

Lesson VII. JESUS HEALS THE NOBLEMAN'S SON February 16, 1908

BETWEEN THE LESSONS From the city of Sychar in Samaria, where, through the testimony of the woman who came to Him at Jacob's Well, and then by His own words, He had won many followers, Jesus, with His disciples, resumed His journey to Galilee.

GOLDEN LEARNINGS—The man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way.—John 4: 50.

Memorize vs. 49, 50. **THE LESSON PASSAGE**—John 4: 43-54.

43 ¹ Now after two days he departed thence, and went into Galilee.

44 For Jesus himself testified, that a prophet hath no honour in his own country.

45 ² Then when he was come into Galilee, the Galileans received him, having seen all the things that he did ³ at Jerusalem at the feast: for they also went unto the feast.

46 ⁴ So Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum.

47 When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judea into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son: for he was at the point of death.

48 ⁵ Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see

Revised Version—And after two days he went forth from thence into; ² So when he came; ³ in; ⁴ He came therefore again unto; ⁵ Jesus therefore said; ⁶ in no wise; ⁷ Omit And; ⁸ spake; ⁹ Omit and told him; ¹⁰ that his son lived. So he inquired; ¹¹ therefore; ¹² that hour in which; ¹³ sign; ¹⁴ having come.

Daily Readings—(Courtesy, I.B.R.A.)—M.—Jesus heals the nobleman's son, John 4: 43-54. T.—First miracle at Cana, John 2: 1-11. W.—A centurion's servant, Matt. 8: 5-13. Th.—A ruler's faith, Matt. 9: 18-26. F.—Great faith, Matt. 15: 21-28. S.—Faith needful, Heb. 11: 1-6. S.—Salvation by faith, Rom. 10: 1-13.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED



A ROMAN CENTURION

I. THE MEETING.—43-45. After two days; which Jesus had spent at Sychar, v. 40. Departed thence.. into Galilee; carrying out the purpose of v. 3. For. In this verse John gives the reason for Jesus' going to Galilee. Jesus himself testified. The reason is given in Jesus' own words. A prophet.. in his own country; a proverb in common use, then as now. Jesus' own country was Galilee, in which province was Nazareth. His home for thirty years. He had left Judea (v. 1), because His increasing popularity seemed likely to bring Him into conflict with the jealous Pharisees. Among the Galileans, however, He would be as one of themselves, and therefore trouble was less likely to arise because of over popularity. Galileans received him; gave Him an unexpectedly warm welcome. Having seen all the things.. at Jerusalem at the feast (the Passover, v. 13, etc.). Jesus' miracles on that occasion had powerfully impressed the beholders, and visitors from Galilee had carried His fame back to their own country. They also went unto the feast; at Jerusalem, as all Jews were required by Moses' law to do.

46-48. Jesus came.. into Cana; where He might

signs and wonders, ye will ⁶ not believe.

49 The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die.

50 Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. ⁷ And the man believed the word that Jesus ⁸ had spoken unto him, and he went his way.

51 And as he was now going down, his servants met him, ⁹ and told him, saying, ¹⁰ Thy son liveth.

52 Then enquired he of them the hour when he began to amend. ¹¹ And they said ¹² unto him, Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.

53 So the father knew that it was at ¹³ the same hour, in the which Jesus said unto him, Thy son liveth: and himself believed, and his whole house.

54 This is again the second ¹⁴ miracle that Jesus did, ¹⁵ when he was come out of Judea into Galilee.

naturally expect a friendly welcome because of the miracle He had wrought there, ch. 2: 1-11. A certain nobleman; an officer at the court of Herod, then ruler of Galilee. Son was sick at Capernaum; twenty-five miles from Cana. Heard.. Jesus was come. Likely the nobleman knew of the former miracle at Cana, or of those wrought at Jerusalem. Went unto him; impelled by his yearning love for his son. Besought him.. come down, and heal. He believed that Jesus was able to heal his son, but not that He could heal him at a distance. The nobleman's faith was strong, but not yet strong enough. At the point of death. There was urgent need of haste. Except.. signs and wonders; two names for miracles. The second pictures the miracle as an outward marvel; the first points to its effect on the mind and heart of the beholder. Will not believe; unlike the people of Samaria, who had believed the words of Jesus without a miracle, v. 42. Jesus desires that we should have the faith that just takes Him at His word.

II. THE MIRACLE.—49, 50. Come down ere my child die. Anxiety for the loved son crowds out every other thought from the father's mind. And the father's distress touched the heart of Jesus, as distress always does. But He would not have the man think that, to heal, He must be present at the sick-bed. Go.. son liveth; the words of One whom disease and even death must obey (see Ps. 107: 20). Believed the word. Now at last his faith was strong enough to trust the bare word of Jesus, without any outward sign.

III. THE MESSAGE.—51-54. Going down; from Cana among the hills of Galilee, to his home at Capernaum on the sea shore, confident that he would find his son healed. Servants.. told him.. Thy son liveth. What a reward of his faith!