

Theme: The Jews had a sense of entitlement to the promises and blessings of the Messiah. They expected him to conform to their conceptions of his ministry. But the life that Jesus brings is not something we deserve, it is a gift. That gift is one we must share.

Background: We finish a section that began in chapter 2

Introduction: The power of miracles exercises a strong pull on us. The desire for instantaneous deliverance is tempting.

I. Jesus’ Second Sign (in Cana)

A. A father’s distress

- An “official” (likely a Jew)
- In desperation

NOTE: Not the same event as recorded in Matthew 8:5ff (cf. Luke 7:2ff)

B. Jesus’s compassion

1. Questioning motives
 - Knows why he is asked – they saw his “works”
2. Like the wedding miracle
 - He wills it!

C. Believing

1. Believed Jesus’ *word*
 - “Your son will live” (50)
2. Not “seeing is believing”
 - *Believing, you will see.*

NOTE: How hard is it for you to really *believe* his word?

3. Servants bring good news
 - At the very hour!
4. Believed *in* Jesus
 - a. Not just a healer – but a savior
 - b. And his household
 - Like we often see in Acts (11:14; 16:15; 16:31; 18:8)

D. Like the first sign?

1. Similarities
 - An initial rebuke
 - By the exercise of his will
 - The servants see what others do not
 - Belief follows for a few
2. Very different occasions
 - A wedding
 - A dying child

NOTE: Life is surely filled with both. Jesus can increase our joy – and comfort us in sorrow

II. Trouble Brewing

A. Returning to Cana

1. Beginning in Cana
2. Closing the loop (45)

B. Without honor at home

1. The Samaritan welcome
 - This is “the savior of the world” (cf. John 3:16)
 - Believed because of what they *heard!*
2. In his own country?
 - Filled with misunderstanding
3. *Without honor*
 - A statement of fact
4. *Patris* = Galilee? Nazareth?
 - In his own homeland

C. The picture of things to come

- The stage is set for the conflicts that follow
- A brief survey of Chapters 5-12

III. Honor Where Honor Is Due

A. Taking it all for granted (?)

1. The danger of complacency
2. Pursuing a passionate trust and faith
3. Christ for the crisis?

B. Seeing the Gospel afresh

1. Accepting his word
 - Living each day as if it is *new* and *true!*
 - Knowing and trusting his promises
2. For the world?
 - It takes hold where we might least expect

C. Bringing the message home

1. Samaritan Woman – into her own town
2. A Jewish official and his household
3. To those in our closest circles