

**SEVEN SIGNS**  
**#3: Lord of Life**  
**April 29-May 1, 2006**

<sup>43</sup>After the two days he left for Galilee. <sup>44</sup>(Now Jesus himself had pointed out that prophets have no honor in their own country.)

<sup>45</sup>When he arrived in Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him. They had seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, for they also had been there. <sup>46</sup>Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. <sup>47</sup>When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death. <sup>48</sup>“Unless you people see signs and wonders,” Jesus told him, “you will never believe.”

<sup>49</sup>The royal official said, “Sir, come down before my child dies.” <sup>50</sup>“Go,” Jesus replied, “your son will live.” The man took Jesus at his word and departed. <sup>51</sup>While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. <sup>52</sup>When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, “Yesterday, at one in the afternoon, the fever left him.”

<sup>53</sup>Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” So he and his whole household believed. <sup>54</sup>This was the second sign Jesus performed after coming from Judea to Galilee. *John 4:46-54 TNIV*

Introduction: If Jesus' first sign—turning water to wine—was something of a “secret sign” targeted only at his closest followers, as we determined last week, then his second sign might be considered a “timed release” sign targeted at a secular audience. This second sign in John's “book of signs” teaches those with eyes to see and ears to hear that Jesus is the Lord of life.

I. The Prophet and the Place

- A. Jesus had met mixed reviews in Jerusalem and Judea.
  - 1. Jesus was “without honor” in the most intensely religious regions of the country.
  - 2. Some, including the Pharisee Nicodemus, were amazed by Jesus' teachings. (See John 3:1-21)
  - 3. Others, including most of the religious officials, were threatened by Jesus' teachings. (See John 2:13-25)
- B. Jesus had traveled out of his way through Samaria where he used his famous encounter with “the woman at the well” to teach the disciples about the “living water” of the first sign.

C. Jesus went to Galilee, the hilly country around the well-known “Sea of Galilee,” or Lake Galilee.

- 1. In Jesus' day, the Galilee region was a semi-isolated northern backwater that had been subdued and incorporated into Jewish territory by force.
- 2. The name “Galilee” was an abbreviated form of a Hebrew phrase (*galil-ha-goyim*) meaning “the circle of the Gentiles.”
- 3. Even the Jews of Galilee were looked down upon by their more orthodox and educated brethren.
- 4. Jesus was greeted with great enthusiasm by the Galileans, partly because they had been impressed by him on their Passover pilgrimages to Jerusalem.

II. The Official and His Offspring

- A. One who greeted Jesus with enthusiasm was a Gentile official with a heavy heart.
- B. The official's son lay dying, and the man was desperate.
- C. The official traveled from coastal Capernaum, some twenty miles and seven hours away, to seek Jesus' help.
- D. The man wanted Jesus to journey with him back to his home and heal his son.

III. The Sign and the Statement

- A. Jesus was again careful not to perform the healing miracle in a way that would draw attention to the act or prematurely reveal his identity to the masses, at least not immediately.
- B. Jesus offered a sign that required ears of faith to hear, stating simply, “Go, your son will live.”
- C. Just prior to the healing, Jesus made a public pronouncement: “Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will never believe,” and yet he healed the boy out of the crowd's sight.
- D. The official trusted Jesus, and journeyed home to find his son healed at the exact moment of Jesus' statement.

IV. The Miracle and the Message

- A. Faith cannot be confirmed by what can be seen or sensed.
- B. In healing, Jesus demonstrates the creation that God intended, restoring life as a sign of God's power over death.
- C. When we fail to have faith, we not only miss the signs and wonders of God, but the power of God in our lives, as well.
- D. Jesus is the Lord of Life!

Conclusion: The signs of Jesus' Lordship are only visible to the eyes and ears of faith, and life in him is only available to those who “take him at his word.” Jesus has power over life and death, and we can trust him to lead us to eternal life.