

The Gospel According to John, Part 8 (John 4:43-5:18)

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Main Idea: This week John Leconte continues our series in the Gospel of John. In today's sermon, we look at two of Jesus' miracles, or what the Apostle John referred to as "signs." John's gospel presents these signs as the evidence that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have eternal life.

Sermon Outline:

1. The Words of Jesus Have Power (4:53; 5:8)
2. Jesus Is the Son of God (5:17)

Key Text/Quotes:

"The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, 'Your son will live.' And he himself believed, and all his household. This is now the second sign that Jesus did when he had come from Judea to Galilee." John 5:53-54

"Now some Christians think that the Christian life is living by faith from one miracle to the next. That sounds quite exciting. But is that what the Christian life is really about? If our faith is based solely on what Jesus can do for us, it is not enough to preserve us. We run the risk of making God subservient to us. He becomes like a genie in a bottle...Brothers and sisters, there are days that we go through that are difficult. There are seasons of suffering that are so painful that we are tempted to believe that God doesn't see us. In days like these, when the miracles don't happen, we find shelter and hope in the word of God." John Leconte

Fellowship Starters:

1. Read John 4:43-5:18 and open in prayer.
2. In this section of John's Gospel, we see that Jesus was calling people to believe in him and receive eternal life. The evidence he gave to show that he was God was in the miracles or signs that he performed. Discuss how the Apostle John is making a distinction between those who followed Jesus for the perks (food, healing, etc.) and those who truly "believed" in him.
3. Next, discuss why this distinction is important. What are some ways that we can fall into the same way of thinking of God?
4. Discuss how this section of John's Gospel supports the statement, "The words of Jesus have power." As you do, consider and share ways in which the power of God's Word has been and is actively present in your own life.
5. More than any of the synoptic Gospels, John's Gospel reveals the triune nature of God. It's noteworthy how regularly Jesus teaches that he and the Father are one. Read John 5:19-25 and discuss why Jesus being one with the Father (meaning God himself) is so important for people to understand.
6. Close your time in prayer.

