

The Second Sign

John 4:43-54

Thought for the Day. We are not saved by the strength of our faith; we are saved by the object of our faith.

43 After the two days he departed for Galilee.

- Having completed His mission, Jesus left Samaria and traveled approximately 40 miles north, to the town of Cana in the Roman province of Galilee.

44 (For Jesus himself had testified that a prophet has no honor in his own hometown.)

- A conundrum—this seems to come out of nowhere—until you look at a map. On His way to Cana, Jesus passed through His hometown of Nazareth.
- Luke 4:16-30
 - Vs. 16 – Jesus’ commitment to the synagogue was not legalistic adherence to the Law, but devotion to God and a desire to be in fellowship with God’s people.
 - Hebrews 10:24-25.
 - Recognized as a visiting rabbi, Jesus was invited to read the Scriptures and share a message.
 - Vss. 17-21 – Jesus stood as He found and read Isaiah 61:1-2a.
 - The passage refers prophetically to the ministry of Jesus, the prophesied Messiah of the O.T.
 - Jesus was claiming to be the Messiah.
 - Vs. 22 – A mixed response to Jesus’ announcement: they were not convinced that Jesus was a good candidate to be the Messiah!
 - He did not meet their expectations of what the Messiah would be like. They were looking for a powerful military / political leader to deliver them from Roman rule and oppression.
 - They did not respond in faith, but in unbelief.
 - Vss. 23-27 – As in John 2:24-25, Jesus knew what was in their hearts.
 - Verse 24 echoes John’s comment in John 4:44.
 - Vss. 28-30 – How quickly they turned from marvelling to murdering!
 - Do not be surprised if people react negatively when you suggest that all is not well between them and God—that their sins have alienated them from God and condemned them to hell! (2 Corinthians 2:15-16)
 - If God has not done a work in their hearts and minds to prepare them to receive your message, they will often lash out with anger and hostility.
 - They rejected Jesus and He rejected them! (John 1:9-13; Hebrews 9:27)

45 So when he came to Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him, having seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the feast. For they too had gone to the feast.

- John 2:13-25. They welcomed Him as a miracle worker, but would they welcome Him as the Messiah, the Son of God?

- This miracle marked the beginning of a lengthy time of ministry in Galilee, but this is the only event John records from that time period.

46 So he came again to Cana in Galilee, where he had made the water wine.

- The people of Cana were undoubtedly still talking about Jesus' first miracle and were, no doubt, excited by His return.
- His reputation as a miracle worker was becoming well-known.

And at Capernaum there was an official whose son was ill. 47 When this man heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went to him and asked him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death.

- Capernaum was about 20 miles from Cana.

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

- Jesus' primary mission was not performing miracles. He wanted people to trust in Him for spiritual healing far more than physical healing.
- Jesus was not rebuking this man; rather, He was rebuking the attitude of most of the people, who were only interested in signs and wonders, not the real significance of the signs and wonders.
- "It is characteristic of man that he wants to see before he believes. But the Lord Jesus teaches us that we should first believe, and then we will see. **Signs** and **wonders** both refer to miracles. **Signs** are miracles that have a deep meaning or significance. **Wonders** are miracles that cause men to be amazed by their supernatural qualities." (*MacDonald, p. 1445*)

49 The official said to him, "Sir, come down before my child dies."

- This man was not a sign-seeker; he had a need, and he genuinely believed that Jesus could meet that need.
- Respectfully and with complete faith, he asked Jesus to heal his son.

50 Jesus said to him, "Go; your son will live." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way.

- Instantly, according to verses 52-53, at 20 miles distance, the boy was healed!
- This is the biblical definition of faith: The man believed the word that Jesus spoke. (Rom. 4:18-25 – Abraham was fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.)

51 As he was going down, his servants met him and told him that his son was recovering. 52 So he asked them the hour when he began to get better, and they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." 53 The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." And he himself believed, and all his household. 54 This was now the second sign that Jesus did when he had come from Judea to Galilee.

- The members of his household were not saved on the basis of the faith of the father. They were saved on the basis of their own faith in Jesus Christ.
- Faith in manmade religious rituals will not save you. Faith in the Church will not save you.
- We're not saved by the strength of our faith; we are saved by the object of our faith—the Lord Jesus Christ. (John 20:30-31)
- What are you trusting in to save you? (1 Corinthians 15:1-5)