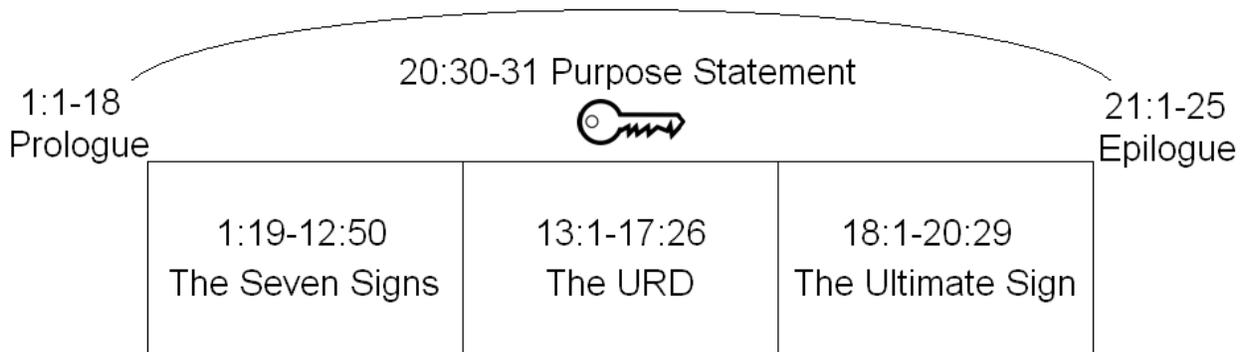


# The Seven Signs of the Gospel of John

## Sign #2: A Remote Miracle Catalyzes Real Faith

### John 4:43-54



### 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 (9:1-7)
7. The Supernatural Resuscitation of Lazarus (11:1-45)

# John 4:43-54 A Long-Distance Sign Miracle

## The Setting/Context 4:43-45

**Jesus in Galilee: Where He Performs the 1<sup>st</sup> Sign Miracle 2:1-11**

**Jesus in Jerusalem: The Grand Opening of Messiah's Ministry 2:12–3:36**

The Setting 2:12-14

Jesus Cleanses the Temple 2:15-25

Jesus Offers Religious Nicodemus the Gift of Eternal Life 3:1-21

John the Baptist Affirms the Gospel 3:22-36

**Jesus in Samaria: The First Concerted Citywide Outreach 4:1-42**

The Setting 4:1-3

Jesus Offers an Irreligious Samaritan Woman the Gift of Eternal Life 4:4-38

Jesus Offers the Whole Samaritan City of Sychar the Gift of Eternal Life 4:39-42

**Jesus (Back) in Galilee: Where He Performs the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sign Miracle 4:43-54**

## The Request of a Royal Official 4:46-49

Cana was about 19 miles away from Capernaum: the Official came believing Jesus was a (medical) miracle worker, nothing more (4:47), but he later believed something much more important namely that Jesus was the Messiah/Savior (4:53 and 4:42)

1: Miracles CAN catalyze saving faith; but it is wrong to presume or demand (specific) miracles before considering the claims of Christ. His Person; Work on the Cross and Resurrection speak for themselves and trump other miracles.

2: Miracles DO NOT automatically lead to saving faith, those who WILL NOT believe can distort the true meaning and source of any/all miracles and/or explain them away.

## A Remote Miracle Catalyzes Real Faith v50-54

Much like the 1<sup>st</sup> sign miracle in Cana, the Lord does this miracle in a way that is not outwardly showy...!OWs: the servants of the Official knew his son had recovered at a specific time the day before, but did not know the miraculous mechanism of the healing. The Official was so confident in Jesus he delayed his trip home until the next day (v52)!

## Take This To Heart

- 1: When we come to the LORD with requests ("whats") we should not demand specific mechanisms ("the hows") by which He should respond to us.
- 2: Prayer is a grace channel of communication by which we seek and submit to His God's will (what/how) realizing that "No!" and/or "I will respond in a different way than you expect" are both totally legitimate answers.