

June 29, 2008



# The Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

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



**Lesson Leader:**  
**James Haymon**

**Class Leaders:**  
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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

## Last Sunday:

- Emphases in John's Gospel
- John's use of "signs"
- Contrast with the Synoptics "seen with the same eye" (Matthew, Mark and Luke)
- Jesus' first three miracles in the Gospel of John



**July 3 - Midlothian Stadium**  
**(14th St. & Bypass)**  
**5:30—10PM**

## GOSPEL CONCERT

Food & fireworks! Donations to  
benefit Senior Adults Food Pantry

## MIRACLES IN JOHN'S GOSPEL (PT. 2): WHAT IF WE BELIEVE?

In his gospel John portrays seven miracles, or "signs", to demonstrate that Jesus was the Christ—those that make the biggest demands on faith. A sign means we are to look for something beyond the physical phenomenon itself. Through chapter 20 John uses seven miracles, a perfect number. John emphasizes that if you accept these miracles then you must believe Jesus to be the Christ, and you can experience eternal life through believing in Him.

**4. Feeding the 5000 (6:1-15)** There may have been as many as 20,000. This is the only miracle of Jesus which is in all four gospels (Mt 14:13-21, Mk 6:30-44, Lk 9:10-17). It made a tremendous impression, with different emphases by each writer. For example, in Mark this occurs in a "revolt" setting, a desert place, much *coming and going*. Jesus sees them as *sheep without a shepherd*, a military expression. He feeds them in companies of 50s and 100s and discharges the disciples before dismissing the crowd. They wanted a military leader.

His purpose: not a crown but a cross. When many in the crowd rightly recognized Jesus as the Messiah, they tried to make him their earthly king. Knowing this, however, Jesus withdrew from them to spend some time alone in prayer.

**5. Walking on water (6:16-21)** Compare Mt 14:24-33. John 6:16-21. As Jesus prayed alone, His disciples were rowing their boat across the Sea of Galilee to Capernaum when a storm arose. Jesus appeared to them walking on the water. This was not some flippant show of power. He had seen their dilemma from the mountain where He was praying and went to their rescue. The intense storm frightened these men, most of whom had dealt often with Galilee's treacherous waters.

**6. Healing the man born blind (9:1-10:39)** In that day they did not usually try to heal congenital blindness, but Jesus did so with saliva and clay. He then sends him to the *pool of Siloam* (meaning "sent"). Jesus had first been proclaiming that He was the "sent one" (8:15-18, 26, 29) He teaches about spiritual blindness.

When some listening Pharisees sarcastically asked Jesus if he considered them also to be blind, he stated the paradox that permeates the story: Those claiming the most spiritual sight are often the most spiritually blind (9:40-41).

Note the progression in the blind man's perception of Jesus: from seeing him as an ordinary *man* (9:11) to realizing he was a *prophet* (9:17) to *worshiping* him as *Lord* (9:38). How tragic, however, that the man's seeing parents apparently refused the light of Christ because they preferred the approval of the Pharisees.

**7. Raising of Lazarus (11:1-53)** Jesus uses this also as a teaching method. There were two responses to the raising of Lazarus: Many believed on Jesus (45), while the Jewish leaders intensified their efforts to destroy Jesus and Lazarus (46-53; 12:10). Meanwhile Jesus retreated to be alone with his disciples, even as his enemies in Jerusalem continued to look for him (54-57).

- adapted from Teacher's personal notes and from *Willimington's Bible Commentary*, PC Study Bible