

The Verification Miracles of the Messiah

According to ancient literature, Jesus was not the only rabbi of his day who healed the sick and performed miracles. Two first century rabbis, Honi, the circle-drawer, and Hanina Ben Dosa, are remembered for their miracles. Jesus acknowledged to the Pharisees that even the casting out of demons was not unusual (Matt 12:27). Arnold Fruchtenbaum, the Jewish Christian scholar, points out that there were four major miracles that the rabbis could not perform which Jesus used to demonstrate His Messiahship.

The practice of the Sanhedrin was to send a delegation to investigate any serious Messianic candidates. This investigation involved two steps: The first was to simply observe. If there was convincing evidence, they proceeded to interrogate. We see this first step in Luke 5:17 and Mark 2:5-7, where the scribes and Pharisees who had come from Jerusalem simply sat and observed Jesus, reasoning in their hearts. It was after the healing of the lepers had been verified that the Sanhedrin began to take Jesus seriously. Then, when Jesus began to do other uncommon miracles, they went to the second stage and began interrogating Him.

The Jews of Jesus' day believed that the Messiah would:

- 1. Heal people of leprosy (Mark 1:41-42)**
- 2. Cast out of people "dumb" spirits (Matt 12:22)**
- 3. Heal people born blind (John 9:32-34)**
- 4. Resurrect people who had been dead over 3 days (John 11:39)**

Luke 7:20-23 NIV 20 When the men came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?'" 21 At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. 22 So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. 23 Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."

from Yeshua, A Guide to the Real Jesus and the Original Church by Dr. Ron Mosley

