



The *POWER* Behind the Miracles

The Cast: Host, Peter

The Props: A desk, four chairs, upbeat instrumental music (and a way to play it)

Host: *(Play music as the host is coming out and greeting the audience—an ad-lib joke or two would be appropriate.)* Welcome! We have a fantastic lineup of guests tonight, so let's get started! *(Take a seat at the desk.)* My first guest was one of the original 12 disciples of Jesus. A former fisherman, he left it all to follow Jesus. My guest suffered a chronic case of foot-in-mouth disease for a while, but lately he's been doing incredible—and I mean incredible—miracles. Put your hands together and give it up for the apostle to the Jews, the defender of the faith, the miracle-man himself—

Peter: *(Running out and interrupting the introduction.)* Stop! Stop! You've got it all wrong! I am nothing but an ordinary man—

Host: Ordinary? *(Looks amused.)* How can you say that? You're Peter! You've healed the lame, cast out demons—

Peter: No! It wasn't me . . . I didn't do any of that!

Host: What? *(Looking perplexed.)* Aren't you the apostle Peter?

Peter: Yes, but—

Host: Haven't you seen hundreds of awesome miracles?

Peter: Yes, but—

Host: Didn't you heal a lame beggar while you were on your way to the Temple?

Peter: Well, I was there, but—

Host: *(Interrupting.)* Imposter! *(Looking around, shouting to stage hands.)* Get this guy outta here! *(To the audience, attempting to look composed.)* I'm sorry about this, we'll get everything settled and—

Peter: *(Interrupting.)* Wait! Please! Let me explain!

Host: Okay, you have 20 seconds.

Peter: I was on my way to the Temple for prayer with my friend John. As we entered the gate called Beautiful, I saw a lame beggar asking for money. I know he'd probably been there before, but this day I really saw him.

Host: Uh-huh, I see. So that's when you healed him, right?

Peter: Not exactly. When I saw him sitting there, the power of the Holy Spirit rose up inside me and I felt the boldness of the Lord. I told the beggar, "I don't have any money, but I'll give you what I do have—the name of Jesus. Get up and walk!"

Host: What happened?

Peter: I reached down to that lame beggar and grabbed his hand, and immediately his legs and ankles were strong again. He jumped up and began dancing all around. It was amazing! People who saw it were astounded, because this man hadn't walked for more than 40 years!

Host: Then you did heal him! *(Going back to his original enthusiasm.)* You are the miracle man, apostle to the Jews, defender of—

Peter: No! No! It wasn't me at all. I don't have any special power. I'm just an ordinary man; it was faith in the name of Jesus that brought the miracle. It's God's message about Jesus that has the power to change people's lives, not the messenger. I am only a witness of what Jesus said and did.

Host: Oh, I get it! *(Chuckles and winks at audience.)* You're being humble.

Peter: No, no, that's not it at all. I am not being humble—just honest. Let me tell you something about my past. When I was one of Jesus' 12 disciples, I swore to His face that I would never leave Him. That no matter what, I would stick with Him.

Host: How courageous! How bold! How holy! How—

Peter: *(Interrupting and completing the host's sentence.)* How untrue!

Host: What? How can you say that?

Peter: Because not too long after that promise, Jesus was arrested and I denied three times that I even knew Him.

Host: *(Stunned for a minute.)* You . . . you denied Jesus?

Peter: I did. I was afraid of what would happen to me and I denied Him.

Host: Well, then shouldn't you be on the doesn't-deserve-to-be-used-by-God list, or something, instead of being able to perform miracles?

Peter: Yes, I should be. But that's not how it works. God completely changed me through the power of His Holy Spirit. He cleansed me of my sins and gave me true boldness to be a witness for Jesus. Now when I tell others about Him, I speak from firsthand experience. I know the gospel message has changed me—and that it can change absolutely anyone!

Host: So the miracles are not because of your power, but because of the power of God working through you? You're just giving to others what you have received?

Peter: Exactly!

Host: Well, it looks like we're coming to a station break, so we'll have to stop for now. Let's give a hand for my guest. Coming up next, we'll talk to Bob the camel seller—stay tuned!