

The Seven Sacraments in the Gospel of John

Dr. John Bergsma

These are the seven *signs* that structure the Gospel of John

1. Changing _____ to _____ at the Wedding at Cana (2:1-11)
2. Healing the _____ _____ at Cana (4:46-54)
3. _____ the Paralytic at Bethesda (5:1-18)
4. Feeding the _____ (Chapter ____)
5. Healing the Man Born _____ (Chapter ____)
6. _____ Lazarus from the Dead (Chapter ____)
7. Dying and Rising from the Dead (Chapters ____ - ____)

They are called *signs* because they _____ beyond themselves.

A major them in the Gospel of John is:

Jesus' power in the *Signs* still touches us in through the _____.

I. The First Sign: The Changing of the Water to Wine at Cana (2:1-11)

A. "On the third day ..." calls to mind the "seven days" of the New _____.
Jesus is a New _____, Mary is a New _____.

B. Mary gives us an example of P_____.

C. Notice: Jesus performs the duty of the _____.

D. In this sign, we see an obvious relationship to the *Sacrament of* _____.

E. It also points to the _____.

F. The Sacraments of Matrimony and the Eucharist are closely _____.

Interlude: A quick look at the Temple Cleansing (2:13-22) to set up the _____ sign.

II. The Second Sign: The Healing of the Official's Son (4:46-54)

A. Here is a connection to the Sacrament of the _____

B. Note the parallels: the child is _____ ill, and the word of Jesus _____ him to health.

C. The Sacrament of _____ aims to unleash this same power of Jesus, to heal both a person's soul and their body.

III. The Third Sign: The Healing of the Paralytic at Bethesda (5:1-18)

A. Jesus asks a profound question: "Do you want to be _____?"

B. This sign of Jesus calls to mind the Sacrament of _____.

C. Note some parallels: it is not necessary for the man to enter the _____, which would be like baptism.

D. Jesus tells the man, "See, you are well! Sin no more!", which means the man's problem stemmed from his sin, and his sins had been _____.

E. The same power of Jesus that healed this paralyzed man is available to us inside of the confessional.

IV. The Fourth Sign: The Feeding of the 5,000 (Chapter 6)

A. This Sign obviously calls to mind the Sacrament of the _____.

B. Five words make the connection with the Last Supper accounts: (1) T_____ (2) _____ (3) _____ (*eucharistein*), and (4) _____ the pieces to those who are (5) _____.

C. Notice the command: "Gather up the fragments"

D. Note that Jesus compares himself to the _____ which was supernatural food that you had to eat.

E. But also to the fruit of the _____ which was also supernatural food that you had to eat.

F. Verse 51 makes it clear: "The bread is my _____." He can scarcely be more emphatic.

G. In verses 53-58 he switches from the verb "eat" to the verb "_____."

H. Answer two objections: (1) Jesus can't be speaking literally because the drinking of blood was forbidden. (Lev. 17:14). But the reason is: the *life* is in the *blood*.

I. (2) Jesus says, "It is the Spirit that gives life, the *flesh* is of no avail." (6:63)

Answer: "The flesh" is different from "_____".

You judge according to the flesh, I judge no one (John 8:15) "The flesh" is sinful human nature.

J. The _____ couldn't help but apply Jesus' words to the Eucharist.

K. The _____ of the Church taught that this applied to the Eucharist:

- a. *Now note well those who hold heretical opinions about the grace of Jesus Christ which came to us, note how contrary they are to the mind of God ... They abstain from Eucharist and prayer, because they refuse to acknowledge that the Eucharist is the flesh of our savior Jesus Christ, which suffered for our sins and which the Father by his goodness raised up. (Ignatius of Antioch, Smyrneans 6:2)*

V. The Fifth Sign: The Healing of the Man Born Blind (Chapter 9)

A. This Sign is a Catechesis on the Sacrament of _____

B. Like the man, each one of us is born in the darkness of _____

C. The spitting and making mud is the imagery of a _____

Baptism is a re-_____ (2 Cor 5:17)

D. Like us, the man is healed of his condition by _____

The Pool of Siloam caught the waters of the _____, which were symbolically the waters of _____.

Siloam means "Sent," which has _____ senses with respect to Baptism:

- a. First, we are washed in Jesus the _____ one.
- b. Second, when we are washed, we are _____.

E. In response to the implied question, Are you the same man or a different one?, the man replies ambiguously: _____! This points to the reality of Baptism:

- a. In Baptism we are identified with _____, the Great I AM.
- b. After Baptism we both _____ and _____ the same person!

VI. The Sixth Sign: The Resurrection of Lazarus (Chapter 11)

A. Jesus waits for four days because then Lazarus was _____

- B. For our purposes, this Sign reminds us of the Sacrament of _____
- a. It follows right on the heels of _____ and has many similarities to it.
 - b. It empowers Lazarus as an effective _____ in the face of opposition.
- C. Like the other signs, this one points strongly to Jesus' _____. Look at this prophecy:
And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. (Ezekiel 37:13)

VII. The Seventh Sign: The Death and Resurrection of the Lord (Chapters 19-20)

- A. We can follow a priestly theme through the crucifixion:
- a. John 19:23: "His tunic was without seem, woven from top to bottom." So what? Josephus, *Antiquities 3:159-161*: "The high priest is indeed adorned with ... a vestment of a blue color. This also is a long robe, reaching to his feet ... Now this vesture *was not composed of two pieces, nor was it sewed together upon the shoulders and the sides, but it was one long vestment so woven as to have an aperture for the neck ...*"
 - b. The Tunic not T_____. See Lev 21:10
 "The priest who is chief among his brethren .. shall not ... tear his clothes ..."
 - c. John 19:39: The P_____ body; See Exod 30:22-33
 "Take the finest spices: of liquid myrrh ... and you shall anoint Aaron and his sons ..."
 - d. John 19:40: Wrapped in _____; See Lev 16:4
 "He shall put on the holy linen coat, and shall have the linen breeches on his body, be girded with the linen girdle, and wear the linen turban; these are the holy garments."
 - e. Laid in the V_____ T_____; See Lev 21:13-14
 "He shall take a wife in her virginity ... a virgin of his own people."
- B. The _____ of Jesus' side (19:34) is full of symbolism:
- a. Symbolism of the T_____
 - b. Symbolism of B_____
 - c. Symbolism of the S_____
- C. The Point: the Body of Christ is the source of all the _____.
- D. We want to draw the connection to the Sacrament of _____

- a. After his resurrection, Jesus' grants the disciples the power to _____
- b. In the Old Testament, this was the duty of the _____.
 "The priest shall make atonement for them, and they shall be forgiven." (Lev. 4:20, and throughout Leviticus)

E. After his death and resurrection, Jesus communicates his own _____ and its authority to the Apostles.

Objection: "Only the Apostles had this authority!"

Response: (1) The Church has always believed the authority was handed down to their successors, and (2) otherwise, there is no point in recording the story of the breathing on the apostles!

The earliest testimony:

1Clem. 42:1 The Apostles received the Gospel for us from the Lord Jesus Christ; Jesus the Christ was sent forth from God. 2 So then Christ is from God, and the Apostles are from Christ. Both, therefore, came of the will of God in good order. 3 Having therefore *received their orders* and being fully assured by the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and full of faith in the word of God, they went forth with the firm assurance that the Holy Spirit gives,[103] preaching the good news that the Kingdom of God was about to come. 4 So, preaching both in the country and in the towns, *they appointed their firstfruits*, when they had tested them by the Spirit, *to be bishops and deacons for the future believers*.

1Clem. 44:1 Our apostles likewise knew, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that there would be strife over the bishop's office. 2 For this reason, therefore, having received complete foreknowledge, they appointed the officials mentioned earlier and afterwards they gave the offices a permanent character;[108] that is, if they should die, *other approved men should succeed to their ministry*.

Magnesians 6:1 Be eager to do everything in godly harmony, the bishop presiding in the place of God and *the presbyters (priests) in the place[34] of the council of the apostles* and the deacons, who are most dear to me, having been entrusted with the service of Jesus Christ, who before the ages was with the Father and appeared at the end of time.

Thus: the Bishop is _____ representative and the priests continue the ministry of the _____!

To recap: the Seven Signs and the Seven Sacraments:

The Wedding at Cana reminds us of _____

The Healing of the Official's Son reminds us of _____

The Healing of the Paralytic reminds us of _____

The Feeding of the 5000 reminds us of the _____

The Healing of the Blind Man reminds us of _____

The Raising of Lazarus reminds us of _____

The Resurrection reminds us of _____