Jesus' Teachings: A New Perspective

Miracles, Part Two — Looking Beyond Appearances

Supply • Overcoming Death • Nature

Central question: What was Jesus demonstrating through these extraordinary stories, and how might they invite us to see ourselves, our circumstances, and our relationship with God differently?

Charles Fillmore taught that the spiritual realm is the realm of cause, and that what we experience in the outer world is related to the activity of consciousness. From this perspective, miracles are not simply violations of natural law, but demonstrations of spiritual law beyond our present understanding.

We explored this through the healing miracles.
We are moving into three categories that may challenge our understanding even further: miracles of supply, overcoming death, and nature.

How do we understand Jesus feeding thousands with five loaves and two fish?
What do we make of his raising a child who has died?
And how do we interpret stories in which Jesus calms a storm, walks on water?

Do we have to understand these stories only as literal historical events? Or might they also reveal something profound about consciousness, our relationship with God, and the spiritual possibilities available to us?

I invite us to approach these stories not simply by asking, 'How could that happen?' but by asking, 'What is Jesus teaching, and what might this story awaken in me?'

Which category of miracles most challenges your present understanding, and why?
Miracles of healing
Miracles of supply
Miracles of overcoming death
Nature miracles

Jesus and the Miraculous Catch of Fish

John 21:1-6

"I'm going out to fish," **Simon Peter** told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the **boat**, but that **night** they caught nothing.
4 But when **day** was breaking, **Jesus** stood on the shore, but the **disciples** did not realize that it was Jesus.
5 He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any **fish**?"
"No," they answered.
6 He said, "Throw your **net** on the **right** side of the **boat** and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the **multitude** of fish.

1. Metaphysical Interpretation

Looking beyond the literal story to discover the spiritual activity taking place within consciousness.

- Begin by identifying the key symbols in the story.
- Using Charles Fillmore's Metaphysical Bible Dictionary and The Revealing Word, explore their metaphysical meanings.

Keywords: Simon Peter, disciples, fishing, boat, night, Jesus, shore, right side, net, fish.

Discussion Questions:

- What might the disciples' experience of fishing all night without catching anything represent about the way we sometimes approach challenges in our lives?

- Why is it significant that Jesus tells the disciples to cast their net on the right side of the boat? What shift in consciousness might this represent?

Develop Your Metaphysical Interpretation

Using the meanings of the symbols, first put the ideas together in a simple or "clunky" interpretation.

Then move beyond the individual definitions to express the larger spiritual principle Jesus is demonstrating.

WORD	METAPHYSICS	MEANING

Mystical Interpretation
Moving beyond intellectual understanding into an awareness of our oneness with Divine Presence.

Discussion Questions:
What might this story reveal about the presence and activity of God even when we are unaware of it?

How might the disciples' willingness to listen and respond to Jesus represent our own experience of becoming receptive to Divine guidance?

Develop Your Mystical Interpretation
What does this story invite us to experience or realize about our relationship with God and the Divine Presence within us?

Maieutic Interpretation — My Unique Understanding
Discovering how the story speaks to my own life and spiritual awakening.

Discussion Questions:
- Where in my life might I be continuing to cast my net in the same place, even though it is no longer producing the results I desire?

- What might "casting my net on the other side" look like in my life today? What new perspective, willingness, or action might be calling me?

My Personal Discovery
- What is this story awakening within me? What spiritual insight can I take into my daily life?

Final Reflection
- What spiritual principle do you believe Jesus was demonstrating through this miracle?

Remember:
The goal is not to explain how Jesus produced an abundance of fish, but to discover what he was teaching about consciousness, our relationship with God, and the possibilities that open when we become receptive to Divine guidance.

The Healing of the Centurion's Servant

Luke 7:2–10

[2]There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and at the point of **death**. [3]The centurion heard of **Jesus** and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. [4]When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, "This man deserves to have you do this, [5]because he loves our **nation** and has built our **synagogue**." [6]So **Jesus** went with them.
He was not far from the **house** when the **centurion** sent friends to say to him: "**Lord**, don't **trouble** yourself, for **I am** not worthy to have you come under my roof. [7] That is why I **though**t myself unworthy to come to you. But say the **word**, and my servant will be healed.[y] [8]For I myself am a **man** under **authority**, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." [9]When **Jesus heard** this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the **multitude** following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great **faith** even in **Israel.**" [10]Then the men who had been sent returned to the **house** and found the servant well.

Metaphysical Interpretation

Looking beyond the literal story to discover the spiritual activity taking place within consciousness.
Begin by identifying the key symbols in the story.
Using Charles Fillmore's Metaphysical Bible Dictionary and The Revealing Word, explore their metaphysical meanings.

Keywords: Death, Jesus, elders, Jews, nation, synagogue, centurion, Lord, trouble, I AM, thought, man, authority, heard, multitude, faith, Israel, house.

Discussion Questions:

- What might the centurion, a man accustomed to exercising authority, represent within our own consciousness? Why is it significant that he recognizes an authority greater than his own?
- Why is it significant that Jesus does not need to enter the centurion's house or physically touch the servant? What might this reveal about faith, the power of the spoken word, and spiritual authority?

Develop Your Metaphysical Interpretation

Using the meanings of the symbols, first put the ideas together in a simple or "clunky" interpretation. Then move beyond the individual definitions to express the larger spiritual principle Jesus is demonstrating.

WORD	METAPHYSICS	MEANING

Mystical Interpretation
Moving beyond intellectual understanding into an awareness of our oneness with Divine Presence.

Discussion Questions:
- What might this story reveal about the presence and power of God beyond physical distance, external circumstances, or our human limitations?

- What might the centurion's faith teach us about the experience of surrendering personal control and trusting the activity of Divine Presence within us?

Develop Your Mystical Interpretation
What does this story invite us to experience or realize about our relationship with God and the Divine Presence within us?

Maieutic Interpretation — My Unique Understanding
Discovering how the story speaks to my own life and spiritual awakening.

Discussion Questions:
- Where in my life am I relying primarily on my own efforts or attempting to control an outcome rather than opening myself to Divine guidance?

- What might it look like for me to exercise the kind of faith the centurion demonstrated—recognizing a greater spiritual authority while continuing to take appropriate action in my life?

My Personal Discovery
What is this story awakening within me? What spiritual insight can I take into my daily life?

Final Reflection
What spiritual principle do you believe Jesus was demonstrating through this miracle?

Remember:
Our purpose is not to explain how Jesus healed the servant from a distance, but to discover what he was teaching about faith, spiritual authority, our relationship with God, and the power of Divine Presence in our lives.

Jesus Walks on Water

Matthew 14:25–33

25 Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the **sea.** 26 When the **disciples** saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified. “It’s a **ghost**,” they said, and cried out in **fear**.
27 But **Jesus** immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. All is **good**. Don’t be afraid.”
28 **“Lord**, if it’s you,” **Peter** replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”
29 “Come,” he said.
Then Peter got down out of the **boat**, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.
30 But when he saw the **wind**, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”
31 Immediately Jesus reached out his **hand** and caught him. “You of little **faith**,” he said, “why did you **doubt**?”

Metaphysical Interpretation

Looking beyond the literal story to discover the spiritual activity taking place within consciousness.
Begin by identifying the key symbols in the story. Using Charles Fillmore's Metaphysical Bible Dictionary and The Revealing Word, explore their metaphysical meanings.

Keywords: Sea, disciples, ghost, fear, Jesus, good, Peter, Lord, boat, wind, hand, doubt, faith, truth.

Discussion Questions:

Peter initially steps out of the boat and begins walking toward Jesus.

- What might this represent about the development of our spiritual faculty of faith?
- What might the boat and the sea symbolize in this experience?
- Why is it significant that Peter begins to sink when he becomes aware of the wind?
- What might this reveal about the relationship between our attention, fear, doubt, and spiritual understanding?

Develop Your Metaphysical Interpretation

Using the meanings of the symbols, first put the ideas together in a simple or "clunky" interpretation. Then move beyond the individual definitions to express the larger spiritual principle Jesus is demonstrating.

WORD	METAPHYSICS	MEANING

Mystical Interpretation

Moving beyond intellectual understanding into an awareness of our oneness with Divine Presence.

- What might Jesus' ability to remain steady upon the water reveal about the experience of living from an awareness of our oneness with God?

- When Peter begins to sink, Jesus immediately reaches out his hand. What might this reveal about the presence and availability of Divine Love and Power, even when our faith wavers?

Develop Your Mystical Interpretation

What does this story invite us to experience or realize about our relationship with God and the Divine Presence within us?

Maieutic Interpretation — My Unique Understanding

Discovering how the story speaks to my own life and spiritual awakening.

Discussion Questions:

- Where in my life might I be standing at the edge of the boat, feeling called toward something new but uncertain about taking the next step?

- What represents the wind in my life—the fears, doubts, or circumstances that draw my attention away from the spiritual Truth I know?

My Personal Discovery

- What is this story awakening within me? What spiritual insight can I take into my daily life?

Final Reflection

What spiritual principle do you believe Jesus was demonstrating through this miracle?

Remember:

Our purpose is not to explain how Jesus physically walked on water, but to discover what he was teaching about faith, fear, spiritual awareness, and the Christ Presence within us.