we see the world as God created it through the miracles of Jesus. God didn't create us to be sick or demon possessed – those are unnatural conditions. God didn't create us to be hungry or poor, those are unnatural conditions. Jesus miracles are the only natural things this world has seen since Adam fell. They were a brief glimpse of the natural in our current unnatural, demonized, sin stricken world. The miracles of Jesus exhibit the restorative power of God on us and on the world. The violent sea is calmed. The violent man is restored to sanity. The sick are made well, the crippled walk, the blind see, the hungry are fed, the dead are raised. Every time He releases His power, the world is restored to its former order, to its natural state, to the way God made it to be.

By God's grace the restorative power of Jesus can be released into our life. We are born again, made new, transformed by the renewing of our mind. When the Spirit of God comes into our lives, we are restored to fellowship with God. The fellowship we had in the Garden before the fall. All things are made new. We are a new creation. We are restored.