Hillcrest Life Groups

Sermon Discussion Guide

Sunday, October 25, 2020

How Could Any Reasonable Person believe in the Bible's Miracles Stories?

John 5:1-9

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What is your favorite miracle story in Scripture?

Study the Book

Read John 5:1-9

The Case Against the Bible's Miracles

What is naturalism?

How do love, hope, justice, and beauty fit into naturalism?

> If you feel that hope and love and beauty and justice and meaning are real things, even if they can't be derived from the scientific process, you've just cracked open the door to the possibility that miracles might be real things, too.
>
> Pastor Tom

The Case for the Bible's Miracles

Read Psalm 78:16-17 and Psalm 104:10-13

How do these verses illustrate the difference between "laws of nature" and "miracles?"

> My point is that from the biblical worldview, miracles are possible because of what kind of God the universe has. Even what we call *"the laws of nature"* is God at work. Modern science developed in a Western culture where people believed that God acted in habitual predictable ways and to investigate those ways was to learn more about God.
>
> Pastor Tom

The Reason for the Bible's Miracles

What can we observe about the setting of the miracle from today's Scripture from verse 3?

How many people does Jesus heal? Why did Pastor Tom point out this observation?

> I think the point of miracle stories isn't just to make a particular suffering person feel better. I think miracle stories show us what the creator intends to ultimately do with all of his creation.
>
> Pastor Tom

What do the miracles of Jesus point us to?

Group Application and Discussion

How skeptical would you be if someone told you a modern miracle story? What would help you believe or disbelieve the story?

Why would a miracle-working Jesus lay aside that power to endure the cross?

Personal Reflection and Application

What miracles do you need to pray for in your own life?

Would you respond by rejoicing with hope and patience if God answers the prayer for someone else?