

The Gospel of John

The Gospel of John

Lesson #43
The Journey
Jim Hoffman

1

The Gospel of John

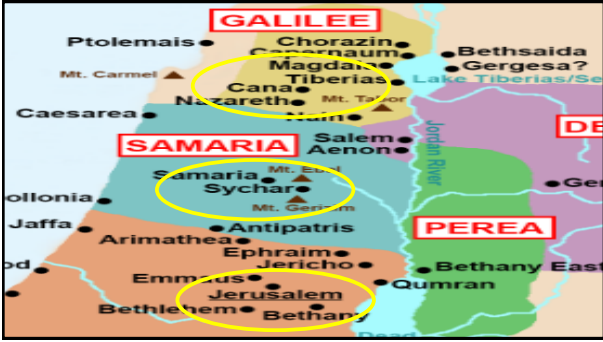
If you knew your ailing father, mother, or friend was unsaved and dying of some disease, would you want them to be healed?

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The Gospel of John

John 4:43 After the two days he left for Galilee. 44 (Now Jesus himself had pointed out that a prophet has no honor in his own country.) 45 When he arrived in Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him. They had seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, for they also had been there.

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The Gospel of John

- He is now back in Cana, near to his hometown of Nazareth – this was the site of his first miracle.
- When he changed the water to wine his life changed from that of being this oddly perfect person to being recognized as at least a great prophet to some and God to others.
- His first experience in Cana was a good one – this one is unfolding, and we can be certain the news of what he was doing down in Judea had reached Cana.

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The Gospel of John

- In verse 44 Jesus refers to “a prophet has no honor in his own country”.
- Usually, we are received better at home among our friends and acquaintances at least until we achieve an elevated position that garners the recognition of the crowds.
- When the hometown person begins to grow in notoriety that person’s friends and acquaintances often begin to treat him with a bit of doubt and contempt.

6

The Gospel of John

- This is such a truism that it even applied to Jesus –
- **Matt 13:57 And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own town and in his own home." 58 And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.**
- We discount that which we see everyday – what is seen often becomes common and all but invisible like great weather in San Diego and crime in Chicago.

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- John 4:46 Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. 47 When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death.
- Every where Jesus goes from this point forward, he will be met with great needs, growing fame, and finally great resistance and hatred.

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- Who was this royal official? Some speculate he was Chuza, the husband of Joanna who helped meet the practical needs of Jesus and his cohort.
- **Luke 8:3 Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.**
- We cannot be certain as to his identity, but we do know he was politically connected and more importantly to the text he has a son who was deathly ill.

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- This man is in a very vulnerable spot – he has a son on his deathbed who evidently could not be healed with the normal medicines of the day.
- He heard of Jesus’ power to heal and do miracles, so he comes to him for help – he is an unsaved man who has come to the end of his resources and seeks help from Jesus.
- What an absolutely wonderful to place to be – that place where you can’t help yourself and neither can anyone else.

10

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What I called “absolutely wonderful” is never seen as wonderful by the person in need. They would say it is “absolutely awful” to be in such pain especially when there is no apparent relief on the way. However, those conditions are such that if God is ever going to be welcomed into a life – well, that is the place!

11

The Gospel of John

It is highly probable everyone in this room has a problem that cannot be solved on your own and in fact can only be solved by God himself. Identify it and embrace it for that thing, that problem, reminds you everyday that you are insufficient on your own – welcome to life in sin scarred world!

12

The Gospel of John

- John tells us the Roman official “begged” Jesus for help – begging is not something a politically connected official in the Roman empire is used to doing.
- And yet that is what he is willing to do if it would bring healing to his son.
- Things look bleak now, but if he could only see into the future, he would be doubly blessed to see that his son will not just “live”, but live forever.

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- You can see the lack of depth to the official’s knowledge of God in general and Jesus in particular.
- He thinks Jesus is limited to only hands-on healings by asking him to go with him to his son – it probably never occurred to him Jesus could heal his son from afar.
- He is a good example of the ignorance of God we see all around us everyday – basic Bible doctrines have been lost in our culture as we become more and more secularized.

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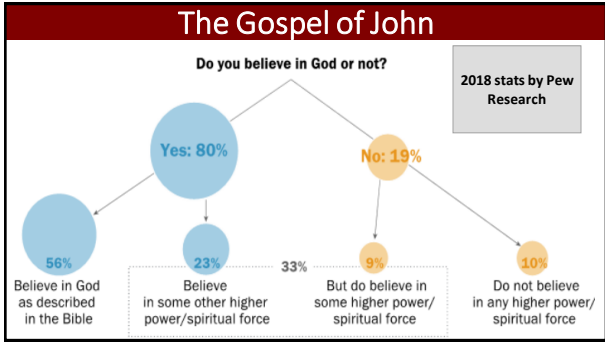
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The Gospel of John

- I grew up in a secular home, but somehow even I got to Sunday School enough to acquire a respect for God and some idea of his power.
- A basic working knowledge that God is great, and God is good was once ingrained into the culture.
- Maybe the best piece of evidence for my point is the percentage of people on the street who believed God existed. (98% in 1960 according to Gallup, today 56%)

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The official and his son will be there in heaven for us to meet one day, but have you ever wondered if Jesus healed people who will not be in heaven?

Matthew 15:16 Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. And many followed him, and he healed them all.

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For the people whom Jesus healed, but never received him, what impact might their healing have on their eternity?

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If you knew your ailing father, mother, or friend was unsaved, dying of some disease, and would never come to Christ, would you want them to be healed?

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Now let's revisit these verses considering our current discussion - Matt 13:57 And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own town and in his own home." 58 And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

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Questions?

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