

## Sunday Morning Message

May 15, 2022

*The Healing of the Nobleman's Son*

*The Gospel According to John*

Text – John 4:43 - 54

Congregational Reading – John 4:43 - 54

### Introduction

In the last message we looked at the account of Jesus with the woman at the well from John 4:1 – 42. We saw in that story the beautiful conversion of the Samaritan woman, which ultimately led to a great revival there in the city of Sychar with many saved, which caused Jesus to spend two days there.

Now, in v. 43, Jesus is continuing His journey back to Galilee. The event that we have here in the remaining verses of John 4 takes place in Cana, the same city where Jesus did the first miracle of turning the water into wine. The second miracle that Jesus does here in Cana is the healing of the nobleman's son.

Note – Jesus did not perform any miracles in Sychar for the Samaritans, and yet, many of them believed without the miracles. I am sure that they had people there in Sychar who needed to be healed, but Jesus did not heal them. According to vs. 39 – 41, some of the Samaritans believed because of the word of the woman, and then more believed because they listened to the words of Christ (vs. 41 – 42). Paul tells us that *"the Jews require a sign,"* (1 Corinthians 1:22). Jesus said: *"a wicked and adulterous nation seeketh after a sign"* (Matthew 12:39; 16:4; Mark 8:12; Luke 11:29). However, when Jesus was in Samaria with a Gentile crowd, He did not perform miracles, yet the people still believed.

*"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."* (Romans 10:17)

*"[8] For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: [9] Not of works, lest any man should boast."* (Ephesians 2:8-9)

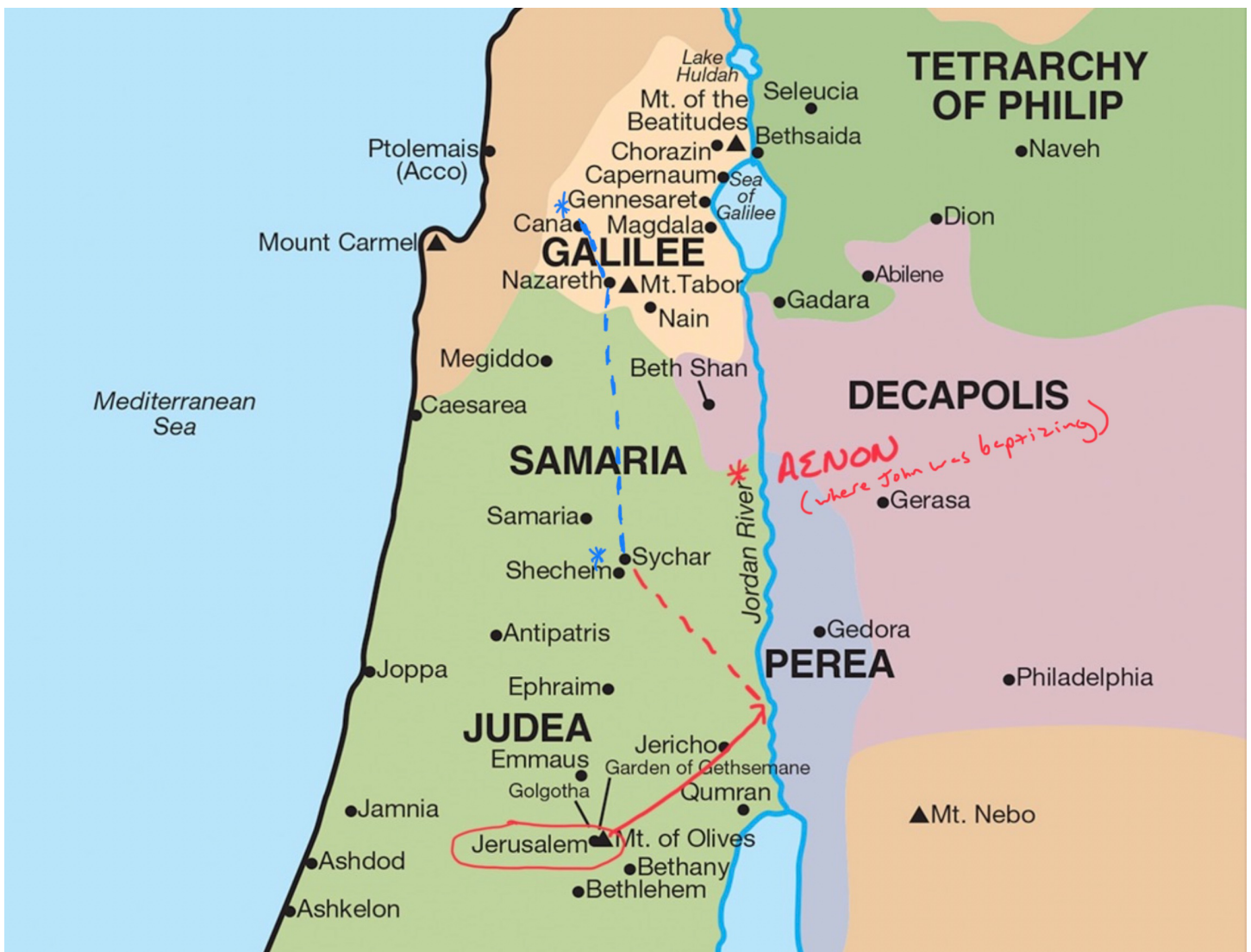
We are saved today through faith in Christ, but it is really through faith in what the Word of God tells us about Christ. I have never seen a miracle like these that were done in Cana, but I believe because of what the Spirit of God convinces me of through the Word of God.

*"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)*

*"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." (1 Peter 1:23)*

### I. A Mixed Reception in Galilee (vs. 43 – 45)

Notice again in verse 43, the phrase *"after two days."* Jesus was on His way back to Galilee from Judaea, but had stopped in Samaria, and because of the many people who were coming to Him for salvation, He stayed there for two days (see Map).



Chronologically, we cannot be sure of the

Notice the phrase in verse 44:

*"For Jesus himself testified, that a prophet hath no honour in his own country." (John 4:44)*

This phrase is also found in Matthew 13:57 and in Mark 6:4:

*"[54] And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works? [55] Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? [56] And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things? [57] And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house. [58] And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief." (Matthew 13:54-58)*

The people that knew Him and His family from Nazareth had a tough time believing that He was the Messiah.

The evidence of this fact is seen clearly from the account in Luke's Gospel where the people of Nazareth try to kill Jesus for the things that He said (See Luke 4:14 – 30).

This event that took place in the synagogue in Nazareth was chronologically either right before, or right after the story of the healing of the Nobleman's son that we are dealing with here in John 4.

So, in Galilee, there were some that believed Him because of the miracles that He did and because of what they had seen Him do and heard Him say back in Jerusalem during the observance of the Passover (v. 45). But there were also some that rejected Him outright. Overall, as a nation, the Jews would reject Him:

*"He came unto his own, and his own received him not." (John 1:11)*

The fact is that anyone who approaches the subject of belief in Jesus with an open heart and an open Bible will come to believe in Him.

*"Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded." (James 4:8)*

*"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." (John 3:19)*

## **II. Miracles Reoccur in Cana (vs. 46 – 54)**

Cana is the place where Jesus performed His first miracle by turning the water into wine. It will be here in Cana where Jesus will heal a second time. This time, the person healed is not present in Cana, however; he is in Capernaum. The person who asks for the healing travels from Capernaum to Cana because he had heard that Jesus was there. This is a very interesting account because it reveals that Jesus' power to heal is not limited by geography. Jesus was physically in Cana, but the person who was healed was in Capernaum.

### **A. The Request of the Nobleman (vs. 46 – 47)**

Nobleman (βασιλικός – *basilikos* – Adj, Nom, Sing, Masc) – literally means someone with royal blood; someone who descends from a king. Here, it could just mean a prominent, wealthy person, possibly a political ruler of some sort.

This man humbled himself a great deal to come to Jesus and ask this. He doesn't send his servant; he goes himself. He travels from Capernaum to this poor village in Galilee, a distance of sixteen miles, to ask a peasant from Nazareth to heal his son.

Note – When you really have a need, you will humble yourself and come to Jesus for help.

The man “besought” Jesus (ἠρώτα from ἐρωτάω – *erōtaō* – Imp [repeated action], Act, Ind, 3<sup>rd</sup>. Per. Sing). This word has the idea of begging. It takes a humble man to beg.

He wanted Jesus to come to Capernaum, because he thought that Jesus would have to be physically present in order to help his son; he would have to touch him, etc.

This is quite a contrast from the understanding and faith of the centurion who would later come to Jesus to request healing for his servant (see Matthew 8:5 – 13). This man knew that Jesus had the power to heal his servant from a distance.

### **B. The Reply of Jesus (v. 48)**

Jesus replies to the man but addresses the crowd. The word “ye” is plural. He is rebuking them for demanding to see signs in order to believe. This village of Cana had already seen or heard of the water being turned into wine.

### **C. The Response of the Nobleman (vs. 49 – 54)**

This nobleman responded in faith. He took Jesus at His word. He believed before He saw. Remember, at this point this man had not personally seen Jesus do anything. He heard

about the previous miracle in Cana, and now Jesus was telling him that his son was healed, but he did not witness the healing, yet he believed. The nobleman's servants reveal that his son was healed at the exact time (1 PM – "the seventh hour") that the man believed.

*"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith." (Hebrews 11:1-7)*

## **Conclusion**

This nobleman expressed faith in what Christ said – faith in the Word of God.

We needed to express faith in the Word of God in order to be saved.

We need to continue to express our faith in the Word of God and we need to increase our faith.

*"And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith. And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you." (Luke 17:5-6)*

### **1. Faith is increased through examining the Word of God.**

Read it

*"Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand." (Revelation 1:3)*

Study it

*"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)*

Meditate Upon it

*"I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. ... My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate in thy statutes. ... Mine eyes prevent the night watches, that I might meditate in thy word." (Psalm 119:15, 48, 148)*

Memorize it

*"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." (Psalm 119:11)*

Obey it

*"Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known."  
(Deuteronomy 11:26-28)*

2. **Faith is increased through exercise.** Faith is stretched when we take God at His word, and do what He says, and then we see Him respond in blessing.

*"For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." (Hebrews 5:12-14)*

You Learn the Word

You Apply the Word

You Grow in Faith