

The Gospel of John

Jesus Heals the Nobleman's Son

John 4:43-54

After leaving Samaria, Christ returns to Galilee. He has become a well-known figure now and people are seeking Him out. Here we have recorded a miracle performed by Christ on a child many miles away.

The Setting

- Christ is returning from Judaea after His stop in Samaria.
- He is headed to Cana, site of His first miracle – John 2:1-11
- Many people here have heard and seen Him as He has presented Himself in both Galilee and Jerusalem.

The Story

- After spending two days in Samaria, Christ heads to Galilee – 45 miles? – vs. 43
- He appears to avoid His hometown of Nazareth – vs. 44
 - It will shortly reject Him – Mark 6:1-4; Luke 4:16-31
- He receives a warm welcome in Galilee – vs. 45
- Many believed on Him after His actions at the recent Passover – vs. 45
 - There, He cleansed the Temple, performed miracles, and met with Nicodemus.
 - Covered in John 2:13-3:21
- Jesus returns to Cana and meets a certain nobleman – vs. 46
 - He would be an official in the court of Herod Antipas
 - From Capernaum
 - About 18 miles from Cana on the northwest shore of Sea of Galilee
 - Typical travel on foot in one day was 20-25 miles
 - Sat on trade route, probably where Matthew was called – Matthew 9:9
 - Home of Peter and Andrew – Mark 1:29
 - Christ based much of His ministry here after John the Baptist's death
 - Christ performed many miracles there – Matthew 11:23
- The nobleman had a son near death – vs. 47
- Christ rebukes not only the man but all Galileans – vs. 48
 - Remember that the Samaritans earlier in the chapter believed without witnessing a miracle.
- The Nobleman still asks Christ to come – vs. 49
 - He did believe Christ could heal his son:
 - He came a long way to seek Him

- He asked Him to do it
- He still lacked some faith
 - He thought Christ had to be with son to heal him
 - He probably sought a “sign” in a showy healing
- The bottom line is whether he truly believed in Christ or what Christ could do.
- Jesus says the son is healed, the man believes and leaves – vs. 50
- On the way back to Capernaum, he finds out his son is healed – vs. 51
- The healing took place about 1:00 p.m., the same time Christ had spoken to him! – vs. 52-53
- His family believed in Christ as a result of the miracle – vs. 53
- This is His second miracle at Cana, not His second miracle (compare to 2:23) – vs. 54