

## The Second Sign: The Healing of the Nobleman's Son

John 4:43-54

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This account concludes the introduction to Jesus' public ministry in the Gospel of John.

### 1. The Introduction: The Honorless Prophet Returns to Galilee (43-45)

#### a. Jesus' Journey Continues (43):

- i. After Jesus' 2 day ministry in Samaria, He continues His journey to Galilee.
- ii. Jesus' departure from Judea was a rebuke of their unbelief.
- iii. His journey to Galilee was to be a lesson and an illustration of what it means to believe (cf. 3:16).

#### b. The Reason for Jesus' Journey (44-45)

- i. Jesus was received as the Savior of the world in Samaria, but in His own homeland He received no honor (44).
  1. Jesus came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.
  2. "He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (3:11-13).
- ii. Jesus was welcomed by the Galileans because they had seen all that He had done in Jerusalem at the Passover (45).
  1. Their reception of Him was not based in belief of Him as Savior of the World.
  2. Instead, they welcomed Him as a celebrity rather than receiving Him as Savior.
- iii. Jesus returns to Cana of Galilee where He performed the first sign at the wedding (46).
  1. In Cana, Jesus meets an official of the royal family.
  2. This man was most likely an official of Herod Antipas.
  3. This royal official has a son who is sick in Capernaum.

### 2. The Conflict: The Nobleman's Dying Son (47)

- a. When the Nobleman hears that Jesus has arrived in Galilee, he embarks on a 25 mile trek from Capernaum to meet Him.
- b. As the father of a deathly sick child, the Nobleman begs Jesus to come and heal his son.
  - i. Jesus' fame as a miracle worker has begun to spread quickly.
  - ii. The Nobleman shows his desperation by begging Jesus to intervene.

### 3. The Resolution: "Your Son Lives" (48-50)

- a. Jesus uses the opportunity to address the superficial faith of those in His homeland (48).
  - i. Many followed Jesus simply for the signs and wonders that Jesus performed.
  - ii. They believed Him because of what He does for them rather than for Who He is.
  - iii. Jesus delights in intervening on our behalf, but He does so to teach us more about Himself and not merely to meet a need.
- b. The Nobleman again pleads with Jesus to heal his child (49).
  - i. The Nobleman is desperate.
  - ii. His cry of desperation is truly an impassioned prayer.
  - iii. While He doesn't yet recognize Jesus' true identity, he does realize that Jesus has supernatural power.
- c. Jesus responds with His word rather than a sign (50).
  - i. Jesus challenges the Nobleman's faith by commanding him to act upon His word without an accompanying sign.
    1. It is the Word of God that gives life (cf. Matthew 4:4).
    2. It is the Word of God that is the foundation of faith (Romans 10:17).
  - ii. The Nobleman responded in simple faith and obedience.
    1. He believed Jesus' word.
    2. He returned home.

### 4. The Conclusion: The "Sign" of Life (51-54)

- a. The Nobleman's faith is rewarded with the joyous news that his son was alive (51).
  - i. The Nobleman immediately began the 25 mile descent back to Capernaum guided by simple faith.
  - ii. As he was on his way, his servants met him with the wonderful news!
- b. The Nobleman immediately knew that this was the result of Jesus' word, so he asked the time that his son began to improve.

- i. The Nobleman assumes a gradual change.
  - ii. The servants reply that the fever “left” him at the seventh hour, or 1pm.
- c. The Nobleman’s faith is confirmed, and he leads his entire family to faith in Jesus (53).
- d. This second sign proved that Jesus is the mediator of life and faith in His Word is the access to that life (54).
  - i. John 1:4 “In him was life; and the life was the light of men.”
  - ii. John 3:16 “...whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.”
  - iii. John 5:24 “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”
  - iv. John 5:39 “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”
  - v. John 6:63 “the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”
  - vi. John 6:68 “Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou has the words of eternal life.”

Conclusion:

1. Do you have the assurance of eternal life based on the Word of God?
2. Are you pursuing Jesus for what He does for you or for Who He is?
3. As you worship Jesus for what He’s done for you, be sure to worship Him for Who He is!
4. Are you honoring Jesus by obeying His Word, or are you waiting for a sign before you’ll obey?
5. Will you continue to believe God even when your request appears to go unanswered?