

The 4 Passovers - Mapping Jesus's Ministry a message for the
Abundant Life Class at Gulf Coast Baptist Church by Steve Thomas

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#	Passover reference in John	Explicitly says "Passover"?	Where in John	What it anchors
1	John 2:13	Yes	John 2	Early Jerusalem ministry; temple cleansing
2	John 5:1 (a "feast of the Jews")	No (inferred by some as Passover)	John 5	Jerusalem visit; healing at Bethesda; major controversy
3	John 6:4	Yes	John 6	Feeding the 5,000 and Bread of Life discourse
4	John 11:55 → John 12-13	Yes	John 11-13	Final week: triumphal entry, Last Supper, passion

Year 1 (between John 2 and John 5) Known as the Year of Obscurity.

During the first year of His public ministry, primarily in Galilee, Jesus performed several miracles that signaled his divine authority. The first miracle was turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana, followed by healing a royal official's son, curing lepers, and the first miraculous catch of fish.

Key miracles from the first year of ministry include:

Turning Water into Wine (Cana): Jesus' first recorded miracle where he transformed water into wine at a wedding feast. Jn 2

Healing the Royal Official's Son (Capernaum): Jesus healed the official's son from a distance, just by speaking the word. Matt 8:5

The Miraculous Catch of Fish: Occurring early in his ministry, this event prompted Peter, Andrew, James, and John to follow him.

Healing a Leper: Jesus cleansed a man with leprosy . Matt 8, Luke 6

Healing a Paralytic: Jesus healed a man lowered through a roof. Matt 9, Mrk 2, Luke 5

Demonic Exorcisms: Jesus began casting out evil spirits and healing various illnesses in Galilee. Mrk 1, Luke 4

These acts, particularly the turning of water into wine, served to reveal His glory and initiate belief among His disciples.

Year 2 (between John 5 and John 6) Known as the Year of Popularity.

During the second year of His public ministry (often termed the "Great Galilean Ministry" or "Year of Popularity"), Jesus performed numerous miracles demonstrating power over sickness, nature, and demons. Major miracles included feeding 5,000, walking on water, raising the widow's son at Nain, and calming the storm.

Key miracles in the second year include:

Healings: Healing the Centurion's servant, curing a woman with a 12-year issue of blood, and restoring a withered hand.

Resurrections: Raising the widow's son from the dead in Nain and raising Jairus' daughter.

Demonic Deliverance: Delivering the Gadarene demoniac (Legion) and casting demons out of a mute man.

Miracles over Nature: Feeding the 5,000 with five loaves and two fish, walking on water, and calming the storm.

Other Miracles: Healing two blind men, healing a deaf/mute man, and cleansing a leper.

This period was characterized by intense, widespread healing in Galilee and surrounding regions, including the Decapolis.

Year 3 (between John 6 and John 11) Known as the Year of Opposition.

Jesus kicks off the year of opposition by driving away the crowds, He begins openly contending with the religious leadership. He knows that the people have followed Him for what they can get from Him, and that the leadership has rejected the Kingdom from the Heavens with Him as the King. During the third year of His public ministry, Jesus performed major miracles that signaled His divine authority, including raising Lazarus from the dead, feeding the 5,000, and walking on water. This period focused on intense ministry, featuring healings of the blind, demon-possessed, and sick, alongside the dramatic calming of a storm.

Key miracles recorded during this final period include:

Raising Lazarus from the dead: After four days in the tomb (John 11:43-44).

Healing the Syrophenician woman's daughter: An exorcism performed at a distance (Mark 7:24-30).

Healing a deaf and mute man: Using the word "Ephphatha" (Mark 7:32-35).

Feeding the 4,000: Feeding a large crowd with seven loaves and a few fish (Matthew 15:32-38).

Healing a blind man at Bethsaida: Healing a blind man in stages (Mark 8:22-26).

Healing a demon-possessed, blind, and mute man: (Matthew 12:22-23).

These miracles were designed as "signs" to demonstrate Jesus' deity and power over nature, disease, demons, and death. Jesus did most of these publicly, and contended with the religious leaders during the actions, especially the blind man.