

LESSON VII—February 12

THE SECOND MIRACLE IN CANA. John
4. 43-54

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

Primary Notes



Approach. Once upon a time the owner of a beautiful home invited a new friend to visit him. The friend came, and was much pleased with all he saw. But the owner of the home kept talking about his son who was

away. He showed the visitor some beautiful pictures, saying, "My son painted these." Then he showed him over the lovely garden and grounds about the house. "Who planned all these beautiful flower beds and walks?" asked the visitor. "My son," was the answer. Then the friend was taken to a room where he saw some interesting and wonderful machines, and was told, "My son invented these."

Now, suppose that after the visitor went away some one had said to him, "Has Mr. Barton any children?" He would say, "Yes, he has a son, a very wonderful son." "How do you know? Was he at home?" "No, he was not there, but I saw the pictures he painted, the garden he planned, and the machines that he made. I know he must be wonderful because of what he had done." You see, this visitor could not help believing the works of Mr. Barton's son. If the father had told him that the son did many things, but could show nothing to prove it, the visitor might say, "I cannot believe what you say," but when he saw the works he had to believe.

This is what Jesus says to us: "Believe my works." He tells us in the Golden Text that the wonderful works that he did were witnesses that God had sent him into the world. They were like people who tell what they know. Such people are called witnesses, and they are asked to prove things which have happened, by telling exactly what they have seen.

Jesus in Galilee. "Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine." His first miracle, or wonderful work, was done here, and now a second one makes Cana remembered.

Recall from children the first miracle. Point out Cana on map. Tell how Galileans received Jesus, because they had seen what he did at Jerusalem.

The Nobleman's Prayer. Show Capernaum, not far from Cana. The news of Jesus's coming to Cana was carried in some way to Capernaum. Picture the home of the nobleman with every-

thing comfortable and delightful, and yet full of sorrow because the son was sick. How did the father feel. What did he wish for most of all? Why did he take the journey to Cana on hearing that Jesus was there? Why did he seek Jesus? Why did he not send for some doctor, perhaps from Jerusalem? What was the man's prayer? "Come and heal my son." Why did he ask for just this? It was exactly what he longed for and went to see the Lord about. Do we pray like this? Do we come to Jesus wishing for something? Then do we tell him just what we want? This man's prayer had feeling in it. He felt sorry and anxious about something. It had a wish in it—he wanted his son made well. Then it had faith in it, for he believed that Jesus could do this great thing. Are our prayers like this?

Jesus wished to prove this nobleman's faith, so he said to him, "Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe. Some of the Galileans received the Lord gladly because they had seen his wonderful works in Jerusalem. Was this man like the rest? Did he need to have Jesus give him some strange sign to help him to trust? No, he put all this away and prayed again, "Come down, ere my child die." Then Jesus said, "Thy son liveth."

The Nobleman's Faith. When Jesus said, "Thy son liveth," this man did not wait to hear it twice. He did not say, "I wonder if that can be true?" He started home at once. This showed that he believed the word of Jesus. He knew that Christ could make his son well, and now he believed that the wonderful work had really been done. He hurried home to see his boy.

The servants that met the nobleman told him his son was living, and at what hour he began to get well. It was the very hour Jesus said, "Thy son liveth;" and the man and all in his house believed.

Lesson Thought: Believe the Works. Recur again to Golden Text, and to the mighty works that Jesus did.

Thought for Teachers. We cannot begin too



early to fortify children in the "evidences of Christianity." Prove Jesus's power by his works.