

Faith, I Believe

- New testament

- Pistis = faith (noun)
 - I have faith
 - Eventually also meant creed, “The faith”: the things which we hold to be true.
- Pisteuo = I believe (verb)
- Salvation faith
 - More than intellectual nod to historical facts
 - Personal activity that aligns the thoughts and feelings of the believer with the faith object (Jesus) and His work on the believer’s behalf.

John 4:50

Jesus said to him, “Go; your son lives.”
The man believed the word that
Jesus spoke to him and started off.

Our passage for today is: John 4:43-54

- Introduction to the Gospel of John.

- Written by John, disciple of Jesus, son of Zebedee, Beloved disciple (humble).
- May have known of the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. But is most intimate of the gospels.
- May have taken some time to write, likely written towards the last quarter of the 1st century.

- Reason for writing and specifically for writing about signs:

John 20:30,31

Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

John 21:25

And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written.

John’s telling of miracles in the gospel

- There are a total of about 35 miracles in the gospels.
- John tells 7 of the “signs.”
- Only John records the first miracle (sign) of turning water into wine.
- It is significant to John because of the effect:

John 2:11 This beginning of His signs
Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and
manifested His glory, and His disciples
believed in Him.

What are the seven signs?

- Changing water into wine at the wedding at Cana (Jn 2:1-11);
- Healing the royal official's son (Jn 4:46-54);
- Healing the paralyzed man at the pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem (Jn 5:1-15);
- Feeding the 5,000 (Jn 6:5-14);
- Walking on water (Jn 6:16-21);
- Healing the man born blind (Jn 9:1-7);
- Raising Lazarus from the dead (Jn 11:1-45).

Last week: Miracle at Wedding in Cana

- Jesus and disciples invited to wedding.
- Wedding banquet runs out of wine!
- Jesus requests that the ceremonial jars (6 jars at 20 to 30 gallons each) be filled with water. Jesus turns the water into the best wine.
- Jesus tells us what we can do. Then He does what only He can do.
- Jesus manifested His glory and His disciples believed in Him.
 - This is the reason for the sign. The wedding banquet is over and the wine is all gone now. Jesus is the King of nature.

Let's set the stage for our passage

- After the miracle (sign) at the wedding in Cana, Jesus, His mother, His brothers, and His disciples go to Capernaum for a few days.
- As the Passover was at hand, they go to Jerusalem. Jesus clears the temple of the moneychangers. Jesus did signs, and more believed.
- John 2:24,25: But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men, and because He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man.
- Jesus has an extended conversation with Nicodemus (ch 3).
- Jesus and the disciples travel to Judea, where John the Baptist is baptizing.

What happens next (John 4)?

- Jesus leaves Judea, starts to go to Galilee.
- Goes through Samaria. The disciples go to the village for provisions. Jesus meets a woman at a well in mid-day and has an extended discussion with her.
- Woman goes back to the village, talks about Jesus, and brings back the village! They become believers! Jesus is satisfied!
- The disciples bring back lunch.
- Jesus finishes in Samaria in a few days, and journeys on to Galilee.



John 4:43-45

⁴³ After the two days He went forth from there into Galilee. ⁴⁴ For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country. ⁴⁵ So when He came to Galilee, the Galileans received Him, having seen all the things that He did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they themselves also went to the feast.

John 4:46-48

⁴⁶ Therefore He came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a royal official whose son was sick at Capernaum. ⁴⁷ 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. ⁴⁸ So Jesus said to him, “Unless you *people* see signs and wonders, you *simply* will not believe.”

John 4:49-52

⁴⁹ The royal official *said to Him, “Sir, come down before my child dies.” ⁵⁰ Jesus *said to him, “Go; your son lives.” The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and started off. ⁵¹ As he was now going down, *his* slaves met him, saying that his son was living. ⁵² So he inquired of them the hour when he began to get better. Then they said to him, “Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.”

John 4:53-54

⁵³ So the father knew that *it was* at that hour in which Jesus said to him, “Your son lives”; and he himself believed and his whole household. ⁵⁴ This is again a second sign that Jesus performed when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.

Understanding the geography...

- Map of the Galilee region in Northern Israel:
- Nazareth is where Jesus is born.
- Cana is where the miracle of the water into wine was performed.
- Capernaum is about a 4 hour ride from Cana.



No honor in His own country? (4:44)

- Vs 45: saw the signs in Jerusalem and followed Jesus for more of same.
- John 1:11 (KJV); He came into His own, and His own received Him not.
- Why not?
 - Problem of familiarity?
 - Problem of pride?
 - Problem of entitlement?
- Wanting the gifts rather than the giver.
- Putting God's plan and God into a predefined box.
 - Messiah is a military and political leader.
 - Only that. Nothing more. Nothing less. Nothing else.

“No sign. No belief.” Vs. 48

- Jesus is speaking to either the Galileans, (presumably who also went to the feast in Jerusalem) or the class of noblemen. “You” is plural, which means it is not specifically addressed to this nobleman.
- How can I welcome without welcoming?
- How can I believe without believing?
- Miracle is a hurdle over which God must jump before I believe in Him, and then only as long as God continues to perform miracles at my request?

An anguished father

- Royal Nobleman (Manaen, foster brother of Herod Acts 31:1?, Chuza, steward of Herod, husband of Joanna Luke 8:3).
- Uses plain language: “Sir, come down before my child dies.”
- What is his belief structure?
- Jesus response, “Go, your son is living.”
 - Partial granting. Partial denial.
- Nobleman's response?
- Faith is not just demonstrated by what we are feeling. Faith is not just demonstrated in our knowing. Faith is demonstrated in our obedience (sometimes beyond what I feel and know).

Confirmation that God is at work.

- Servants meet him, ***the next day***, to tell the Nobleman the news.
 - What is significant about the next day?
 - 7th hour, fever leaves the boy.
 - 7th hour is about 1:00 PM.
 - 18 miles is about a 4 hour horse ride.
- God's timing is always perfect. Rarely early.

What are our takeaways?

- Jesus is not a ***magical*** miracle worker. It is about God's glory and my relationship to Jesus that matters. The reason for the miracle has to be to point to God (and not point to me or my faith).
- I need to seek the giver more than the gift. Eventually, the miracles that I want will fade.
- Sometimes we come to God with our preconceived notions on how He is supposed to help us. This can limit what God can want to do.
- Everything that is happening in my life can be used to enhance my relationship to Jesus.
- We are called to obey what we already know. Whatever the next step is in my relationship with Jesus is my call to obedience.