

Reflections

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Our Everyday Miracles

There is an ambiguity which characterizes the signs and miracles of Jesus Christ. On the one hand, the Gospels are filled with miracles. The way of Jesus is marked by wondrous happenings: the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are made clean, and the dead resurrect.

On the other hand, Christ is hesitant with the miracles. He multiplies the signs, but He does not pretend to present Himself as a miracle worker. He comes to bring salvation, not to work miracles. He avoids all sensationalism. He is decidedly against the spectacular.

If we look carefully at the Gospel, we can say that there are two things which are capable of eliciting miracles from Him: the faith of those who ask and the misery of mankind.

1. The faith of the one who asks. A faithful pleading face is a spectacle Christ cannot resist. It is His weak point. He expresses marvelous expressions: “Woman, how great is your faith!”....and He cannot avoid performing the miracle: “Let it be according to your wishes.....”

2. The human misery. When Jesus encounters misery along the way, He almost feels obligated to grant the miracle. Often it is not even necessary to make an explicit petition. The presence of the pain is enough; for example, the tears of a mother at the tomb of her only child....and Christ responds immediately. He cannot bear to see people suffer.

As far as we are concerned, **there are Christians who want to see miracles** at any cost....as if their faith depended more on the miracles than on the word of God. Their lives develop under the sign of the extraordinary, the exceptional, at times even including the extravagant.

They have not understood that **faith is what brings forth the miracle**, and not the opposite. They have upset the process of Jesus. In the Gospel, it is clear that the Lord emphasizes freedom.....He leaves the door open, without obligating anyone to enter....without spectacular motions. He is only conquered by the faith of the people.

But there is also a contrary stance, out of the ordinary. They are Christians who are afraid, Christians who are almost ashamed of the miracle. They pretend to keep God from being God. They would like to advise Him that it is not the opportune time, that it is better to avoid complications.....to leave the area of the physical laws in peace.....as if God was obligated to ask them for advice before manifesting his own omnipotence. They forget that miracles are an expression of the freedom of God.

Our miracles. Beyond these attitudes when facing God’s miracles and signs is the precise obligation for all of us: Christ has left us the slogan for making miracles. It is the “sign” of our faith. Even more so, we must “become” miracles: miracles of coherence, fidelity, mercy, generosity, and understanding.

Once again this “perverse generation asks for a sign.” And it has the right to expect it from us who call ourselves Christians. What sign can we offer them? What miracle can we show them?

A response to the world around us. Our way goes through a world which is hungry, hungry for bread and hungry for love. It is a world sick with disappointments. It is a world blinded by violence. It is a world devastated by egotism. We cannot pass through this world limiting ourselves to telling others about the miracles of Jesus. We cannot count on his miracles. We have to count on our own miracles.

What the people of this world seek are our own everyday miracles: our miracles of faith, love, transformation, and Christian life.

Questions for reflection

1. What miracle of transformation can they see in me?
2. What do I offer those who are seeking something?

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<http://cmsms.schoenstatt.de/en/resources/periodicals/virtual-retreat.htm>