

John 20:30-31  
"The Power of Jesus" Part 1  
"The Miracles of Jesus"

I am thoroughly convinced that our technological advancements as a human race have led many to believe that somehow the life of Jesus is a grandiose retelling of events in ways that did not actually happen. Turning water into wine, the healing of individuals he did not even lay eyes on, raising the dead, feeding thousands miraculously, walking on water, and the list goes on. Such things escape the realm of possibility in our advanced age and seem like fairytale. Certainly not possible now or even necessary. One has to be unlearned or at a minimum gullible to believe such things. True story. I once heard a preacher retell the story of the feeding of the five thousand. This preacher said Jesus really didn't multiply the food given to him, but rather this little boy's kind act of sharing led to others sharing their lunches with those who had none. Sounds nice but it's not what the text claims! A clear example in my few of our need to make God/Jesus sensible. See we are technologically advanced and cannot believe such things are possible. I say this, if Jesus cannot multiply fish and loaves of bread, he cannot make us right with God nor can he raise anyone from the dead. You tell me which is harder. We don't need a sensible God. We need a God that can do anything but fail because we are not sensible people. So, we start here, John 20:30-31, because it is necessary that we understand why Jesus did what he did so that we do not get caught up by the display of power but recognize the purpose of it, which is most important. So today, two observations from our text in effort to set the stage for what is to come.

**First observation, the gospels are not an exhaustive account of all that Jesus did or said.** V30, “And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book.”. Yes, the gospels are not an exhaustive account of all that Jesus did or said but the gospels provide all that we need. I struggled with being satisfied for many of my young adult years. Believing that all I needed was more to reach the heights of satisfaction. More money, more success, more, more, more. This led to some costly mistakes and sin. We live in a world that is never truly satisfied and when it comes to God we want more. Especially, more evidence. Speak to nonbelievers about your faith in God/Jesus the Christ and a common objection is prove it. How much more evidence do we need to be satisfied, to be convinced? It will be this lack of satisfaction with the evidence God has provided that will result in the eternal death of many, unfortunately.

**Luke 11:27-29** “<sup>27</sup> As he was speaking, a woman in the crowd called out, “God bless your mother—the womb from which you came, and the breasts that nursed you!” <sup>28</sup> Jesus replied, “But even more blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice.”<sup>29</sup> As the crowd pressed in on Jesus, he said, “This evil generation keeps asking me to show them a miraculous sign. But the only sign I will give them is the sign of Jonah. <sup>30</sup> What happened to him was a sign to the people of Nineveh that God had sent him. What happens to the Son of Man will be a sign to these people that he was sent by God.”

**John 8:42-47** “<sup>42</sup> Jesus told them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, because I have come to you from God. I am not here on my own, but he sent me. <sup>43</sup> Why can’t you understand

what I am saying? It's because you can't even hear me! <sup>44</sup> For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies. <sup>45</sup> So when I tell the truth, you just naturally don't believe me! <sup>46</sup> Which of you can truthfully accuse me of sin? And since I am telling you the truth, why don't you believe me? <sup>47</sup> Anyone who belongs to God listens gladly to the words of God. But you don't listen because you don't belong to God."

**Second observation, the objective is belief resulting in life. V31,** <sup>31</sup> "but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." Church, all that's recorded about Jesus's life is so that in our reading of it we will believe in him. And in believing in him receive eternal life. The objective is belief resulting in life. Not awe, not fanfare, nor admiration, or any such thing. Belief, period! Every miracle, every word, every sign was all done and said so that people would believe in Jesus and find life eternal. I just wonder if we are to enamored by our temporal lives to be concerned with the life to come. Jesus faced this often. Those crowds wanted the good life they believed Jesus could offer them in the here and now. They wanted his power for their own purposes in the here and now. They wanted him to be King so that they might be freed from their oppressors in the here and now! Is this us today? Give me Jesus for all that he can do for me in the here and now. We must ask ourselves the question do we want Jesus for who he is, not just for what he can do. Make no

mistake about, he can do all things but that does not mean he will do all things.

**John 6:10-15** <sup>10</sup>“Tell everyone to sit down,” Jesus said. So they all sat down on the grassy slopes. (The men alone numbered about 5,000.) <sup>11</sup>Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and distributed them to the people. Afterward he did the same with the fish. And they all ate as much as they wanted. <sup>12</sup>After everyone was full, Jesus told his disciples, “Now gather the leftovers, so that nothing is wasted.” <sup>13</sup>So they picked up the pieces and filled twelve baskets with scraps left by the people who had eaten from the five barley loaves. <sup>14</sup>When the people saw him do this miraculous sign, they exclaimed, “Surely, he is the Prophet we have been expecting!” <sup>15</sup>When Jesus saw that they were ready to force him to be their king, he slipped away into the hills by himself.”

**John 6:22-29** <sup>22</sup>The next day the crowd that had stayed on the far shore saw that the disciples had taken the only boat, and they realized Jesus had not gone with them. <sup>23</sup>Several boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the Lord had blessed the bread and the people had eaten. <sup>24</sup>So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went across to Capernaum to look for him. <sup>25</sup>They found him on the other side of the lake and asked, “Rabbi, when did you get here?” <sup>26</sup>Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, you want to be with me because I fed you, not because you understood the miraculous signs. <sup>27</sup>But don’t be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man<sup>[f]</sup> can give you. For God the Father has given me the seal of his approval.” <sup>28</sup>They replied, “We want to perform

God's works, too. What should we do?" <sup>29</sup> Jesus told them, "This is the only work God wants from you: Believe in the one he has sent."

**John 6:53-66** <sup>53</sup> So Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you cannot have eternal life within you. <sup>54</sup> But anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise that person at the last day. <sup>55</sup> For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup> Anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. <sup>57</sup> I live because of the living Father who sent me; in the same way, anyone who feeds on me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup> I am the true bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will not die as your ancestors did (even though they ate the manna) but will live forever." <sup>59</sup> He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum. <sup>60</sup> Many of his disciples said, "This is very hard to understand. How can anyone accept it?" <sup>61</sup> Jesus was aware that his disciples were complaining, so he said to them, "Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup> Then what will you think if you see the Son of Man ascend to heaven again? <sup>63</sup> The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup> But some of you do not believe me." (For Jesus knew from the beginning which ones didn't believe, and he knew who would betray him.) <sup>65</sup> Then he said, "That is why I said that people can't come to me unless the Father gives them to me." <sup>66</sup> At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him."

The power of Jesus. Much more to come. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.