

July 23, 2023

Miracles of Jesus Signs (John 11)

See the signs of God and take steps of faith.

Bumper In

Hook – I Saw the Sign (3min)

- *Song “I Saw the Sign” part of Bumper
- Greetings, Connect Card, notes in App
 - o Next week – Supply Lines beginning

Prayer and Silence

Signs in John (5min)

- *John 2:11 –
 - o This miraculous sign at Cana in Galilee was the first time Jesus revealed his glory. And his disciples believed in him.
- *Structure of John
 - o Intro (John 1)
 - o Book of Signs (John 2-12)
 - Not as many as Matt, Mark, Luke – but intentionally chosen and longer stories
 - o Book of Suffering – the final sign and true faith (John 13-20)
 - o Closing (John 21)
- *Seven Signs in John
 - o Water to wine (2:1-11)
 - o Healing nobleman’s son (4:46-54)
 - o Healing lame man (5:1-15)
 - o Feeding the multitude (6:1-15)
 - o Healing the blind man (ch.9)
 - o Raising of Lazarus (ch.11)
 - o Resurrection (chs.2, 20-21) (cleansing Temple, what sign? Raise this Temple)
- *Signs reveal Christ’s glory. (2:11)
 - o Tell us who Jesus is (1:1 and seven “I am” statements)
- Signs point to something else.
 - o Signs reveal information – that you either follow or ignore (think of road signs!)
 - o New stop light in town – yield on yellow flashing arrow. We have roundabouts, no one knows how to yield! (Circles of death!)

“To transform religious and irreligious people into Fully Devoted Followers of Christ.”

- *Signs can grow faith.
 - IF you see Jesus and take steps of trust (follow Him, even into rejection and suffering).
 - Are part of lasting faith but only if you take the next step.
 - In our day – people get a miracle but don't move into devoted faith. People have a God experience (over 50%) but don't move into community with the faithful.

Raising Lives and Opening Eyes (10min)

*John 11:11-48 (p.893)

¹¹ Then he said, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but now I will go and wake him up."

¹² The disciples said, "Lord, if he is sleeping, he will soon get better!" ¹³ They thought Jesus meant Lazarus was simply sleeping, but Jesus meant Lazarus had died.

¹⁴ So he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ And for your sakes, I'm glad I wasn't there, for now you will really believe. Come, let's go see him."

¹⁶ Thomas, nicknamed the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let's go, too—and die with Jesus."

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived at Bethany, he was told that Lazarus had already been in his grave for four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was only a few miles down the road from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many of the people had come to console Martha and Mary in their loss. ²⁰ When Martha got word that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him. But Mary stayed in the house. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask."

²³ Jesus told her, "Your brother will rise again."

²⁴ "Yes," Martha said, "he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day."

²⁵ Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. ²⁶ Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?"

²⁷ "Yes, Lord," she told him. "I have always believed you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who has come into the world from God." ²⁸ Then she returned to Mary. She called Mary aside from the mourners and told her, "The Teacher is here and wants to see you." ²⁹ So Mary immediately went to him.

³⁰ Jesus had stayed outside the village, at the place where Martha met him. ³¹ When the people who were at the house consoling Mary saw her leave so hastily, they assumed she was going to Lazarus's grave to weep. So they followed her there. ³² When Mary arrived and saw Jesus, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died."

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, a deep anger welled up within him, and he was deeply troubled. ³⁴ "Where have you put him?" he asked them.

They told him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Then Jesus wept. ³⁶ The people who were standing nearby said, "See how much he loved him!" ³⁷ But some said, "This man healed a blind man. Couldn't he have kept Lazarus from dying?"

³⁸ Jesus was still angry as he arrived at the tomb, a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance. ³⁹ "Roll the stone aside," Jesus told them.

But Martha, the dead man's sister, protested, "Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible."

⁴⁰ Jesus responded, “Didn’t I tell you that you would see God’s glory if you believe?” ⁴¹ So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, thank you for hearing me. ⁴² You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent me.” ⁴³ Then Jesus shouted, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth. Jesus told them, “Unwrap him and let him go!”

⁴⁵ Many of the people who were with Mary believed in Jesus when they saw this happen. ⁴⁶ But some went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. ⁴⁷ Then the leading priests and Pharisees called the high council together. “What are we going to do?” they asked each other. “This man certainly performs **many miraculous signs**. ⁴⁸ If we allow him to go on like this, soon everyone will believe in him. Then the Roman army will come and destroy both our Temple and our nation.”

- BUT signs only lead to true faith if you take steps of trust.

• *John 12:37-38

³⁷ But despite all the miraculous signs Jesus had done, most of the people still did not believe in him. ³⁸ This is exactly what Isaiah the prophet had predicted:

“Lord, who has believed our message?

To whom has the Lord revealed his powerful arm?”

• *See the signs of God and take steps of faith.

Open Eyes and Willing Hearts (10min)

• *Clip – Signs (about 2min)

- Priest lost his faith, can’t see the signs anymore because of his loss.
 - Aliens have landed, and his brother is asking for comfort.
- Clip follows with him saying “We are alone...”
 - The movie shows how his eyes were opened.
- God is working...will we see the signs?

• *Acts 26:17b-18 –

- I am sending you to the Gentiles to **open their eyes**, so they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. Then they will receive forgiveness for their sins and be given a place among God’s people, who are set apart by faith in me.
- Eph 1:18 – I pray that the eyes of your heart will be opened so you can understand the confident hope we have...(and riches and power)

• *See the signs of God.

- How to open your eyes.
 - *Grow the right perspective.
 - Look back on your life through the lens of faith – even your hard times are reframed.

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- Running through stop sign, Hannah pointing it out, turning around and missing another one. BUT I learned to see those signs!
 - My parents' divorce, my wife's depression, and many moves have helped me have more compassion and care for those who are hurting.
 - *Get with the right people.
 - Your life is most shaped by the 5 people you spend the most time with. Yes you can have non-Christian friends. But when those closest to you love Jesus, you tend to see Jesus more.
 - "It is almost impossible to live the right life with the wrong people." Craig Groeschel
 - *Gather in the right places.
 - Your feet usually determine your faith.
 - Be consistent at worship services, get on a Team, connect with a Life Group, stay strong in your devo time.
 - These help open your eyes to see God's glory.
- *Take steps of faith.
 - Story – when I first became a follower of Jesus, I asked my leaders what I needed to do next. They pointed me to habits – decisions have to be followed up with daily decisions, or they don't stick. I saw myself changing every day.
 - Years later, I was a pastor, and I felt myself getting stagnant in my personal faith (yes it even happens to pastors). I asked a mentor (Tail Kicker) what I could do. He gave me comfort. But I pushed him. Do you really want to hear? YES. It will be harder... **the first steps are big, but the next steps are hard.**
 - DFM is not just faith – it is all of life – home, work, church.
 - D – work with the Lord, F – life together with others (forgiveness and frustrations), M – it is bigger than me.
- The Pathway – walk people through it.
 - //Attender – attend services or first steps of faith
 - Well done! 90% of people are not in church on a given Sunday.
 - Tends to lead to consumeristic Christianity – no deep Roots.
 - Connect and Contribute
 - Teams, Groups, Finances – giving time and money to Jesus.
 - He is the One who gave it all, but these are big steps in our culture.
 - Attitude
 - //Disciple
 - Cultivate Deeper Roots
 - Devos, SCI, Impact, Mentoring – focus on Jesus more than anything or anyone else.
 - The inner journey – and obeying the Savior even in your weakest Root.
 - Attitude change – gratitude to the Lord, dependent on Jesus more than people or situations (thermostat not thermometer).
 - //Devoted
 - Live His Calling

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- Leadership Development – a big emphasis in our church (church, home, work).
 - Crossing through the WALL – letting go of transactional, serving for Jesus not the appreciation of others.
 - Integrating your calling into every area – work as mission, home as sanctuary, church as God’s plan to reach the world.
- //Commissioned

- Lives are being transformed at Covenant Grove. People are seeing the signs and taking steps of faith.

- How about you?

Punch – Testimony (7min)

- A life that was changed – Ricardo. We will watch his video, but his story is so much more.
- **Ricardo testimony here!!**
- Jesus transforms life – this is our Vision and purpose. Growing and sacrificing and building space for more.
- What is your next step? God is showing you signs...take the steps.

Prayer

Bumper Out

Benediction – Col 2:7

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