

## **Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ The Nobleman from Capernaum**

Last time...the fruit of Jesus Christ's appointment with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well...  
Jesus' two-day Samaritan ministry (only in the Gospel of John)

This time...the start of Jesus' Galilean ministry  
We are still in the Gospel of John, Chapter 4

v43 after two days...went into Galilee:  
[ map: Jurisdictions ]

Jesus Christ's Samaritan ministry ends and His Galilean ministry begins  
Timestamp: 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 1<sup>st</sup> year of His ministry (2<sup>nd</sup> 6 months)

This new chapter is different than the previous chapters  
1<sup>st</sup> 6 months: characterized by obscurity  
2<sup>nd</sup> 6 months: characterized by popularity

In Luke, Jesus' transition to the Galilean ministry is [Luke 4:14-15](#)  
Jesus is moving and ministering in the power of God the Holy Spirit  
He is preaching Mark 1:15  
He will be healing the blind, deaf, lame, demon-possessed...all who come

His Galilean ministry is recorded in half of the Gospels of Matthew and Mark  
and in one fourth of the Gospel of Luke

v44-45 a prophet has no honor...received Him:  
The Samaritans had heard and believed that He was the Messiah...  
would the Jews, to whom He was sent?

The Apostle John, recording what the Holy Spirit inspired him to write in the  
90s...60 years after all these events...  
prefaces the Lord's Galilean ministry with the Lord's personal testimony of it,  
recorded in Matt 13:57

Jesus testified that He, The Prophet promised by Moses, would be no  
different than the other prophets He had sent – they were not  
received in their own hometown and family and neither would He

Note: I am not received by my family either...are you?

How did the Galileans, including the residents of Jesus' hometown of Nazareth, receive Him?

With excitement and open arms...His "fame" preceded Him

The Galileans were eyewitnesses of Jesus'

- cleansing of the Temple, taking on the oppressive and corrupt priesthood
- many miracles in Jerusalem during that Passover season
- turning the water into wine at a marriage feast in Cana

Was Jesus wrong?

Did Jesus, the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, know "the end of the story"?

We will see in our next study how He was received in His hometown (rejected)

v46-47 again into Cana...a certain nobleman:

Jesus does not start His Galilean ministry in His hometown but walks around it to Cana, where He turned the water into wine at the marriage feast

Why did He go back to Cana vs go "home"?

- 1 of His 5 disciples, Nathaniel, is from Cana (others from Bethsaida)
- He taught in the synagogue there and had another appointment in Cana
- it was not the Father's time yet for Jesus to go to Nazareth

Jesus' appointment in Cana was with

- a nobleman
  - an officer in the government of Herod Antipas
  - a Roman Gov't official
    - Civil?
    - Military?
- from Capernaum
  - the seat of gov't for the province of Galilee
    - a garrison of Roman soldiers
    - a Roman tax station on the Via Maris trade route
  - a sizable Jewish synagogue

When this unnamed (his name is not important, only Jesus' name is important) gov't official hears that Jesus of Nazareth is in Cana (His fame had spread all over Galilee), he sets out from Capernaum to Cana to see Him

Why?

- his son was near death due to an unspecified illness
- he believed Jesus could heal his son
- to beg Jesus to return to Capernaum to heal his son

#### Historical/Religious background

There are instances in the Talmud...

Jewish commentary on the Scripture, Jewish traditions...

what the Rabbis said vs what God said...

were persons seriously ill to the point of death were healed by the prayers  
of a celebrated Rabbi

#### What have we learned about this nobleman?

1. He loves his son – a good father, not a dead-beat dad
2. He is desperate and urgent for a healing for his son
3. He has faith in Jesus...faith that Jesus is able to heal his son

Proof: action vs words...what he did vs said

The walk from Cana to Capernaum

- 20-25 miles
- Approx 1500 feet up in elevation  
from 700 ft below sea level to 800 ft above sea level

4. He is most likely Jewish

[ Map Cana Capernaum Nazareth ]

[ Nazareth Capernaum Road ]

[ Nazareth Capernaum Elevation ]

[ Sea of Galilee Arbel pass ]

[ Mount Beatitudes to Arbel ]

[ Mt Arbel Capernaum ]

v48 Except ye see...ye will not believe:

The nobleman finds Jesus and makes his impassioned plea to heal his son before he dies.

Jesus' response seems rather harsh, sounds like a rebuke.

But...to whom is Jesus speaking?

The Gr word translated "him" can mean "him" singular or "them" plural  
He is speaking to the Jewish crowd that has gathered around Him...  
not to the nobleman

How do we know that?

1. "ye" is the plural form of "you" ("thee" is the singular)  
Where do we read the more precise "ye" vs "you"?  
Only in the KJV (NASB, NKJV, NIV add "people")
2. The nobleman has demonstrated his faith in Jesus by his actions

Speaking to the man but addressing the Jewish crowd gathered, Jesus rebukes their unbelief...not his

The Jews were given the Law and the Prophets...the Word of God

Yet they will not believe unless they...see with their eyes

This is NOT faith (Heb 11:1)

Did the Samaritans require signs and wonders to believe?

No...just the words of Jesus Christ

Did the Jews require signs and wonders to believe?

Yes...but no – even with signs and wonders they did not believe

v49 Sir, come down:

How does the (Jewish) nobleman address Jesus Christ?

Sir...greeting of respect to one who has authority

The Gr word is translated most usually "lord"

Also translated "master" or "sir"

So whereas the nobleman has faith that this master can heal his son,  
he does not have a complete understanding of the Identity of Jesus  
(of Nazareth)

- not just "lord" but The LORD of lords
- God become man
- The Son of God
- The Messiah

The nobleman sees and hears that Jesus was not speaking to him in v48 but to the crowd

So he brings the conversation back to him and his desperate request

"Please come down (elevation) to Capernaum with me before my son dies."

What does the nobleman believe about Jesus, as it relates to His ability to heal his son?

Jesus is able to...but that Jesus must be Personally present to heal his son  
Further evidence that he is still ignorant as to the Identity, nature, and character of Jesus

How does Jesus Christ respond?

v50a Go thy way:

Did Jesus pray like a celebrated Rabbi in the Talmud?

Did Jesus wave His hand...and knock the official over, as seen on TV?

Did Jesus go to Capernaum with this desperate gov't official?

Within earshot of all in the crowd, Jesus just speaks to the nobleman..."thy"  
"Go home, your son lives."

A radical teaching moment –

This "celebrated Rabbi" can heal

- by merely speaking...or even thinking
- from a distance

His Personal presence is NOT required

His prayer is NOT required

He Personally had the power to heal...anywhere, anytime

He is much greater than any "celebrated Rabbi"...

He is God (according to the Law and the Prophets)

Num 12:13 Moses pleading with the Lord to heal his sister of leprosy...by His Word at a great distance

Deut 32:39 "I wound and I heal"

Ps 6:2 David cries out for the Lord to heal him

Jer 17:14 "Heal me, Lord, and I will be healed."

Hosea 6:1 End times cry of Israel: "Come, let us return to the Lord for He has torn and He will heal us."

He is teaching the nobleman...and the crowd...that He is God the Healer  
Who will believe?

v50b the man believed the word:

The nobleman believes the word spoken by Jesus

Proof: actions...what he did

The gov't official does not

- contend...insisting that Jesus return with him in Person
- see his son healed
- seek a sign or wonder that his son is in fact healed
- understand how he could be healed
- doubt...he believes he has been given what he came to get – healing for his son

The gov't official simply...by faith...turns to go home, another walk of 20-25 miles down 1500 feet in elevation

The nobleman came to Cana to beg Jesus to heal his son, who otherwise will die  
What was this man's "Plan B"?

He did not have one...he was "all in" with Jesus

(even though his understanding of Jesus was far from complete)

v51-53 Thy son liveth:

As the gov't official was on the way home, he is met by servants coming to him with Good News: his son lives!

Just as Jesus had said...when Jesus said it

He had walked 40-50 miles up and down...Jesus had but spoken

Who could heal over a great distance by merely speaking?

By the nobleman's testimony and by the evidence of the power of Jesus' words, his whole family now believes

The nobleman's faith in Jesus of Nazareth has grown

He has grown from faith in the power of Jesus (v47) to

1. faith in His Word (v50)
2. then faith in His Person (v53)

As we engage with Jesus Christ, our faith is led ever higher...  
to the point of absolute trust in Who He is

v54 the second miracle...out of Judea into Galilee:

A 2<sup>nd</sup> miracle of Jesus performed in Galilee...also in Cana  
(even though the boy was in Capernaum)

And the "fame" of Jesus grows in Galilee

Lessons from this appointment with the nobleman from Capernaum:

1. Come

- All who come to Jesus get help from Jesus
- Jesus can help from a great distance...even from heaven at RHotF
- Jesus can help by merely speaking...He need not be on-site, in Person
- Jesus helps
  - Jews and Gentiles
  - religious and secular
  - common citizens and gov't officials...the small and the great
  - poor and rich
  - without material reward
    - unlike the doctors and the Pharisees and “celebrated Rabbis”
    - His reward: v53b
- Come just as you are...just come!

2. Go

- By faith in His Word
  - Luke 16:19-31
  - John 20:29
  - Unlike the world that is about to see mighty signs and wonders...and still not believe (Rev 6:12-17)
- By faith in His Person...Who He is...without a Plan B
  - Trusting your eternal soul to Jesus Christ means...
    - Not having a Plan B...all or nothing (Word: all!)
    - Being “all in”, “sold out”, nothing held back (Acts 5)
  - Following Jesus Christ means...
    - No Plan B, no exit strategy regardless of circumstance
    - John 14:6...where is Plan B in that?
    - John 10:27-30...what exit strategy is needed?
- Commit
  - If we do not commit, we do not believe or we are weak in the faith
    - John 6:28-29
    - Mark 9:23-24                      Jesus will help!
  - Gal 2:16...”ek” (Gr) = “origin, from” is translated ”of” (KJV)
    - Hanging on the Cross, Jesus Christ was committed to the will of the Father (Matt 26:39, Matt 27:46...never before)
  - Eph 2:8-9
    - We are saved by the grace of God through faith, and that not of ourselves (it is the gift of God, Rom 12:3), not of works (lest we boast, vs 1 Cor 1:31)
    - If we were saved by our faith, it salvation would be our work we are saved by grace through Jesus’ faith, a gift of God

Jesus committed His life (Luke 23:46)...so must we, by the faith of Jesus Christ