

## EXPOSITION

## I. Welcomed, 42-45.

V. 43. "Now after two days." Jesus won more disciples during those two days in Sychar than by many months of toil in Judæa. The Samaritans were readier to receive the Gospel than His own countrymen, the Jews.

V. 44. "A prophet hath no honor in His own country." A common proverb, which Jesus' use of it has perpetuated to this day. It usually happens that people do not recognize the greatness of one who has been brought up among them. It was, consequently, not to be expected that Jesus would attract as much notice in Galilee as in Judæa, and that, therefore, He would likely find the privacy which He sought. He needed rest after the toil and strife in Judæa (v. 1) and time more thoroughly to instruct His disciples of the things of the kingdom.

V. 45. "The Galileans received Him." The proverb was not fulfilled in the case of Jesus. The Galilean pilgrims to the feast at Jerusalem had seen the miracles wrought there (ch. 2 : 23) and were profoundly moved by them. The miracles were evidence of His claim to be from God. They had convinced Nicodemus (ch. 3:3).

"They also went to the feast." This explanation John makes, as he is writing after the destruction of Jerusalem, when old customs were much disturbed, and for strangers, who might have been puzzled to know why Galileans should have gone to a Jerusalem feast. At the three great feasts in the holy city Jews assembled from all parts of the world, the Galilean Jews with the rest.

## II. Sought for, 46-49.

V. 46. "Where He made the water wine." Note how John keeps the evidence of Christ's divinity to the front. John's whole Gospel hinges on verse 31, chap. 40, which see.

"A certain nobleman." (R.V. margin "king's officer.") He belonged to the neighboring court of Herod Antipas, who was tetrach of Galilee, and enjoyed the title of king by courtesy.

"At Capernaum," twenty-five miles distant from Cana. Jesus did many "mighty works" at Capernaum later on, but, alas! there were few to believe. It is one of the cities on which His doom fell because of their refusal to believe and repent. (Matt. 11: 23.)

## V. 47. "When he heard that Jesus was come."

This shows how quickly and how far the report of the movements of Jesus had spread. "He went unto Him and besought", as did Jairus, the ruler of the synagogue, for his little daughter (Mark. 23 : 23). His need humbled him. The "king's officer" implores help from the "carpenter's son". With a child "at the point of death" ceremony goes to the winds. How overwhelming is the love of parent for child! No child can comprehend it. No wonder that even the children of God who keep the closest to Him understand so little of the infinite love of the Father in heaven for His own.

"Come down," Capernaum was on the lake shore, Cana, inland. "Heal his son." No earthly ruler could do this. (See 2 Kings 5:7.) How infinitely above all human power or authority is that of this Lord from Heaven.

V. 48. "Except ye see signs and wonders." Signs are miracles as manifesting the divine presence and power. Wonders are miracles as marvellous works. The apparent rebuke here administered, was to test and, at the same time, stimulate, the nobleman's faith. His faith rises to the occasion; for his sense of need and helplessness is intense.

V. 49. "Sir, come down ere my child die." The petitioner's mind was full of one thing—the peril in which his son stood—and so his prayer was brief and direct. Compare Peter's cry, "Lord save me!" when sinking in the sea (Matt. 14:30.)

## III. Trusted.

V. 50. "Go thy way; thy son liveth." Jesus speaks with the calm confidence of one who knows His own power. He makes no display, and feels no acknowledgment. He just does the thing the nobleman asks Him to do and says no more about it. "He went his way." How quieting faith is and how marvellously strong was this man's trust!

## IV. Blessing, 51-54.

V. 51. "His servants met him." They knew his anxiety to hear of his son's condition. "Thy son liveth." The servants confirm the word Jesus. His words always correspond with facts.

V. 52. "Yesterday at the seventh hour." T