

“The Gospel of John: The Second Sign”

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Scripture

John 4:43-54

“After the two days He went forth from there into Galilee. For **Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country**. So, when He came to Galilee, the Galileans received Him, **having seen all the things that He did in Jerusalem at the feast**; for they themselves also went to the feast.

Therefore, He came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was **a royal official** whose son was sick at Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and was **imploring Him to come down and heal his son**; for he was at the point of death.

So, Jesus said to him, **"Unless you people see signs and wonders, you simply will not believe."**

The royal official said to Him, **"Sir, come down before my child dies."** Jesus said to him, **"Go; your son lives."** The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and started off.

51As he was now going down, his slaves met him, saying that his son was living. So, **he inquired of them the hour when he began to get better**. Then they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him."

53So the father knew that **it was at that hour** in which Jesus said to him, "Your son lives"; and **he himself believed and his whole household**. This is again a second sign that Jesus performed when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.”

Baptism!

Overview of the Gospels

- **Matthew** -> **Jewish flavor to the writing, portraying Jesus as the Christ and King**
- **Mark** -> **Jesus as the “Son of Man”, really Peter’s Gospel for the Gentiles**
- **Luke** -> **Jesus is Human and the Redeemer of Humanity**
- **John** -> **Jesus is the Divine “Son of God”**

Why Write the Gospel?

Matthew, Mark and Luke’s Gospels were already around. Why another one?

The Purpose for John’s Gospel

John 20:30-31

“Therefore, **many other signs Jesus also performed** in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;

But these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that **believing** you may have life in His name.”

Many events in John not recorded elsewhere

Gospel of John Recap through the Woman at the Well

Apostle John, the disciple that Jesus loved, wrote near the end of his ministry and life

John Wrote:

- Jesus is God
- Jesus is the Light of Men
- Jesus came to Explain the Father to us

John the Baptist, the first witness: **Jesus said that none were greater than John as an O.T. Prophet**

Jesus called 5 disciples, but focus is on Nathanael -> **Where Jesus Showed His Omniscience**

Jesus's **First Sign** – Water into Wine – **Jesus is following the Father's Timeline, not man's timeline**

Jesus Knows What is in Men – **He is intimately familiar with our thoughts**

Nicodemus -> **We Don't Know what is in Men** -> We need to look for evidence of Spiritual fruit

Nicodemus learns **He Needs to be Born from Above** (Born Again) to Get into Heaven -> **Spiritual Birth**

Jesus came to Save in the Incarnation -> **He will come to Judge in His Future Return**

Competition in Ministry is not the plan -> John the Baptist shares that **Jesus will be the Main Focus**

Woman at the Well -> Jesus HAD to go to Samaria -> **A Divine Appointment**

Woman at the Well learns that **She Needs Living Water** to Get into Heaven -> **Spiritual Life**

Jesus came to reach the outcast of the outcasts -> **Samaritans must be part of the Lost Sheep of Israel**

Jesus **shows Omniscience** (again) knowing the Woman's History

Jesus **patiently listened** to an Angry Woman -> He told her that **He was the Messiah**

Both Nicodemus and the Woman at the Well are **told of the same need**

-> the highest of the high and lowest of the low

Presentation of the Gospel and **Winning Souls for the Kingdom is a Team Sport**

Leaving Samaria for Nazareth

John 4:43-45

“After the two days He went forth from there into Galilee. For **Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country**. So, when He came to Galilee, the Galileans received Him, **having seen all the things that He did in Jerusalem at the feast**; for they themselves also went to the feast.”

Jesus arrives back in Galilee from His Samaritan journey to a mixed response

“Jesus testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country”

Mark writes about Jesus coming back to Nazareth:

Mark 6:1-6

“Jesus went out from there and came into His hometown; and His disciples followed Him. When the Sabbath came, He began to teach in the synagogue; and the many listeners were astonished, saying, "**Where did this man get these things**, and what is this wisdom given to Him, and such miracles as these performed by His hands? "**Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Joseph and Judas and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?**" And they took offense at Him. Jesus said to them, "**A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and among his own relatives and in his own household.**" And He could do no miracle there except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. And He wondered at their unbelief. And He was going around the villages teaching.”

Tough to overcome those first impressions, isn't it?

Even his family doubted Him -> even after the miracle healings in Jerusalem

With the incredible doubt and unbelief in Nazareth, He could only do a little healing – and quietly

John wrote that the “Galileans receive Him”, though **not as the Son of God** -> because **He was now famous**

Why did they notice Him? -> “having seen all the things that He did in Jerusalem at the feast”

John 2:23

“Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, **many believed in his name** when they saw the signs that he was doing”

He was a magician in the Galilean's eyes. They wanted to see more tricks! **Jesus knows the hearts of men!**

Jesus left Nazareth for Cana

Nazareth to Cana was about 4 miles to the northeast, a slightly downhill and easy walk for the group

A Royal Official's Request

John 4:46-47

“Therefore, He came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was **a royal official** whose son was sick at Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and was **imploring Him to come down and heal his son**; for he was at the point of death”

Jesus returned to Cana, the site of His first miracle recorded in John 2:1-11, turning the water into wine

John 2:11

“This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and **manifested His glory**, and His disciples believed in Him”

A royal official comes to see Jesus when he hears Jesus had arrived

This official would most likely have served Herod Antipas at Capernaum

“imploing Him” -> The Greek is *erotao* -> “asking as if from a preferred position” -> seeking special treatment

“Heal his son” -> at Capernaum which was 16 miles away -> a much longer journey

Signs and Wonders

John 4:48

“So, Jesus said to him, ‘**Unless you people see signs and wonders, you simply will not believe.**’”

Jesus’s reaction tells a lot about the royal official

“unless you people” -> it is plural -> most likely the official would have been Jewish so the Jews in view here

Matthew 12:38-39

“Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.” But He answered and said to them, “**An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign;** and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet”

“Scribes and Pharisees” want signs...

Matthew 16:1-4

“The Pharisees and Sadducees came up, and testing Jesus, **they asked Him to show them a sign from heaven.** But He replied to them, “When it is evening, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red. And in the morning, ‘There will be a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot discern the signs of the times? “**An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign;** and a sign will not be given it, except the sign of Jonah.”

“Pharisees and Sadducees” want signs...

2 Peter 3:3-7

“Know this first of all, that **in the last days mockers will come with their mocking**, following after their own lusts, and saying, “**Where is the <sign> of His coming?** For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.” For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.”

At the end of Peter’s ministry, the people wanted signs

In our time, they also want signs -> trust in people is low -> deception is high because of false teachers

Remote Healing

John 4:49-50

"The royal official said to Him, "**Sir, come down before my child dies.**" Jesus said to him, "**Go; your son lives.**" **The man believed** the word that Jesus spoke to him and started off."

The official is at the end of his rope of hope – He is doubtful but grasping at straws

How many of you ever doubted the Lord's provision and care and felt like you were grasping at straws?

He wants Jesus to come to Capernaum -> about a two-day journey -> or 4 days if there and back

What a request! Come way out of your way for me and my son!

"**Go; your son lives**" Jesus tells him -> "I have healed him – he lives!"

John records that the man believed Jesus and immediately took off to Capernaum

We learn that **Jesus can heal remotely** from this event -> He doesn't need to touch the man's son

How does this knowledge help our faith in Jesus? He can heal remotely from Heaven, can't He?

We see an **early stage of belief** in Jesus in the royal official here

Mark 9:21-24 (a man brings his demon-possessed son to Jesus)

"He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. "It has often thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. **But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!**" And Jesus said to him, "'If You can?' **All things are possible to him who believes.**" Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, '**I do believe; help my unbelief.**'"

Demon possession can start early in childhood!

IF you can do anything? Jesus's power is questioned by this guy

Jesus says "All things are possible to him who believes"

The father of the boy cries out "I do believe; help my unbelief!"

How many of you have been there in your life? Where you think you believe but need help with your belief?

Matthew 8:25-26 (Jesus asleep in the boat with the sea waves pounding)

"They came to Him and woke Him, saying, "**Save us, Lord; we are perishing!**" He said to them, '**Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?**'"

Did they actually think that the Lord was going to let them and Him go down with the ship?

Some in that boat were fishermen, right? Experienced in the sea and yet afraid?

Jesus calms the sea with a word and the disciples are amazed -> **WHO IS THIS GUY?**

Doubt Turns to Faith

John 4:51-53

“As he was now going down, his slaves met him, saying that his son was living. So, **he inquired of them the hour when he began to get better**. Then they said to him, ‘Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.’ So, the father knew that **it was at that hour** in which Jesus said to him, ‘Your son lives’”

The royal official is going downhill to the Sea of Galilee – Capernaum is on the north side of the Sea

His slaves had taken off to go tell him about his son miraculously coming back to life

He wants to know the exact timing of the healing -> **showing still a little bit of doubt in Jesus**

Perhaps, his son got better on his own -> a natural result?

How many of you have experienced a miracle but your first thought is: perhaps this is a coincidence?

“the father knew that **it was at that hour**” -> he finds out that his son getting better was not a coincidence

The Faith Effect

John 4:53-54

“...and **he himself believed and his whole household**. This is again a second sign that Jesus performed when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.”

Not just the royal official but the whole household believed in Jesus after this event

We see this pattern often:

-> when the parents believe, the kids come along in belief

-> Sometimes the child believes and then the parents come along in belief

John says this is the second sign -> changing the water into wine in Cana being the first

All of the signs and wonders at the feast in Jerusalem **were just a part of who Jesus is:**

-> He is a healer and care provider

What Do We Learn about Jesus from the Second Sign?

Only God can heal remotely

Prayer of Salvation

Benediction