
THE MOVE TO GALILEE | JOHN 4:43-45

- It is possible that Jesus' departure coincided with the arrest of John the Baptist. Both Matthew and Mark indicate that Jesus' Galilean ministry began when John was arrested (Matthew 4:12, Mark 1:14).
- Jesus had had a very successful visit in Judea (where He was so popular that he needed to leave to avoid confrontation with the Pharisees) and Samaria (where many believed and encouraged Him to stay).
- The Galileans, unlike the Samaritans, were orthodox Jews, and had been with Jesus in Jerusalem to know of His miracles there (see John 2:23)
- Verse 44 is parenthetical, and explains the motive of Jesus' return to Galilee. With the miracles of Judah, His own country was now ready to receive Him with honor.

A MIRACLE REQUESTED | JOHN 4:46-47

- *Therefore* Jesus came to Cana. He was going to his own country, beginning in Cana, where He had friends or family.
- A "nobleman" (one connected with the King) had a dying child in nearby Capernaum, and requested healing. Who was this Nobleman?
 - Possibly Chuzas (Luke 8:3)
 - Possibly Manaen (Acts 13:1)
- The man began to "besought." The verb is simply "to ask" but the tense is the "imperfect active," meaning to ask, and ask, and ask again.
- The man was in a place where only a miracle would save his son. In such a place, asking for miracles from the Lord is exactly the right thing to do.

A POOR STANDARD | JOHN 4:48

- Jesus pronounced a blessing on those who see without signs.
- It would be an incorrect conclusion to say that those who believe *only* because they saw a sign have an inadequate belief.
 - John 12:37 is a chastisement to those who saw signs and did not believe.
 - John 20:28-31 tells us that signs were written so that we would believe.
 - John 4:54 tells us this is the second (of seven) recorded signs in John's Gospel.
- What to do with the signs of Scripture: recognize that they are always for the purpose of providing supporting evidence, never for the sake of the blessing provided.
- What to do about signs today: ask if there is a need for further supporting evidence in the validity of Scripture.

THE SECOND SIGN | JOHN 4:49-54

- The nobleman heeded the earlier words of Jesus, and believed without seeing.
- During his journey home, he met with his servants, who told him that the healing had taken place at precisely the hour when Jesus pronounced it.
- The entire household believed (v. 53). The Greek language does not have a past tense. The aorist tense, used here, conveys something that took place at a moment in time. Based on this event, the entire household came to the point of faith in Jesus Christ, whether altogether (doubtful) or one-by-one.