

John 20:30-31

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7 signs in the gospel of John

- Turning water into wine in Cana
- Healing an official's son in Capernaum
- Healing at the Pool in Jerusalem
- Feeding the 5,000 near the Sea of Galilee
- Walking on the water of the Sea of Galilee
- Healing a blind man in Jerusalem
- Raising dead Lazarus in Bethany



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"Aslan is a lion- the Lion, the great Lion." "Ooh" said Susan. "I'd thought he was a man. Is he-quite *safe*? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion"..."*Safe*?" said Mr. Beaver ..."Who said anything about *safe*? 'Course he isn't *safe*. But he's *good*. He's the King, I tell you."

- - C.S. Lewis, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe





⁴⁸ So Jesus said to him, "Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe." ⁴⁹ The official said to him, "Sir, come down before my child dies." ⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, "Go; your son will live." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way.⁵¹ As he was going down, his servants met him and told him that his son was recovering. ⁵² So he asked them the hour when he began to get better, and they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." ⁵³ The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." And he himself believed, and all his household. ⁵⁴ This was now the second sign that Jesus did, when he had come from Judea to Galilee.

BIG IDEA

John again points us to the glory of Jesus through an awe-inspiring miracle, but warns that too much interest in the miracles themselves can be spiritually dangerous for our lives.









John 7:40-41

⁴⁰ When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This really is the Prophet." ⁴¹ Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee?



John 7:40-41;50-52

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⁵⁰ Nicodemus, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, ⁵¹ "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" ⁵² They replied, "<u>Are you from Galilee too</u>? <u>Search and see that no</u> <u>prophet arises from Galilee.</u>"





John 1:1-5;9-11

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ <u>He came</u> to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

John 4:39-42

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."





BIG IDEA

John again points us to the glory of Jesus through an awe-inspiring miracle, but warns that too much interest in the miracles themselves can be spiritually dangerous for our lives.



• Desperation fills our lives.











Desperation fills our lives.



- Family
- Relationship
- Job
- Resources
- Health



- Desperation fills our lives.
- Desperation exposes our lives.



Desperation exposes our lives.

•Where do we go in crisis?





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"You never know how much you really believe anything until its truth or falsehood becomes a matter of life and death to you. It is easy to say you believe a rope to be strong and sound as long as you are merely using it to cord a box. But suppose you had to hang by that rope over a precipice. Wouldn't you then first discover how much you really trusted it?... Only a real risk tests the reality of belief."

- C.S. Lewis, A Grief Observed



Desperation exposes our lives.

- Where do we go in crisis?
- •Do we believe in Jesus, only if we can see the miracle first?



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Desperation exposes our lives.

- Where do we go in crisis?
- Do we believe in Jesus, only if we can see the miracle first?
- •Do we put the emphasis on the things that are temporary and physical?



Desperation exposes our lives.

- Where do we go in crisis?
- Do we believe in Jesus, only if we can see the miracle first?
- Do we put the emphasis on the things that are temporary and physical?
- Do we dictate our agenda in our prayers?


Desperation exposes our lives.

- Where do we go in crisis?
- Do we believe in Jesus, only if we can see the miracle first?
- Do we put the emphasis on the things that are temporary and physical?
- Do we dictate our agenda in our prayers?

•Are we impatient with the timing of Jesus?



What is a miracle?

A miracle is God moving in an extraordinary way, beyond His ordinary activity, to cause us to be amazed and fascinated with who He is, to confirm the reality of spiritual life.



Desperation exposes our lives.



Desperation exposes our lives.

• Do we take Jesus at His Word?



Desperation exposes our lives.

- Do we take Jesus at His Word?
- Do we credit Jesus for the work?



Desperation exposes our lives.

- Do we take Jesus at His Word?
- Do we credit Jesus for the work?

•Do we see the overflow into the lives of others?



- Desperation fills our lives.
- Desperation exposes our lives.
- What are we desperate for?



What are we desperate for?







What are we desperate for? WHO





"Here's the most basic definition of fan in the dictionary: 'an enthusiastic admirer'.

It's the guy who goes to the football game with no shirt and a painted chest. He sits in the stands and cheers for his team. He's got the signed jersey hanging on his wall at home and multiple bumper stickers on the back of his car. But he's never in the game. He never breaks a sweat or takes a hard hit in the open field. He knows all about the players and can rattle off their latest stats, but he doesn't know the players. He yells and cheers, but nothing is really required of him. There is no sacrifice he has to make. And the truth is, as excited as he seems, if the team he is cheering for starts to let him down and has a few off seasons, his passion will wane pretty quickly. After several losing seasons you can expect him to jump off the fan wagon and begin cheering for some other team. He is an enthusiastic admirer.



It's the woman who never misses the celebrity news shows. She always picks up the latest people magazine. She's a huge fan of some actress who is the latest Hollywood sensation. And this woman not only knows every movie this actress has been in, she knows what high school this actress went to. She knows the birthday of this actress, and she knows the name of her first boyfriend. She even knows what this actress' real hair color is, something the actress herself is no longer certain of. She knows everything there is to know. But she doesn't *know* the actress. She's a huge fan, but she's just a fan. She's an enthusiastic admirer.

Jesus was never interested in having fans. When he defines what kind of relationship he wants, 'Enthusiastic Admirer' isn't an option. My concern is that many of our churches in America have gone from being sanctuaries to becoming stadiums. And every week all the fans come to the stadium where they cheer for Jesus but have no interest in truly following him.



The biggest threat to the church today is fans who call themselves Christians but aren't actually interested in following Christ. They want to be close enough to get all the benefits, but not so close that it requires anything from them."

- Kyle Idleman, <u>Not A Fan</u>





•If you're unfamiliar with Jesus...



•If you're unfamiliar with Jesus...

• Read the Gospel of John.



•If you're unfamiliar with Jesus...

- Read the Gospel of John.
- Re-read the Gospel of John.



•If you're unfamiliar with Jesus...

- Read the Gospel of John.
- Re-read the Gospel of John.
- Engage with someone who is increasingly fascinated by Him.



- If you're unfamiliar with Jesus...
- If you're familiar with Jesus, but are not astonished, amazed, startled, dumbfounded, stunned, astounded, or absolutely fascinated....



- If you're unfamiliar with Jesus...
- If you're familiar with Jesus, but are not astonished, amazed, startled, dumbfounded, stunned, astounded, or absolutely fascinated....
 - Getting to know Jesus is a process.



- If you're unfamiliar with Jesus...
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 - Getting to know Jesus is a process.
 - Keep going to Jesus.



- If you're unfamiliar with Jesus...
- If you're familiar with Jesus, but are not astonished, amazed, startled, dumbfounded, stunned, astounded, or absolutely fascinated....
 - Getting to know Jesus is a process.
 - Keep going to Jesus.
 - Be cautious of familiarity without fascination.



- If you're unfamiliar with Jesus...
- If you're familiar with Jesus, but are not astonished, amazed, startled, dumbfounded, stunned, astounded, or absolutely fascinated....
 - Getting to know Jesus is a process.
 - Keep going to Jesus.
 - Be cautious of familiarity without fascination.
 - Keep asking God to enrich your ability to see Jesus more fully.

- If you're unfamiliar with Jesus...
- If you're familiar with Jesus, but are not astonished, amazed, startled, dumbfounded, stunned, astounded, or absolutely fascinated....
- If you're familiar with Jesus and are drinking from the infinitely deep well of fascination, and want to keep drinking from that well...



- If you're unfamiliar with Jesus...
- If you're familiar with Jesus, but are not astonished, amazed, startled, dumbfounded, stunned, astounded, or absolutely fascinated....
- If you're familiar with Jesus and are drinking from the infinitely deep well of fascination, and want to keep drinking from that well...
 - We drink by...



- If you're unfamiliar with Jesus...
- If you're familiar with Jesus, but are not astonished, amazed, startled, dumbfounded, stunned, astounded, or absolutely fascinated....
- If you're familiar with Jesus and are drinking from the infinitely deep well of fascination, and want to keep drinking from that well...
 - We drink by...
 - Hearing from Him directly.



- If you're unfamiliar with Jesus...
- If you're familiar with Jesus, but are not astonished, amazed, startled, dumbfounded, stunned, astounded, or absolutely fascinated....
- If you're familiar with Jesus and are drinking from the infinitely deep well of fascination, and want to keep drinking from that well...
 - We drink by...
 - Hearing from Him directly.
 - Talking with Him.



- If you're unfamiliar with Jesus...
- If you're familiar with Jesus, but are not astonished, amazed, startled, dumbfounded, stunned, astounded, or absolutely fascinated....
- If you're familiar with Jesus and are drinking from the infinitely deep well of fascination, and want to keep drinking from that well...
 - We drink by...
 - Hearing from Him directly.
 - Talking with Him.
 - Hanging with those who are increasingly fascinated by Him.

- If you're unfamiliar with Jesus...
- If you're familiar with Jesus, but are not astonished, amazed, startled, dumbfounded, stunned, astounded, or absolutely fascinated....
- If you're familiar with Jesus and are drinking from the infinitely deep well of fascination, and want to keep drinking from that well...
 - We drink by...
 - Hearing from Him directly.
 - Talking with Him.
 - Hanging with those who are increasingly fascinated by Him.
 - Sharing with those who have yet to be fascinated by Him.



