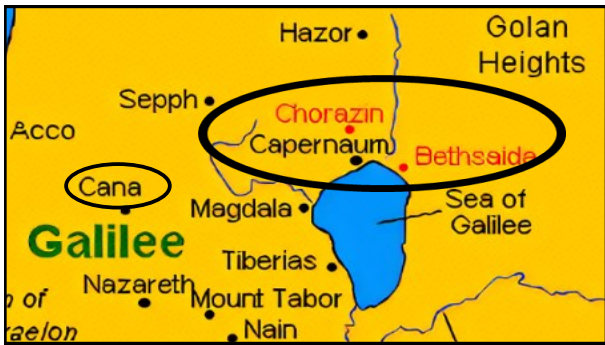


The Gospel of John

The Gospel of John

Lesson #45
The Journey
Jim Hoffman

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The Gospel of John

Bearing in mind that not everything God does for us is a miracle. How many of you have seen what you believe was a bonafide miracle? A no doubt about it, the laws of nature were overcome, only God could do that sort of thing, miracle.

3

The Gospel of John

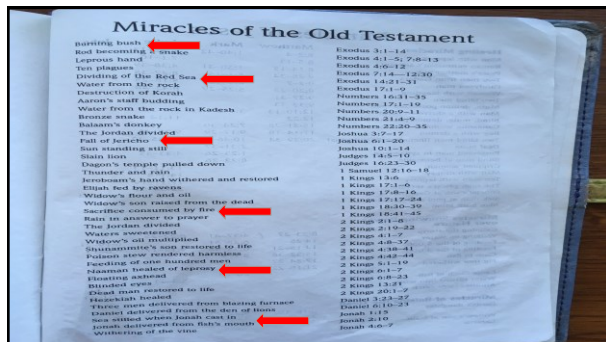
- Jesus gives the official what could be construed to be a rather harsh reply - "Unless you people see signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe."
- Jesus tells us about the spiritual climate in Cana – they were willing to be entertained by signs and wonders, but probably not much more.
- They were interested in a show if they could see one, but do they find anything wondrous about the Lord himself? 4

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The Gospel of John

This is my big disappointment with the modern church - if God is moving sufficiently to please us, our interest is peaked and many will run to where the "action" is, but not so much otherwise. The arrogance of a generation of Christians who want God to work only in ways that please us is disturbing.

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The Gospel of John

- God performed miracle after miracle for the Jews in the Old Testament and those miracles became so common, they were all but ignored.
- Who performed more miracles than Jesus and the vast majority of those he healed were no where to be found after Palm Sunday?
- Why is that many of our Brethren think miracles today would yield a different result?

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The Gospel of John

Think of the people you've prayed for and saw healed, directly or indirectly. Now go through the same list and tell me how many were noticeably changed or converted after being healed. Is it many or few?

8

The Gospel of John

Some we pray for never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity.

9

The Gospel of John

As the church was forming, there is anecdotal evidence that miracles brought masses of people to believe in and trust Christ. However, by the time we get to 50 A.D. James did not write, "call for the healer", he wrote, "call for the Elders to pray over the one who is sick".

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The Gospel of John

Acts 9:32 As Peter traveled about the country, he went to visit the Lord's people who lived in Lydda. 33 There he found a man named Aeneas, who was paralyzed and had been bedridden for eight years. 34 "Aeneas," Peter said to him, "Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and roll up your mat." Immediately Aeneas got up. 35 All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

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The Gospel of John

Acts 9:40 Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. 41 He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. 42 This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

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The Gospel of John

But narrative is not necessarily normative. God parted the Red Sea and halted the Jordan, but if you want to cross either today you will get wet.

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The Gospel of John

Acts 2:22 Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— 23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

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The Gospel of John

Luke 16:30 And he said, “No, father, Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ 31 He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”

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The Gospel of John

There is actual scriptural proof that proclaiming the Word is what brings people into the kingdom.

16

The Gospel of John

Romans 10:14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" 17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

17

The Gospel of John

- Jesus does heal the official's son, but he doesn't provide the "show" some of those around him wanted.
- There are many Christians today who are unimpressed when the Lord uses what we would see as ordinary means to heal.
- **"Yesterday, at one in the afternoon, the fever left him."** – this healing was a miracle, but those watching the boy probably didn't see it as one.

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The Gospel of John

- If you have been following our class prayer reports, you are aware we've seen a lot of prayers answered with a "YES"!
- Were they miracles? Only God knows for sure, but the very fact that a sick one became well is all that matters to me.
- For certain we can claim God caused some things to happen that otherwise may not have happened without our asking.

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The Gospel of John

- John 4:50 Jesus said to him, "Go; your son will live." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way.
- The official had been asking Jesus to heal his son and when Jesus says, "Go, your son will live" he is faced with somewhat of a dilemma.
- He was being asked to take Jesus at his word that his son would live with no tangible, in-hand evidence.

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The Gospel of John

The Roman official will head for home with nothing but the words of Jesus. One of these days we will all do likewise.

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The Gospel of John

- In verse #50 we read, “The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way” – he went to Jesus because he “believed” Jesus could do miraculous healings.
- He is now going away “believing” the words Jesus spoke – what words? He believed Jesus could command bodies to heal and so he believed what Jesus said about his son.
- He believed Jesus could heal his son like we might believe a competent mechanic can fix our car.

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The Gospel of John

John 20:30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

The miracles Jesus did were to authenticate his deity.

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The Gospel of John

- The official is “getting there”, but he is not there yet – he believed Jesus could miracles, now he is believing Jesus’ words that his son would be well.
- But believing Jesus can do miracles takes exactly no faith as there are few things in all of history that are attested to more clearly than Jesus of Nazareth healing people.
- This Roman Official will be saved, but he is not saved yet – believing Jesus can do miracles does not save.

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The Gospel of John

- John 4:51 As he was going down, his servants met him and told him that his son was recovering. 52 So he asked them the hour when he began to get better, and they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." 53 The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." And he himself believed, and all his household. 54 This was now the second sign that Jesus did when he had come from Judea to Galilee.
- The man's prayer had been answered long before he knew about the answer.

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The Gospel of John

The next time you hear someone say, "I've been praying and praying, and God is just not answering" take them to John 4:53 and show them how answers to our prayers are often set in motion way before we know it.

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The Gospel of John

Luke 18:3 And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' 4 "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'" 6 And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. 7 And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?

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The Gospel of John

Acts 16:34 The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

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The Gospel of John

In the book of The Acts of the Apostles we read of a great revival in Samaria and of how they were the second people group to receive the Holy Spirit – what we have seen in John 4 is the foundation laid by Jesus for the saving of many souls.

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The Gospel of John

I wonder if there were more preaching and teaching about the utter magnificence of God would the church still long for miracles, signs, and wonders?

There are times when I get so lost in the magnificence of God, that I cannot imagine wanting more than him. Sometimes I sing, sometimes I utter a word of praise, but mostly I just smile a lot and say, "Thank you, Jesus".

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