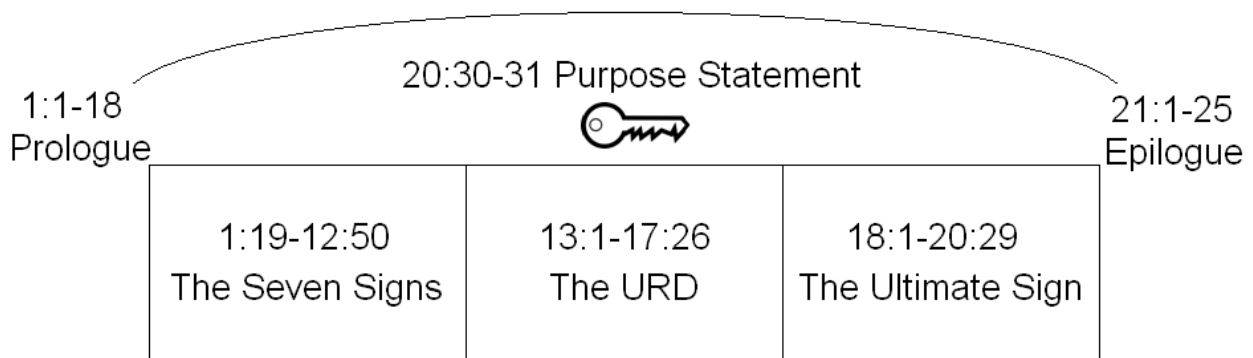


The Seven Signs of the Gospel of John

Sign #6: The Healing of a Man Born Blind

John 9:1-41



Q: What are “Signs” in the Gospel of John?

A1: The meaning of the original Greek word (σημειον):

Signs are miracles with a message: think signposts/spotlights; in his Gospel, the Apostle John selected seven specific miracles to confirm who Jesus is and what He taught.

A2: The purpose statement of the book (John 20:30-31):

Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

Q: What are the Seven Signs of the Gospel of John?

1. Water into wine (2:1-11)
2. Healing the Royal Official's son in Capernaum (4:46-54)
3. Healing the Paralytic at the Pool of Bethesda (5:1-15)
4. Feeding the 5000 men and their families (6:5-14)
5. Walking on the Sea of Galilee (6:16-24)
- 6. Healing the Man Born Blind (9:1-41)**
7. The Supernatural Resuscitation of Lazarus (11:1-45)

John 9:1-41

An Especially Significant Sign Miracle

THE SIGN 9:1-7

A Man Who Had Been Born Blind is Healed by Jesus

Prologue: Theological on the Job Training v1-5

Q: Who sinned here, this man (in the womb) or his parents that he was born blind?

A: Neither! This has been permitted (temporarily) for larger (eternal) purposes

The Participatory Miracle v6-7

- 1: Jesus put mud on the man's eyes
- 2: The man then went to the pool of Siloam to wash it off
- 3: When he did so he could see HINT: the mud didn't heal the man

THE SIGNIFICANCE 9:8-41

Average People Interact with the Healee v8-12

The man looked different, but could be positively identified by those who knew him previously. The man knew the name of the One who had healed him, he but did not know where Jesus was at that point/where He had gone.

Most Average People: Curious

About the miracle but passive about the Messiah-no initiative to learn more about Jesus

Religious Leaders Interact with the Healee and His Parents v13-34

Most of Them Start with the Premise That Jesus is a Law-Breaker/Fake Healer v13-16

But some of them are not so sure

They Then Interrogate the Parents of the Healee v17-34

- 1: The Healee goes out on a limb and suggests Jesus is a prophet of God
- 2: His parents confirm his earlier blindness, but deny knowing relevant info about the Healer
- 3: The Healee returns but the Religious Leaders end up throwing Him out of the meeting.

Most of the Religious Leaders: Contrary

And unwilling to consider Jesus from a positive point of view

Jesus Interacts with the Healee v35-41

Q1: Do you believe in the Son of Man?

Q2: Who is He, that I may believe (specifically) in Him?

A: You have SEEN Him (after He/I just healed you) and you SEE Him/Me now as I speak to you!

Response: I do believe you are the Son of Man/Messiah...and worshipped Jesus

The Healee Was Clueless

Due to Lack of Information.....but Soft Hearted Spiritually

He was willing and eager to know and believe in his Messiah

The Religious Leaders Were Closed

Due to Willful Deliberate Rejection.....and Hard Hearted Spiritually

They were unwilling to even recognize their need for a Messiah

Comment on 6:41 from the MacArthur Study Bible

“Jesus had particular reference to the sin of unbelief and rejection of Him as Messiah and Son of God. If they knew their lostness and darkness and cried out for spiritual light, they would no longer be guilty of the sin of unbelief in Christ. But satisfied that their darkness was light, and continuing in their rejection of Christ, their sin remained.”

Take This To Heart

The reason the vast majority of the people of Israel in Jesus' day (including 98% of the religious leaders) rejected Jesus was not due to a lack of opportunity or an absence of information/validation. It was a matter of hardened hearts.

Important to Note: this was not a matter of secular thinkers vs spiritual thinkers, it was an issue of human goodness (do!) chosen over God's grace (done!).

Saving faith in Christ is not a matter of intelligence, socio-economic status, color, culture or country. It is a matter of a person's "heart" (the mind/will). Amazingly, saving faith is something a small child (Matthew 18:2-4) on the one hand and a murderous criminal (the terrorist on the cross Luke 23:42-43) on the other hand can express. And yet, many very intelligent and/or very religious people (offended by the claims of Jesus and/or their need for Him to save them) are incapable of expressing saving faith because they refuse to humbly accept that salvation is a gift for those unable to save themselves/based solely on the work of the Savior.

But to the one who does not work, but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness. Romans 4:5