

Episode: Three Gospels Series No. 08

Narrator: Lazarus

Primary Scriptures: John 9-12

Story Summary: Later ministry of Jesus, seven miraculous signs

Location: Kingdom of Judea (Israel)

Time: Circa 30 AD

Suggested Memory Scriptures: John 9:3, 5, 25; 10:11, 14, 29; 11:4, 25, 41-42; 12:7, 25-26, 50

The video for this episode concentrates on a selected set of miraculous signs by Jesus. These are:

- Changing water into wine at Cana (John 2:1-11)
- Healing the official's son from a distance (John 4:46-54)
- Healing the paralytic at the Pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-5)
- Feeding the five thousand (John 6:5-14)
- Jesus walking on the water (John 6:16-24)
- Healing the man blind from birth who washed in the Pool of Siloam (John 9:1-7)
- The raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-45)

Each of these miracles seems to be carrying multiple themes. Jesus isn't just changing water to wine—he's also showing that a new way to worship God has arrived, and this new way is better than the old. The healing of the official's son shows the importance of faith, and that Jesus is not limited by normal limitations. The healing of the paralytic shows that Jesus is ruler of the Sabbath, the feeding of the five thousand that Jesus gives true life, and walking on the water that Jesus is the ruler of all nature.

The Bible doesn't say where the blind man was when he met Jesus, but more than likely he was a fair distance away from the Pool of Siloam, which is located at the end of the tunnel built by King Hezekiah and is downhill from most of Jerusalem. As he gained his sight, the man would have been able to see the Temple Mount about one-half of a mile uphill to the north. He must have been amazed!

In John 9:1-2, Jesus upends the notion that people's sins always make them materially or physically disadvantaged. This would have been a direct threat to a common teaching of the day that disadvantaged people were that way because of sin, while advantaged people were that way because of righteousness.

The resurrection of Lazarus shows that Jesus rules over death and can bring life into any situation. The one thing all these miracles have in common is this: they all point to the fact that God is to be glorified in every situation because he is the Master of All.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some of the important things to know about Jesus' miracle of changing water into wine? (John 2)
 2. What was the second miracle that Jesus performed in public, and what are some important things to know about it? (John 4)
 3. Name some important things about healing the man born blind from birth? (John 9)
1. The miracle of changing water into wine was the first miracle Jesus performed; it signifies that a new religious order has arrived and it is better than the old; the superabundance of wine signifies the overwhelming benevolence of God; that Jesus has control over the natural order of the world. 2. Healing the official's son from a distance. The official was from Capernaum, soon to be Jesus' headquarters. The official was a royal official, probably for Herod Antipas who ruled from nearly Tiberias. It never hurts to have friends in high places, so there is no telling how he might have influenced things over the coming years. 3. Jesus used the situation to declare that underprivileged people are not being punished for their sins, and that declaring God's glory is paramount. The man had to have faith to walk to the Pool of Siloam to get healed. The Pharisees wielded the weapon of putting people out of the Temple to threaten the man and his parents. To the blind man, his healing trumped all religious arguments.

Application Questions:

1. In John 9:2, the disciples of Jesus could see only two alternatives to the reasons that people suffered. Do you find that you limit your alternatives to obvious or accepted answers? With religious questions, do you tend to want a clear answer rather than answers that require uncertain or multiple interpretations?
2. In John 10:27, Jesus says that his sheep listen to his voice. How do you listen to his voice? If you are not listening, are you one of Jesus' sheep? How can you learn to listen better?
3. In John 11:44, Jesus commanded that others help Lazarus take off his grave clothes. Why might he have done that, and how might that principle apply to you and your faith community?

Application Questions for Teens:

1. You might hear people use the miracle of changing water into wine as "proof" that Jesus approves of people drinking wine. Without regard to whether drinking wine is right or wrong, is that an appropriate way to use this story? How can you be careful not to misuse Bible verses?
2. In John 11:49-50, Caiaphas makes a big assumption and tries to convince others it is true so he can justify his upcoming actions. Does this happen today among people in positions of authority? What can you do about it if so?