

Miracle or
Misapplication?

Modernism:

- Effort to redefine and to align Biblical teachings with modern science

I. Modernistic Statements

Jesus

- “Nowhere does the NT identify Jesus with God.”
- Jn.1:1-3, 14

Universalism / No Hell

- “I believe that in the end all men will be gathered into the love of God.”
- Mt.5:22-23; 10:28; 25:41, 46 must be explained away.

Evolution

- “Slow climb upwards of man from the level of the beasts.”
- “Jesus is the end and climax of the evolutionary process because in Him men met God.”
- Mt.19:4-5 – Jesus, too, must be downgraded.

Modernism

- “I have an essentially second-class mind... I never had an original idea in my life. In all the books I have written I have explained and expounded other men’s ideas.”
- His writings bring the brainwashing down to a popular level to attack the common man’s faith.

I. Miracle or Misapplication?

II. Modernistic
'Scriptures'

Virgin birth (1/4)

- “This is a doctrine which presents us with many difficulties; and our Church does not compel us to accept it in the literal & the physical sense.”
- “...Church says we have full liberty to come to our own conclusion” (Mt. I, p.20).

Virgin birth (2/4)

- “Mary was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit” (ib.).
- “Jewish idea: Holy Spirit was the person who brought God’s truth to men...”
- “Jesus is the one person who can tell us what God is like... He opened men’s eyes to the truth” (ib., 20f.).

Virgin birth (3/4)

- “Matthew 1 traces genealogy of Jesus through Joseph, which is strange if Joseph was not his real father” (Lk.1, p.12).

The facts –

- Mt.1:18-25 (= Lk.1-2).
- If Joseph is His father, Matthew, Luke, Isaiah, Mary, Joseph lied.
 - Mary: unwed mother . . .

Virgin birth (4/4)

- “Matthew 1 traces genealogy of Jesus through Joseph, which is strange if Joseph was not his real father” (Lk.1, p.12).

The facts –

- Mt.1:...16 breaks from rest of list...
- “Mary, **of whom...** [feminine gender] **Jesus was born.**”
- Verse 18 explains (20).

Water to Wine (Jn.2) (1/2)

- Six = imperfection = Jewish law.
- Jesus came to turn imperfection of law into the perfection of grace; bring new quality in life (not water to wine).
- Greeks had similar stories. Jesus came to do what you always dreamed your gods could do: make things you long for come true (Jn.2, p.104).

Water to Wine (Jn.2) (2/2)

- 2:11, beginning of **signs** [others to follow).
- John links them (from Jn.2-Jn.20).
- All stand or fall together.

3:2, unbiased support

4:48, 54, necessary

6:2, 14, 26, witnesses

7:31, crowds...

9:16, man who saw

11:47, dead – lives

John 20:30–(2:11)

I. Miracle or Misapplication?

II. Modernistic 'Scriptures'

III. Modernism
Scrutinized

Mark 2:1-12

- 5, 7: if only man: blasphemy.
 - Why not explain what He 'really' means?
- 9: God would not confirm signs of a blasphemer.
 - If Jesus can heal, His claims are true.
- 10: 'that you may know' – what??
- 11: I say to you... 12: proof of claims
 - 12: rose immediately. Lk.5:26

“He ‘healed’ him, but it took five years. We must understand the science of the healing process”

– Typical modernist response

Evolutionist approach in Genesis 1-2.

blatant liar.

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John 6

- “May look at it in three ways...
 1. Miracle
 2. Sacramental meal
 3. Influenced people to share”

John 6

- 14: He did a sign – taught to share?
- 14: truly ‘the Prophet’ – Dt.18, like Moses
- 15: king – why? Because He shares?
- 26: signs: ‘filled’ . . . ‘manna’ (31, 34) . . .
‘gives us...’

Matthew 14

- 15: send to buy food (if they brought their own, why??) **15:32 – *why not eat?***
- 16: ‘you give them food...’ (do they not have their own food?)
- 19: disciples gave food to crowds. Why?
- 20: all ate / full: more leftovers...
- 21: numbers: what purpose? Highlight the miracle

Matthew 16

- 5-7: disciples forgot bread
- 8: faith problem (Mk.8:17)
 - 9: how many baskets? Multiplication.
(Why not remember sharing of audience?)

9: assurance based on His ability to influence people to share?

9: disciples knew the figures, but not the lesson. Modernists deny both.

Conclusions:

1. 'There is a God' – easy to believe signs
2. 'There is no God' – easy to disbelieve signs, believe 'science'
3. Bible is its own best defense.
4. Smart men seek to rob us of our faith.