

I BELIEVE IN JESUS by Andrew Roberts

The Gospel of John was written to convince and inspire others to believe in Jesus. One of the proofs presented for Jesus' claims as the savior and son of God are His many signs, wonders and miracles.

"Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:30-31).

This past week was our annual Vacation Bible School. We studied together, and watched the children learn (some for the very first time) 5 miracles that Jesus performed. I hope re-examining these five fundamental signs, which lead to obedient, soul-saving faith in Jesus Christ, encouraged all of us. I'd like to quickly recall some of the great thoughts that were shared in the adult class this week.

Monday night, Brother Gary Henry, who preaches at the Westside church, spoke about Jesus' miracle of the fishes. Jesus is walking along the shore and tells Peter and company to go out to deep water, and let down their nets. Peter has been fishing all night, hasn't caught a thing, but because the Lord asks him to, he obeys. The fisherman take in such a haul that their boats nearly sink. Brother Henry pointed out that sometimes we need preparation before our preparation. Jesus performed this miracle in order to prepare them to come and follow Him and be "fishers of men." The point was made that at times our attitude; mindset and heart need to be prepared before we can grow into the disciples we ought to be.

Tuesday night, Skip Sebree, who preaches at Greencastle, spoke about Jesus healing the nobleman's son. A nobleman had a dying son and traveled a distance to ask Jesus to return home with him and heal the son. Jesus simply said that the boy was well. Upon returning home, the nobleman learned that at the very time Jesus said the words the boy was healed. Brother Sebree impressed upon us the power in the very word of Jesus. When Christ spoke, things happened. We are encouraged to have even greater confidence in the word of Jesus as recorded in the Bible, what He says always happens!

Wednesday night, I had the privilege to speak about Jesus stilling a great storm. Jesus took a boat ride with His disciples and encountered a horrible storm on the Sea of Galilee. The disciples thought they would drown yet Jesus was sound asleep! He stilled the great storm and taught them a lesson in faith. We need to recognize that Jesus is our calm during our life trials. As Christians we can have greater faith that He is our refuge and shelter from the storms of life.

Thursday night, Jeff Corey, who preaches at 25th St. in Columbus, spoke on Jesus feeding the 5000. Brother Corey shared an excellent thought and warning that what people are converted by, they are converted to. Jesus feed 5000 with 2 fish and 5 loaves. The multitude should have seen He was the Son of God. Instead they saw Him as a source of sustenance and followed Him for free food. He rebuked the multitude for being

so carnal in John 6. Likewise, today we must be sure to convert people to Christ, not entertainment, food, spectacle or gymnasiums. Jesus' mission is a spiritual one.

Friday night, Troy Nicholson, who preaches at Southport, closed this year's Vacation Bible School with a lesson on Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. Whom doesn't the picture of two mourning sisters touch over their brother's death? Jesus Himself wept at the tomb. Yet it is overshadowed by the joy of Christ's miracle, He overpowers death and calls Lazarus back to life! It foreshadows Christ's own victory over death, as He raised Himself from the dead. It is another assurance that He will raise all of His faithful followers from the grave.

I believe in Jesus and my faith is stronger for the lessons I've learned this past week. I hope your faith is stronger too.