



Signs That Point to the Savior **John 11:38-46**

Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him. But some of them went their ways to the Pharisees, and told them what things Jesus had done (John 11:45-46—KJV).

Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what He had done, believed in Him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them the things which Jesus had done (John 11:45-46—NASB).

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what he had done (John 11:45-46—NRSV).

If you see a sign pointing toward a city, that sign does not compel you to go there. You choose to go there or not. In his gospel, John called Jesus' miracles "signs." Jesus did not intend for His signs to compel anyone to believe in Him, but they did *help* people believe in Him. Believers do not irrationally place their faith in Jesus. His miracles pointed to who He is and who He claimed to be as the Messiah, the Son of God, and Savior of the world. His signs told people that if they chose, they could go to Him, believe in Him, follow Him, and receive the gift of eternal life from Him. Jesus' signs and teachings give people good and sufficient reasons to entrust their lives and futures to Him. John's gospel shows that after

Jesus healed the sick or raised the dead some people believed in Him and saw His glory, while others did not. The man born blind that Jesus healed believed in Him. After Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, many believed in Him. However, after Jesus healed a man who had been ill for 38 years, he refused to believe and reported what Jesus did to Jesus' religious enemies. Some who saw Lazarus raised from the dead and had the opportunity to talk to Jesus and Lazarus refused to believe in Jesus, so they rushed to report Jesus' actions to His enemies. After they crucified Jesus, He gave His most miraculous sign when He rose from the dead.

Thinking Further

1. Commentators seem to agree that the Greek word for “deeply moved” or “greatly disturbed” includes the meaning that Jesus was angry at death. How might this teaching influence how you look at death?
2. Why do you think Jesus waited four days before seeing Mary and Martha?
3. What is one result of our believing in Jesus as our Lord and Savior according to this lesson? Can you think of other results?
4. What is one reason Jesus prayed aloud for everyone to hear Him pray?
5. Why did Jesus tell the mourners to remove Lazarus' grave clothes rather than simply remove them miraculously himself when He could have easily done so?

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