

The Seven Signs

Hopefully you are familiar with the four Gospels of the New Testament to have noticed that the Gospel of John is quite different in style and make-up from the other three. That's because he intended not only to tell the story of Jesus but that he wanted to *highlight by reference to certain episodes* in Jesus' career what effect Jesus can have on you – right now! In other words he uses these episodes as *signs* – signals of the effect adherence to Jesus' power can have on our human race – not just back then but now and on into the indefinite future – your future as well. What are these signal episodes?

The Changing of water into wine at a wedding at Cana
The Cure of a man's son – from a distance
The Cure of a paralytic by the Pool of Bethesda
The Meeting with the Samaritan woman by Jacob's Well
The Cure of a man born blind
The Multiplication of loaves and walking on water
The Raising of Lazarus from his tomb.

Even as in these episodes - contact with Jesus (and his word, the potency of his Gospel) can have a similar "miraculous" effect upon your life, your way of seeing and doing things – change you from merely existing to really Being. Like the water at Cana – like the empty water jars – you can become an inexhaustible, premium wine.

Like the boy cured, even though he was not present, you, who are not present in so far as the days of Jesus are in the distant past – you too can be cured by the mere effect – if understood – of his words.

Like the paralytic waiting interminably for a chance to reach the somewhat stingy healing power of Bethesda's Pool – a relationship with Jesus can bring you to your feet in no time – if you listen well enough.

Like the woman at Jacob's well, whatever you are using to quench your thirst for genuine life, you can now turn to Jesus as "the living water" that will leave you never thirsty again.

Like the man born blind, Jesus can give you sight far beyond the chart in the optometrist's office and the news of the day and even the Law of Moses.

Like Jesus' miracles of multiplying loaves of bread in a desert place and walking across a turbulent sea to calm his disciples – he can nourish you and help you cross "water" barriers as God did during Israel's original Exodus from slavery.

Like Lazarus, Jesus can call you out of the tomb you make of life to breathe fresh air – forevermore within Jesus' kind of world.

So there is a Lenten program for you to initiate – meditatively – and see if it doesn't make a difference in you by Easter.

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