

Marvel

The Seven Miracles of Jesus in the Gospel of John

About the Series: Throughout His ministry, Jesus performed miracles to authenticate and validate His message of truth. This series will look at the seven miracles of Jesus recorded in the gospel of John to give us a unique perspective of God's power and might, because what we believe about God directly affects how we live out the Christian life.

Part 3

Shackled by Superstition

John 5:1-15 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

DISCUSS

In the Asian culture, there is a belief that there are lucky and unlucky numbers, and it is more than simple superstition. In Chinese communities, many aspects of daily life are based on those numbers. While some may find this harmless and laughable, superstitious beliefs are often dangerous and affect our outlook in life, preventing us from depending on God alone. Read John 5:1-15 and discuss the following:

A belief not based on truth, like superstition, is hopeless (v. 1-4)

- What kind of people were gathered by the Bethesda pool in Jerusalem? What did the people believe about this pool? Does this belief have a biblical basis?
- Why do you think people often turn to superstitious beliefs and practices?
- What gives you hope? Why is that so?
- Discuss why a belief not based on truth is hopeless.

Superstitious practices control our lives, taking our focus away from God (v. 5-7)

- What did Jesus ask the paralytic man, and what was the man's answer? What can you infer from the man's answer? Do you think he really believes he can be healed?
- Do you think there's no harm in following superstitious practices "just to be on the safe side"? Why or why not?
- In what ways do superstitious beliefs and practices take your focus away from God? How has a superstitious belief affected your relationship with God?
- How should followers of Jesus respond to superstitious beliefs and practices? Read 1 Timothy 4:7.

Only in Jesus is there real hope for this world (v. 8-9)

- What did Jesus tell the man to do, and how did the man respond?
- Compare the results of the man following a legend vs. following what Jesus told him to do. Which do you think is more credible?
- What attributes of God have been affirmed to you, and how does this affect your faith?
- What superstitious practices do you need to get rid of so that you, as a follower of Christ, can show the world that Jesus is the true hope of the world?

The true hope and healing that Jesus provides is victory over sin (v. 10-15)

- When Jesus found the man again in the temple after the man was healed, what did Jesus remind him that was more important?
- Sin is the biggest problem of man which no superstition can solve. How did Jesus provide a solution to this problem? And how can we have this solution?

REFLECT

Is there anything stopping you from getting rid of superstitious beliefs and practices in your life? Read and reflect on 1 John 4:4. How does this encourage you to place your hope in Christ alone?

PRAY

Heavenly Father, thank You for the reminder that Jesus Christ alone is the Living Hope I have in this world. Forgive me Lord, for letting my superstitious beliefs replace you in my life. Forgive me for placing my trust on “lucky charms” to protect me, when You are the one who holds me in the palm of your hand. Father, I never realized how the “harmless” superstitious practices I do actually greatly harms how others view You. Forgive me, Lord. Grant me the courage to get rid of the wrong beliefs I have so that I may strengthen my relationship with You. May my actions demonstrate to the world that Christ is my Living Hope, so that they, too, may know Him as their Savior. In Jesus’ name. Amen.