

We are in a series studying Jesus' use of signs in John's gospel that will allow us to discover the power of God and point us to a deeper understanding of who Jesus is. Last week Dr. Baucom focused on Jesus as the **Lord of Nature**. This week we look at the second sign pointing toward Jesus as being the **Lord of Life**.

1. This week as you have reflected on Jesus & the way he performed signs, have you formed any questions you might want to ask Jesus about why he chose to perform signs for the people?

- What might have been some positive effects on Jesus' ministry because of the signs he performed?
- Can you think of some negative effects for Jesus' ministry?

Jesus is now back in Cana, the same city where he demonstrated his first sign by turning water into wine.

2. **Read John 4:46-54.** The title of this week's sermon is "*Lord of Life*."

- Why do you think Dr. Baucom chose that title for this passage?
- How does this sign show Jesus as having power over life?

3. **Read Luke 7:1-10 and Matthew 8:5-13.** What similarities and differences do you see in these stories?

3. **Verse 48** reads, "*Unless you people see signs and wonders, Jesus told him, you will never believe*".

- What tone can you hear Jesus using? Why?
- What do you think was happening to have caused Jesus to say this to the official?
- Why might Jesus caution those wanting to see signs?

5. Why do you think the official came to Jesus in the first place? Even after Jesus rebukes the official and the crowd, the official seems to not even respond to Jesus' comment but goes on to plead for the life of his son. He is persistent. What does this say about his faith in Jesus?

6. **Reread verse 50-53.** When Jesus says the son is well, he is not even questioned.

- What do these verses say about the official's belief in who Jesus is and his power?
- What does it say about his faith at this time?
- How does this affect the family and household?

6. Through this passage, a progression in the official's faith development can be seen.

- Faith in the **reputation** and **power** of Christ,
- Faith in the **promise** of Christ (his word), and
- Faith in the **person** of Christ.

Reflect on your relationship with Jesus.

- Does this help you understand your progression in faith?
- Can you find yourself in this faith development process?
- Share with your IG where you see yourself and why?

7. Simple Questions:

- What might we learn about human nature from this *sign*?
- What might this *sign* tell us about our common needs?
- What is this sign telling us about Jesus?

8. What does this passage say about distance (location) and the power of God?

Pray that Ignition Groups will draw people together to create an opportunity for spiritual growth and to build authentic community in this church body. Pray for new facilitators that we might continue to add new groups.