

June 22, 2008



The Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas



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John's First Seven Miracles

2:1-11—Water turned into wine

4:46-54—Nobleman's son healed

5:1-47—Lame man healed

6:1-15—Feeding the 5000

6:16-21—Walking on water

9:1-10:39—Man born blind healed

11:1-53—Raising of Lazarus

The post-resurrection miracle

21:1-23—The catch of fish

Next Sunday:

Second in our two-part
examination of the miracles
in the Gospel of John

MIRACLES IN JOHN'S GOSPEL: WHAT IF WE BELIEVE?

In John 20:30 the writer says he selected these particular miracles to demonstrate that Jesus was the Christ. He selected those that make the biggest demands on faith. He uses the word "sign", which means we are to look for something beyond the physical phenomenon which took place. Through the first 20 chapters—the original form of this book—John uses seven miracles, a perfect number. John emphasizes that if you accept these miracles then you must believe Jesus to be the Christ—an emphasis greater than that in the Synoptics.

1. Water turned to wine (2:1-11) Compare Matt. 9:14-17—a parabolic teaching similar to this miracle —the new religion of Jesus will not fit into the old Judaistic forms.

A wedding in Cana provided the occasion for Jesus' earliest recorded miracle (see 2:11). When the host ran out of wine, Jesus turned water into wine of extraordinary quality, to everyone's amazement. The wedding feast probably lasted a week, as in the cases of Jacob (see Gen 29:27) and Samson (see Judg 14:17). Running out of wine during such a long feast could be a serious problem.

Jesus' statement to Mary (2:4) was not crude or uncaring. The NLT translates it "How does that concern you and me?" The passage should not be seen as a license for the use of alcohol. Scripture elsewhere warns of drunkenness.

2. Nobleman's son healed (4:46-54) Compare Matt. 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10.

When a nobleman sought healing for his son, Jesus pronounced the son healed without actually seeing him. When the nobleman heard that his son had recovered at the exact time of Jesus' pronouncement, he and his whole family believed.

3. Lame man healed (5:1-47) No parallel in the Synoptics. Jesus broke two laws: (1) healed on Sabbath; (2) encouraged the man to get up and carry his bed. All this is to show that what Jesus is doing is better than the Jewish customs.

He misses the stirring, but gets his healing (1-9). Back in Jerusalem on a Sabbath, Jesus visited the pool of Bethesda. Many sick people were gathered there, believing it to provide healing periodically when an angel stirred its waters. According to local tradition, only the first one in the water after each stirring would be healed. When a sick man explained to Jesus that he was never able to reach the water first, Jesus healed him -- a perfect picture of spiritual healing that comes only through faith and not by self-effort.

Four witnesses to the living Word (31-47). Jesus offered four "witnesses" to validate his identity as the Son of God:

- * God the Father (5:31-32,37-38)
- * John the Baptist (5:33-35)
- * his own miraculous signs (5:36)
- * OT Scripture (5:39-47)