



## **'Seven Signs' – That we may believe (Ch11)**

Jesus performs seven significant miracles in the Gospel of John expressed as “signs”. Each sign directs us to something important about the identity of Jesus, and to give us a reason to believe in Him. Each sign also speaks to the vocation of Jesus, and the life Jesus came to give. Collectively, these signs serve to present a signpost of Jesus, that He is the glorious Son of God, worthy of believing and following.

1. Water into Wine – John 2:1–11
2. Sickness into Health – John 4:43–54
3. Life into Dead Limbs – John 5:1–18
4. Feeding the Masses – John 6:1–14
5. Walking on Water – John 6:16–29
6. Sight to the Blind – John 9:1–41
7. Life to the Dead – John 11:1–44

The below does not exhaustively describe the signs, rather seeks to encourage each person to ponder, explore and consider the salvation Jesus gives for those who believe.

### **1. Turning Water Into Wine (John 2:1-12)**

John describes this event as the “first of the signs” (v11) performed by Jesus. Jesus turning water into wine reveals him as the source of life and inspires his newly called disciples to put their faith in him as the Messiah. The way Jesus transformed the water into wine provides a powerful symbolic lesson. In the Bible, wine often represented blood, and purification jugs were designated to help people clean themselves from sin. When Jesus turned the water from the ritual purification jugs into wine, he showed us how his divine blood would replace rituals designated to wipe the people's sins away.

### **2. Healing the Nobleman's Son (John 4:46-54)**

Jesus challenged the official and those around him, saying, "Unless you see signs and wonders, you will not believe." Jesus' healing of the official's son from afar can be seen as a teaching opportunity; it is like asking the official if he will have faith (trust) that Jesus will do what he says. When a nobleman approaches Jesus in Galilee pleading for him to heal his sick son, Jesus sends him away, saying, "Go. Your son will live." Before even making it home, the nobleman receives the news that his son was completely healed within the same hour of Jesus speaking these words. Our hearts are pointed to believe in what Jesus says.

### **3. Healing the Man at the Pool (John 5:1-11)**

The third sign confirms that Jesus also wields mastery of time. When Jesus tells a man who'd been disabled for 38 years to pick up his mat and walk, John tells us the man "was instantly well" and did indeed walk. The Jewish leaders held to the belief that God is always working by sustaining the world, even on Sabbath days. Therefore, when Jesus said, "My Father is working until now, and I am working," the Jews knew Jesus was claiming that he and God are one; that is, Jesus is God, which is why his statements outraged them so much.

### **4. Feeding of the 5,000 (John 6:1-15)**

The miracle with bread made an especially profound impression on the Jews. Bread, symbolic of God's deliverance on more than one occasion in their forefather's rescue from slavery from the Egyptians (Exodus 12; Exodus 16), took on a deep significance. The fourth sign shows Jesus to be the bread of life. After feeding a crowd of 5,000 with no more than five barley loaves and two fish — and somehow managing to fill 12 baskets with leftovers — the people recognised Jesus as "the Prophet who is come into the world." He alone can nourish and sustain your spiritual life. John emphasises an important lesson when he writes twice that Jesus gave thanks before multiplying the food. The disciples focused on their human efforts (Did they have enough money?). Jesus teaches that our efforts are valuable to God only when we come to Him first.

### **5. Walking on Water (John 6:16-21)**

Jesus instructed his disciples to travel across the sea. Regardless of the reason, the disciples obeyed Jesus and found themselves in the middle of a storm, teaching another valuable lesson: obeying Jesus does not mean there will always be “smooth sailing.” In a display of his mastery over nature, Jesus walks across the surface of the sea to his terrified disciples in the midst of a churning storm. With the words, "It is I, don't be afraid," he climbs on board, and in the blink of an eye, the boat had suddenly reached its destination on the opposite shore.

### **6. Healing a Man Born Blind (John 9:1-12)**

While it is true that our own actions can have big impacts on our lives, there are times when hardships and trials may come and they are no fault of our own. "We must do the works of him who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work." Using only mud to heal a man who'd been blind since birth, the sixth sign portrayed Jesus as the light of the world. For Christians, the spiritual “sight” we receive when we are saved is something we did not have until Christ chose to give it, just as he was the one to give to the blind man. Jesus' healing of the blind is prophetic. Isaiah 29:18, 35:5, and 42:7 all speak about a future Prophet who will come and heal the blind. Jesus is the only one in the scriptures given credit for healing blindness.

### **7. Resurrecting Lazarus (John 11)**

The raising of Lazarus is only recorded in the Book of John and anticipates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. The Gospel records grief as Jesus weeps, and Martha shows more faith than criticism; her conversation with Jesus reflects her mourning, not complaining. In a poignant instance of foreshadowing, Jesus demonstrated his absolute power over death in the seventh and final sign by resurrecting his friend Lazarus. Jewish mysticism at the time taught that a person's spirit could hover over their body until the third day, where they believed that the dead person's spirit would leave for the afterlife. Jesus rose Lazarus from the dead four days after he died. The miracle performed was clearly an act of God. John does not focus on Lazarus' reaction after leaving the tomb. The focus is Jesus, not Lazarus.

### **Death could not hold Him down - believe**

This final miracle compels the Jewish leaders to put into action the plan to have Jesus arrested, tried for blasphemy, and killed, which in the end would become a death on the cross.

The divine nature of Jesus was expressed through each sign, confirmed in His resurrection. John proves beyond doubt that Christ truly was God in human flesh — in the world, but not of it. Death could not hold him down! Believe

