

Christ as a Worker of Miracles

St. Matthew's

O.T.: Jonah 1 vs 1-17

9.2. St

N.T.: James 1 vs 7-12

Gospel: Mark 4 vs. 35-41

Mark 4 vs 41 - But they were terribly afraid and said to one another: "Who is this man? Since the wind and the waves obey him!"

If Christ had been in S.A. to-day and was walking the streets of our towns and our cities exercising the same ministry which he did in Israel nearly 2 millennia ago what would be the miracles that we would wish him to perform? If individuals were to indicate their choice I believe it would depend upon individual need. For one person the preference would be the restoring of somebody's health, eyesight, hearing, body crippled body, or even life itself. For others it would be a plac for bread or basic income in a desperate situation of poverty, hunger & want.

But if we were to be asked: what miracle would we as a country, as a South African community wish Christ to perform which would reflect the goals & objectives of his mission on earth what would our answer be? I wish I could have had the time this morning to conduct a hasty opinion poll from those of us present here this morning, what simultaneously the same question would be asked of a black, Coloured, Indian worshipping audience within the Anglican Church - is there to compare the replies. Example - P.N. Botha's advent Methodist such answer

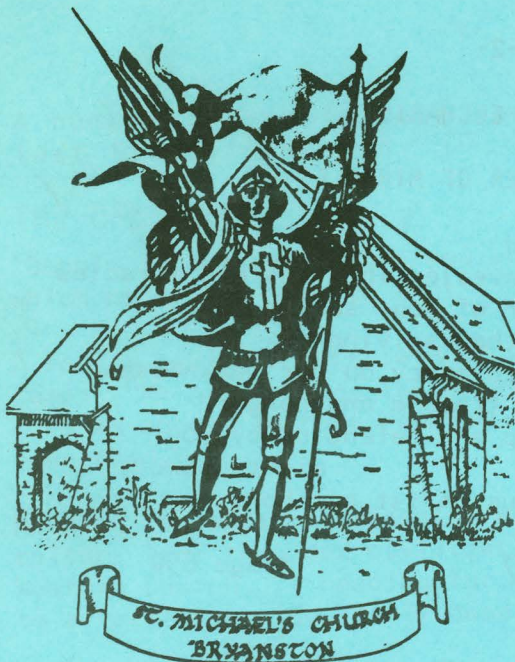
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From the viewpoint of my daily experience I would not hesitate for a moment ~~to reply in reply~~:
The miracle of restoring ^{mutual} trust to the people of SA:
Trust between white & black, black & black, white & white.
I'm saying this because I believe that in the crisis in which our country presently finds itself that never before in our history are we as a South African society more fragmented, divided and estranged from one another as to-day. It is true yes, that those who stand together on certain issues have forged deeper bonds of common commitment amongst themselves as a group. But it is also true to say that the gap, even the gulf, between the one political, ideological, economic or confessional group & the other has become more unbridgeable than ever before. There are many reasons which could be given for this tragic & dangerous state of affairs but I believe the main reason to be that as different racial, ethnic, political & confessional groupings we no longer have lost trust in one another - we no longer trust one another, we deeply suspect each other's goals, motives and methods. And when people no longer trust one another they refuse to talk to one another. And when people continue to refuse to talk to one another that crisis in confidence leads to the eventual destruction of a society. Because if you no longer talk to one another, you end up by shooting each other.

I say: we need the miracle of restoring of trust [3]
which has been lost. But will it happen? Will
Christ work such a miracle amongst us? Between
all those who confess to be his disciples, his followers,
his believers? It seems as if he is deaf and dumb
- lying asleep whilst the storm rages around the
boat!

Fact is: Where a moral issue is at stake Christ's
answer is clear: No need for me to intervene -
you take the responsibility: you provide the
answer - because out down in your hearts at
times you know what the answer is

- ~~Just~~ To restore trust just seek to actu-
ally what does love and justice demand:
these are the 2 pillars upon which He build
his Kingdom. Do we have love amongst
each other? Do we seek justice for all?
If not It says: No miracle will happen!
You act - + the miracle will follow!



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PEW LEAFLET

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9th February 1986

7th SUNDAY BEFORE EASTER

WELCOME TO ST. MICHAEL'S

TODAY'S SERVICES

07h00 Holy Eucharist (Prayer Book page 227 ff)

08h15 Choral Eucharist (Liturgy '75 page 6 ff)

10h00 Holy Eucharist (Liturgy '75 page 6 ff)

19h30 Evening Prayer (Prayer Book pages 2, 3 and 14 ff)

WEEKDAY SERVICES - HOLY EUCHARIST

Monday 10h00

Wednesday 08h00 and 18h00

Thursday 09h00

Friday 08h30 (alternates between St. Michael's,
St. Mungo's and Bryanston Methodist -
this Friday, 14th February at St. Michael's

PLEASE TAKE THIS LEAFLET HOME WITH YOU

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THEME: CHRIST, WORKER OF MIRACLES

COLLECT: Almighty God
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving love:
Accept our thanksgiving
and look with mercy on our weaknesses
that in all trouble and danger
you may help and defend us by your
mighty power;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O.T. LESSON: JONAH 1:1-17 *page 690

PSALM: 46

N.T. LESSON: JAMES 1:2-12 *page 944

GOSPEL: MARK 4:35-41 *page 760

*page in Pew Bible

ASH WEDNESDAY 12th FEBRUARY

Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes
06h30 and 18h00

WE WELCOME AT 10H00 TODAY THE MAYOR OF SANDTON
COUNCILLOR W. J. HÉFER AND MRS. HÉFER. THEY
LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU AT TEA AFTER THE
SERVICE.

WE WELCOME AS THE PREACHER AT 10H00 TODAY
THE REVEREND DR. BEYERS NAUDE

A number of people have requested a summary of
last Sunday's sermon.

THE OPEN DOOR

'Behold I have set before you an open door,
which no one is able to shut' Revelations 3:3

A fellow explorer once said of Captain Scott, of Antarctic
fame: "He often heads for apparent chaos and somehow,
when we appear to have reached a dead-end, we find it an
open road."

Heading for apparent chaos! Many analysts of Western
culture feel that our civilization, and with it the
Western Church, is heading for chaos and disintegration
to a terrifying (Nuclear?) dead-end.

In such an atmosphere of uncertainty, immense inner
strength flows from the words of the Spirit to the
little church at Philadelphia which lived in the midst
of tough and uncertain times. An hour of trial was
about to come to those who dwelt upon the earth. But
the word of the Spirit to the congregation at Philadelphia
is that Christ holds before them an open door that no one
can shut.

And twenty centuries later that same word beats with life
and hope for men and women daunted by the dark prospect
of the future. There lives within the pages of the New
Testament an indestructible and buoyant optimism. It
is an optimism based not in the permanency of church
structures but in the reality of the risen Christ in the
midst of world history. The message of the Spirit to
the Church in the chaos and upheaval of world events is
that the risen Christ leads through chaos towards an open
road of new adventures and enterprise.

The modern Church needs to be gripped afresh by the
vibrant faith that even in the darkest catastrophes,
Christ is present to lead the way.

/We ...

We certainly live in an hour of trial, in an atmosphere of explosive tension, a time when many of the once impregnable foundations of life seem to be crumbling, when cherished traditions are falling away, and the philosophies which once undergirded our civilization are being rejected and scorned. Even some Christians are almost paralyzed by the fear that the Church as we know it will collapse with the society of which it is an outcrop. In such an atmosphere it is easy to fall before the pervasive influence of a destructive pessimism.

The hope created by the Spirit is that which believes that even if civilization as we have known it disintegrates, even if the Church institutions we cherish so much disappear, yet Christ rises through it all in resurrection power and the vitality and energy of His being is not subject to the changes and catastrophes of history. He is greater than every civilization, every institution.

It is in this context of thought that the triumphant words of that great 4th century bishop, St. Augustine of Hippo, give such good expression to the core of biblical faith.

As the Vandals and Goths roared across the earth and sped towards Rome (the very centre of civilization) he was preaching in his cathedral at Hippo:

"You are saying, 'miserable wretches that we are, the world is going to be destroyed,' but listen carefully to what is written in the Gospel: 'Though heaven and earth should pass away, my words will stand.' Enough of your weeping and wailing. Are you not yourselves responsible for this fate which is overwhelming you? 'These are difficult and dreadful times,' people are saying; but these times are part of us are they not? The times are what we have made them! Yes, we are all guilty but we have been promised mercy. Have you not all been baptized in hope? Do you not understand that God's will can be accomplished through the most frightful affliction? No Goth can seize

what belongs to Christ. True riches are not things that Vandals can steal. No Barbarian can rob you of true life."

That is the faith that transforms the meaning of life in the midst of the seeming chaos of history. To 'be baptised in hope' is to see an open door into new and fruitful opportunities.

(I then went on to speak personally of how meaningless personal tragedies can become, through Christ, a doorway into a deeper and more profound understanding of human existence.)

St. Augustine's words are so applicable to us in our situation in South Africa, for those who have 'ears to hear'.

With love, *Arnold*

FOR DETAILS OF ALL BIBLE STUDY GROUPS, PLEASE SEE THE NOTICE BOARDS.

PARISH RETREAT

Venue: St. Benedict's, Rosettenville
Dates & Times: From 18h00 on Friday 28th February to 15h30 on Sunday 2nd March

Very comfortable single accommodation is available for 17 people.

The conductor will be the Reverend David Beetge, Rector of St. Boniface, Germiston

Total cost R30 per person.

PLEASE LET THE PARISH OFFICE HAVE YOUR NAMES THIS WEEK.

THE THEMES OF THE SUNDAY BIBLE READINGS

As a guide to those who study the Sunday Bible Readings the Theme of the readings for the following Sundays up to Easter is given below.

Sunday	Theme	Readings
16th Feb Lent 1	The King and the Kingdom: Temptation	Deut. 6:10-17 Hebrews 4:12-16 Luke 4:1-13
23rd Feb Lent 2	The King and the Kingdom: Conflict	Isa 35:1-10 1 John 3:1-8 Matt 12:22-32
2nd Mar Lent 3	The King and the Kingdom: Suffering	Isa 45:18-25 Col 1:24-29 Luke 9:18-27
9th Mar Lent 4	The King and the Kingdom: Transfiguration	1 Kings 19:1-12 2 Peter 1:16-19 Luke 9:28-36
16th Mar Lent 5	The King and the Kingdom: Victory of the Cross	Jer 31:31-34 Heb 9:11-15 Mark 10:32-45
23rd Mar Lent 6	The Way of the Cross	Isa 52:13-53.12 Heb 10:1-10 Matt 21:1-11
30th Mar Easter	The Resurrection of Christ	Exod 14:15-22 1 Cor 15:12-20 John 20:1-18

MOTHERS' GROUP

The next meeting of the Mothers' Group is on Wednesday 19th February at 10h00 in the Bolton Block.

The speaker is Dave Smethurst and the topic of his talk will be 'Build your family on right foundations'.

We invite anyone who is interested to come and join us for a most interesting and stimulating morning.

Crèche facilities will be available, so please don't hesitate to bring your babies or toddlers.

For any queries, please telephone Mal Short 803-2987.

TO BE BAPTIZED TODAY

Alison Kate Barendse
Lindsay Anne Clark

Christopher David Jones
Luke Stephen Jason Starik

EXECUTIVE BREAKFASTS

A number of members of the parish attend a businessmen's breakfast held monthly at the Balalaika Hotel. At the breakfast there is a speaker who may be a businessman, a well-known personality or a churchman with a special message for businessmen. Many men attend regularly to enjoy the talk and the fellowship and some bring friends or colleagues who are seeking further knowledge. The breakfasts are non-denominational and, whilst aimed at businessmen, women are very welcome too.

The cost of the breakfast is R10. You are asked to be at the Balalaika at 06h45 and we can guarantee that you can be fed and on your way to work by 08h00.

The first breakfast of the year is on Thursday, February 13th and the speaker will be Pierre Spies (erstwhile athlete and rugby player).

If you would like further information please telephone either Ian Lewis at 706-2716 or David Presbury at 783-2466. If you would like to make a booking please telephone Esme or Myrna before 12 noon on Wednesday February 12th at 706-7543/4.

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TO ALL SERVERS

There will be a meeting of all servers this afternoon at 3 o'clock IN THE CHURCH OFFICE. Please make every effort to attend.

NOTICE TO ALL PARISHIONERS

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE MONEY IN THE CHURCH ANYWHERE AT ANY TIME. BOXES HAVE BEEN RIFLED.