

SIGNS OF CHRIST'S GLORY

John 2-4

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- How would you define “glory”?
- What is the purpose of a sign?

John wants people to believe in Jesus Christ. In the early chapters of his gospel account, John retells stories of miracles and signs that display Jesus’ glory. In this episode we’ll focus specifically on stories found in chapters 2-4, including the wedding at Cana, Jesus’ cleansing of the temple, and his interaction with the Samaritan woman at the well. These glorious signs point us to who Jesus is, what he can do, and what he offers us. Study these three stories with us to gain a better understanding of what glory is and where we can expect to encounter the glory of Jesus in our own lives.

Listen: [*Signs of Christ's Glory*](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- As hosts Dave Bast and Scott Hoezee discuss Jesus’ first miracle, turning water into wine at the wedding at Cana, they observe that it is an example of Jesus’ glory shining in everyday life. When have you seen God’s glory in your everyday life or everyday circumstances? Have you witnessed his glory in any unexpected places or at unexpected times in life? How does this truth encourage your faith?
- In segment 2, Dave and Scott note that unlike the other three gospels, John does not record Jesus’ ministry in chronological order. Dave observes that John places the temple cleansing in the beginning of the book to “make clear...who Jesus is and what his body actually represents...he is the Temple...” Have you ever noticed this difference in narrative order? How might knowing up front that Jesus is the Temple affect your understanding of Jesus and the rest of his ministry?
- In discussing the story of Jesus cleansing the temple, Scott remarks that in Christian history, “...we often turn this into a little moralism, like oh, you know, don’t let the church youth group sell brownies after church.” Have you ever experienced this? Scott points out that this story is not so much about selling things at the Temple, but about “crowding out...the people God wanted to draw in.” How do you think the church today is doing as far as “making room” for others like Jesus did in the temple?
- In telling the story of the Samaritan woman that Jesus meets at the well, John intentionally makes note of existing cultural prejudices and customs that create tension in this encounter. What social tensions do you experience in your interactions with neighbors, coworkers, family, and friends? What does Jesus’ encounter with the Samaritan woman teach you about what it means to be faithful to Jesus in these situations?

Related Passages

- **Matthew 21:12-17**
- **Mark 11:15-19**
- **Luke 19:45-47**
- **Hebrews 1:1-4**

Conclusion

Think about your current circumstances and reflect on Scott's words as he closed the episode.

"In John 2 and 4...,in the most ordinary of circumstances,...the glory of God's one and only bursts forth; and as we said earlier in this program, that is good news for all of us. The glory of God can engulf us almost any day. You don't have to see grand miracles. Jesus is with us every day, full of grace and truth..."

If Jesus were to enter your circumstance today, where do you think you would see his glory? Why? Close your time of reflection in prayer; give thanks for Jesus coming into our world and for revealing his glory to us. Pray also for the Holy Spirit to give you eyes and a heart capable of recognizing God's glory in the most ordinary circumstances of your life, so that you might witness his grace and truth and believe in Jesus.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/signs-of-christs-glory>

Printed on April 24, 2024