



Lesson #15

John 4:43-46a, "Now after the two days He departed from there and went to 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 He did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they also had gone to the feast. So, Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine."

- **A prophet has no honor in his own country:**

- ✓ Galilee was the area where Jesus grew up.
- ✓ Normally...people (even family) do not pay much attention to a person being honored, even well-known to the world, in an area of a city where one lives or went to school. Because these people felt so familiar with Jesus, they did not honor Him in a way they should have. Just think, word had spread about Jesus as to healing the sick
- ✓ I don't know whether it is jealousy or lack of respect for someone who graduated from high-school or college and achieved their fame while living in the same city, it seems that most people have a lack of familiarity with a local standout.
- ✓ Surely the townspeople had heard of Jesus's accomplishments and miracle working power. ***John 2:23, "Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did.***

When did they believe in His name? When they saw the signs.

- Jesus knew that this was thin, **superficial belief**. It wasn't based on anything other than an admiration of the spectacular.
- "Superficial belief"...found in churches all across the world.

- **Having seen all the things He did in Jerusalem at the feast:**

- ✓ It was customary for the Jews in Galilee to go to Jerusalem for the feasts (fulfilling Exodus 23:14-17).
- ✓ This particular time they remembered all that Jesus had done in Jerusalem.

- Jesus also predicted His own resurrection (John 2:18-22) and
- Performed many other unspecified signs when in Jerusalem (John 2:23-25).

NOTE: The enthusiasm of the Galileans was not soundly based. It was dependent on the wonders arising from their sight of the signs, not on a realization that Jesus was indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.

John 4:46b-48, “And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. Then Jesus said to him, “Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe.”

- **A certain nobleman:** Literally, ‘a royal person’... this man was probably an officer of Herod Antipas.”
- **Whose son was sick at Capernaum:**
 - ✓ By this time Jesus had made His home in Capernaum (Matthew 4:13 and John 2:12).
 - ✓ Since Jesus was at Cana (John 4:6a), the nobleman travelled the 20 or so miles from **Capernaum** to Cana.
- **Implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death:**
 - ✓ When your child is sick, you will do anything to try to keep your son alive. The child was at the point of death.
 - ✓ This officer (one of royalty) had heard of Jesus and he, like any parent, came with passion and urgency.
- **Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe:**
 - ✓ Jesus rebuked those who depended on signs and wonders *before* they would believe.
 - ✓ To some of us, this sounded like a harsh rebuke to a parent who was desperate. Jesus just wanted the officer to understand his prestige did not matter to the Healer and Miracle worker.
 - ✓ **You can't buy a miracle.**

Later, in Acts, we find Simon, the Sorcerer, wanting to buy the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:13;17-24 “Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.

Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money and said, “Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.” Peter answered: “May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! You

have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord in the hope that he may forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin. Then Simon answered, “Pray to the Lord for me so that nothing you have said may happen to me.”

- ✓ Signs and wonders can lead a person towards belief in God, and can validate a heavenly messenger – but they can also have no effect on a person, and Satan can also use lying signs and wonders (2 Thessalonians 2:9).
- ✓ Signs and wonders from God are obviously good things, but they should not form the foundation of our faith. We should not depend on them to *prove* God to us. In themselves, signs and wonders cannot change the heart.

John 4:49-50, The nobleman said to Him, “Sir, come down before my child dies!” Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your son lives.” So, the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way.

- **The nobleman said to Him, “Sir, come down before my child dies!**
 - ✓ The nobleman did not appeal to Jesus on the basis of his noble status, but on the basis of his son's great need.
 - ✓ Coming to Jesus as a great and important man would gain him nothing before Jesus.
- **Go your way; your son lives.**
 - ✓ Jesus tested this man's faith; ***encouraging him to believe in Jesus' word alone and not in any outward demonstration of the miraculous.***
 - ✓ Despite the test, *the man took Jesus at His word and departed* (NIV). ***The nobleman demonstrated that true faith is simply taking Jesus at His word.***

NOTE: JESUS' MIRACLE OF HEALING THE BOY WAS NOT AS IMPORTANT AS JESUS' LEADING THE FATHER TO A HEARTFELT FAITH.

 - ✓ **Sometimes people want to see the outward demonstration of the miraculous and, at times...God provides them. However, real faith does not require it.**

John 4:51-54, And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told him, saying, “Your son lives!” Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better. And they said to him, “Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.” So, the father knew that it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, “Your son lives.” And he himself believed, and his whole household. This again is the second sign Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.

- **Your son lives!**

- ✓ The nobleman *believed* it before the evidence. Confirmation was welcomed but the evidence was clearly welcome.
- ✓ One may only imagine how beautiful this news was to the nobleman and to know, **it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, “Your son lives.”**
- ✓ The proof of this miracle was plain and fully demonstrated. The servants were excited and the mother had to “be jumping for joy.” She knew her husband and knew he needed to learn of the news as soon as possible.
- **And he himself believed, and his whole household:**
 - ✓ The miraculous power of Jesus developed greater faith in both the officer (nobleman) and his household. He believed before...but his faith was greater by far by experiencing God’s power.
- **This again is the second sign:**

In the Gospel of John, the **signs** are given to lead the reader to faith.

John 20:29-31, Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

- ✓ **The first sign persuaded His disciples (water into wine).**
- ✓ **The second sign persuaded a Jewish nobleman and his household.**
- ✓ **The Samaritans believed without a sign.**

NOTE:

The first two signs in the Gospel of John took place at Cana of Galilee.

- **The first was at the best party ever – a wedding party.**
- **The second was connected with the worst tragedy ever – the illness and soon death of a child.**

Jesus used both experiences (miracles/signs) to lead people to salvation through His Power of Healing.



Some information gathered from David Guzik website.