

Luke 11:14-23, Intro: Miracles

There is a biblical rationale for each of the provisions and rights enumerated in the First Amendment and thus they may be accurately classified as natural or inalienable rights. A better way to describe them would be: rights which find their origin in the immutable and absolute righteous standards of God. Are we able to make the same case for the Second Amendment? Indeed, sir!

IV. The Illustration: Luke 11

NOTE: Read Luke 11:14- Luke 11:23 in NAS.

A. The Context

This is another episode in the ongoing debates between the Lord and the Pharisees. They were desperate to expose Jesus as a hoax by documenting his works as either a violation of the Mosaic Law or associating them with satanic powers. This situation involves what we will call an “*outcasting*,” meaning that the Lord has cast out a demon from a mute.

What the Lord did is classified theologically as a miracle.

Miracle: A miracle is an act which originates from the sovereignty of God. Those performed by Christ Give credence to His message, testify to the uniqueness of His person, and validate His claim of being the Messiah.

Any time Jesus performed a miracle it was accomplished by means of the sovereignty of God in one of three categories:

1. By the agency of the filling of the Holy Spirit through Christ’s human nature. Such miracles were authorized by the sovereignty of God who controlled Jesus Christ under the filling of the Holy Spirit;
2. by the divine nature of Christ when the miracle was creation related, that is, some aspect of the creation was affected by the miracle performed; for example, during the Incarnation holding the universe together, calming the storm, turning water into wine, or resuscitating Lazarus;
3. by either the divine or human natures of Christ when the miracle was Messiah related, that is, those miracles which validate the Lord’s claims on Messiahship.

The miracle of outcasting in Luke 11 is of the first category: By the agency of the filling of the Holy Spirit through Christ’s human nature. This miracle was authorized by the sovereignty of God who controlled Jesus Christ under the filling of the Holy Spirit.

Remember, the Lord could not perform a legitimate miracle whenever doing so would violate the integrity of the prototype spiritual life.

For example, He could not resolve human problems by utilizing attributes from His divine essence such as omnipotence.

Therefore, whenever a miracle was performed it had to conform to the following guidelines:

1. The decision to perform a miracle must originate from the sovereignty of God and then only when all the facts from divine omniscience demand it.

2. All miracles must be compatible with the will of God. For example, they must contribute to the presentation of the Father's plan for the Incarnation in order to be legitimate. Therefore, they must:
 - a. present Jesus Christ to Israel as the Messiah and God of Israel;
 - b. focus objective attention upon the gospel of salvation for all mankind through the Lord's work on the cross;
 - c. never detract from the integrity of the prototype spiritual life being executed by the true humanity of Jesus Christ;

No miracle may violate the doctrine of *kenosis*. In the hypostatic union, Jesus Christ voluntarily restricted the independent use of His divine attributes in compliance with the Father's plan for the Incarnation. It must be remembered that in the hypostatic union, Jesus Christ is undiminished deity and true humanity in one Person forever.

In His true humanity He must learn the content of the eternal Logos, demonstrate the efficiency of the divine power system by arriving at the cross impeccable, and be judged for the sins of the entire world. However, His undiminished deity is also necessary for Him to qualify as our Mediator and therefore our Savior.

In order to help the Jews identify their Messiah, writers of the Old Testament prophesied that He would perform miracles.

Isaiah 35:5 - Then the eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped.

Isaiah 35:6 - Then the lame will leap like a deer and the tongue of the dumb will shout for joy. Part of His ministry was to reveal Himself as the Jewish Messiah.

In His true humanity He is the King of Israel. In His deity He is the God of Israel. In hypostatic union He is King of kings and Lord of lords.

The performance of miracles was a sign to the Jews that He was indeed Who He claimed to be. The miracle in our context is a category-one miracle which is performed by the filling of the Holy Spirit from the Lord's human nature.

Remember, the decision to perform a miracle must originate from the sovereignty of God and then only when all the facts from divine omniscience demand it. In this case, the Lord is given the opportunity to accomplish two things:

1. demonstrate His Messiahship before a multitude of positive people through the performance of a miracle, while
2. at the same time refute the argument of the Pharisees that His miracle was empowered by Satan.