

The GOSPEL of JOHN

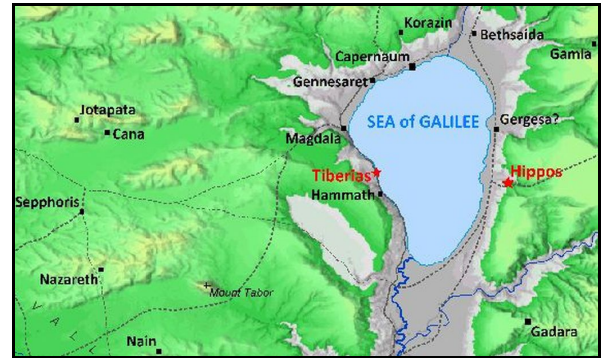
THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE

John 4:46-54

12/23/18 PM

THE SECOND MIRACLE

Introduction:



I. THE AGONIZED PLEA (4:45-50)

A. Return to Cana (vs. 46a)

“Therefore He came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine.”

Thomas Constable’s chiasmus:

- A Jesus’ first sign in Cana (2:1-11)
- B A reference to Capernaum, Jesus’ headquarters (2:12)
- C Hostility toward Jesus in Jerusalem (2:13-25)
- D Nicodemus’ response to Jesus (3:1-15)
- E The importance of Jesus’ mission (3:16-36)
- D’ The Samaritan woman’s response to Jesus (4:1-38)
- C’ Acceptance of Jesus in Samaria (4:39-42)
- B’ A reference to Galilee, Jesus’ major ministry arena (4:43-45)
- A’ Jesus’ second sign in Cana (4:46-54)

B. Request from Capernaum (vs. 46b-47)

“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”

C. Rebuke from Christ (vs. 48)

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

D. Response of the Commander (vs. 49)

“The royal official said to Him, ‘Sir, come down before my child dies.’”

II. THE ASTONISHING PROOF (4:50-53)

A. Restoration of the Boy (vs. 50-51)

“Jesus said to him, ‘Go, your son lives.’”

“the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and started off”

“as he was now going down, his slaves met him, saying that his son was living”

B. Redemption of the Household (vs. 52-53)

“so he inquired of them the hour when he began to get better”

“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.’”

“he himself believed and his whole household”

Postscript: (vs. 54)

“this is again a second sign that Jesus performed when He had come out of Judea into Galilee”

Conclusion:

John’s cautions on miracles:

- 1) too much interest in miracles can be spiritually dangerous (2:23-25)
- 2) miracles sought for personal gain are a betrayal of God’s approval (6:26-27)
- 3) genuine miracles have an apologetic value (14:11; 10:38) but do not inevitably produce faith (11:45-46)
- 4) miracles can be counterfeited (e.g. the “finger of God”)

J.C. Ryle’s lessons from this text:

- 1) the rich have afflictions as well as the poor
- 2) sickness and death come to the young as well as to the old
- 3) what benefits affliction can confer on the soul
- 4) that Christ’s word is as good as Christ’s presence