

Lesson VII.

THE SECOND MIRACLE IN CANA

February 12, 1905

John 4 : 43-54. Commit to memory vs. 49-51.

GOLDEN TEXT—The same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.—John 5 : 36.

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

46 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 Judaea 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 Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.

Revised Version—¹ And after the two days he came; ² in; ³ He came therefore again unto; ⁴ Omitt and told him; ⁵ that his son lived; ⁶ So he enquired; ⁷ They said therefore; ⁸ that hour; ⁹ sign; ¹⁰ having come.

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

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

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

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

53 So the father knew that it was at 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 miracle that Jesus did, when he was come out of Judaea into Galilee.

he went forth from thence into Galilee; ² So when Jesus therefore said; ³ in no wise; ⁴ spake; ⁵ he enquired; ⁶ They said therefore; ⁷ that hour;

THE LESSON EXPLAINED



"Come down ere my child die"

people of Sychar believe on Jesus. At their urgent request He remains with them two days and then continues His journey to Galilee (ch. 4 : 39-43.).

I. THE PEOPLE'S WELCOME.—43-45. After two days; spent in Sychar, with its people so eager to hear His teaching, v. 40. Went into Galilee; the northern province of Palestine, to be now for nearly two years the chief scene of our Lord's ministry. For... a prophet ("teacher") hath no honour in his own country. Apparently a common proverb, the meaning of which is evident. The Galileans received him; welcomed Him, different treatment from that of the people of Judaea, where He had been teaching. Having seen; the miracles at Jerusalem, ch. 2 : 23. At the feast; the Passover, ch. 2 : 13. They also went; as all Jews were required to do (Deut. 16 : 16) and as the parents of Jesus had done, Luke 2 : 41. Many of John's readers knew little of Palestine or of Jewish customs; hence these explanations.

II. THE FATHER'S REQUEST.—46, 47. Cana

Time and Place—December, 27 A.D.; Cana, where the water was made wine (Lesson IV.), and Capernaum, a town on the north-western shore of the Sea of Galilee.

Connection—Through the testimony of the woman He met at Jacob's well, and afterwards through His own words,

where, as we know, from ch. 2 : 1, 2, the family of Jesus had friends. It was the home also of Nathanael, ch. 21 : 2. **Where he made the water wine.** Note how John keeps the evidences of Jesus' divine power and goodness to the front. His whole Gospel hinges on ch. 20 : 31. **A certain nobleman;** an officer of Herod Antipas, ruler of Galilee. Herod's court was at Tiberias, on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee. **Son was sick.** Compare the story of the Capernaum centurion's servant, Luke 7 : 1-10. **At Capernaum;** 20 miles from Cana, and on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. **Besought him;** like another father, Jairus, Mark 5 : 22, 23. **Come down, and heal his son,** He thought that Jesus could not heal his son without being present—a natural enough mistake. **At the point of death;** a desperate case, but not hopeless for the great Physician.

48, 49. **Except ye see signs and wonders;** two names for miracles. They were "signs" pointing to heavenly truths, and they were "wonders," that is, marvellous works. **Ye will not believe.** Jesus was better pleased when people believed on Him, like the Samaritans (v. 42), without a miracle, than when they required a miracle. **Come down ere my child die;** a second mistake, to think that Jesus could not raise his son from the dead. But the request showed real, though half-blind, faith.

III. THE SON'S HEALING.—50-52. **Go... thy son liveth.** His faith has been sufficiently tested; now Jesus joyfully grants his request. He loves to bless. **The man believed.** The calm, quiet word of Jesus had removed the man's last doubt. "The father's faith was healed at the same time as the son's body." **Went his way;** sure now, that all was well. How quieting faith is. **His servants met him;** having seen the boy's improvement without knowing its cause, and hurrying with the good news. **Thy son liveth;** a joyful echo of Jesus' own words. **Enquired... when he began to amend;** eager to compare the time with the hour when Jesus had spoken the word of healing. **Yester-**