

That You Might Believe

John 20:30-31 (NKJV) 30 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

There are two Greek words used for a miracle in the New Testament. This word is the predominate one used to refer to what would be called a miracle. In the **KJV** they translated this word miracle most of the time but here they use the word sign. And in John's gospel that is the primary meaning John wants attached to it.

It was not that John did not think these were miracles for he did. Instead John looked pass the miracle and saw the reason for the miracle.

We see this explained after Jesus feeds the 5,000 in John 6. The people pursue Jesus and want to make Him king. But notice the response of Jesus recorded by John. John 6:26-27

26 Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. NKJV

John 6:26 (**KJV**) 26 Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.

John tells us that there was another reason for the miracles of Jesus. They were not only so that the blind might see and the lame walk.

They were so that people might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing they might have life in His name.

- I. And truly Jesus did many other signs which are not written in this book.
 - A. Later John will tell us that there were so many things that Jesus did that they could hardly all be written down.
 1. John 21:25 And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen. NKJV
 2. John demonstrates this in his own gospel.
 3. For even though the other three gospels were written long before his and they all tell a very similar story, yet John's gospel is 90% new content.
 4. Think of that, 60 years after Jesus crucifixion thirty years after the other gospels were written John writes having only 10% of his gospel similar to the other three.
 - B. Signs
 1. The real purpose of Jesus in doing these various miracles was to let them

be signs that Jesus was the Messiah.

2. John 3:1-2 There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.² This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." NKJV
3. Jesus did not come to simply heal people, that was not His mission.
4. He did heal all manner of disease of everyone brought to Him.
5. But Peter would heal simply by his shadow passing over someone. Acts 5:15 so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. NKJV

II. In the presence of His disciples

- A. We find that the purpose of these signs and miracles was to bolster the faith of the disciples, not to convince the unbelieving.
 1. John 12:37 But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, NKJV
 2. In John 6 the feeding of the 5,000 only filled the bellies of the people and not their hearts and souls.
 3. They wanted Jesus to be king of the nation but not king of their hearts.
- B. So it is obvious that Jesus did all sorts of miracles before thousands of people but it was not those signs that made them believers.
- C. Luke points out from one of Jesus stories that even if one rise from the dead it would not convince people who will not accept the revealed will of God.
 1. Luke 16:27-31 27 "Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house,²⁸ for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.'²⁹ Abraham said to him,'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.'³⁰ And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'³¹ But he said to him,'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'" NKJV

III. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus:

- A. Is the Christ,
 1. The Anointed of God.
 - a. That is the meaning of the word Christ.

- b. In the Old Testament the understanding was that this was the Messiah.
 - B. The Son of God
 - 1. John uses the term Only Begotten to describe Jesus relationship to God.
 - 2. It is not that Jesus is a son of God.
 - 3. He is the only begotten son of God.
 - 4. The Son of God.
 - 5. No one, not even the angels stand in the same relationship with God as does Jesus.
- IV. And that believing you may have life in His name.
 - A. This is the only way to eternal life.
 - 1. John 8:23-24 (NKJV)23 And He said to them, "You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. 24 Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."
 - 2. John 14:6 (NKJV)6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
 - 3. Acts 4:12 (NKJV)12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."
 - B. Titus 3:5 (NKJV)5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,