

John 4:43-54

II. Jesus Reveals Himself to the World (1:19-12:50)

F. John the Baptizer's Farewell (3:22-36)

G. The Second Discourse – The Water of Life (4:1-42)

H. The Second Sign – Healing the Nobleman's Son (4:43-54)

Last week, we read in v. 40 how Jesus *stayed* in Sychar for *two days*. As we pick up the narrative in v. 43, the two days had now passed, and Jesus *departed from there and went to Galilee*. That is, after all, the original destination that John had mentioned in v. 3. Jesus *left Judea and departed again to Galilee*. But He needed to go through *Samaria* (vv. 3-4). Yet, on His way to Cana, John makes an interesting note in v. 44 that doesn't seem to fit the context:

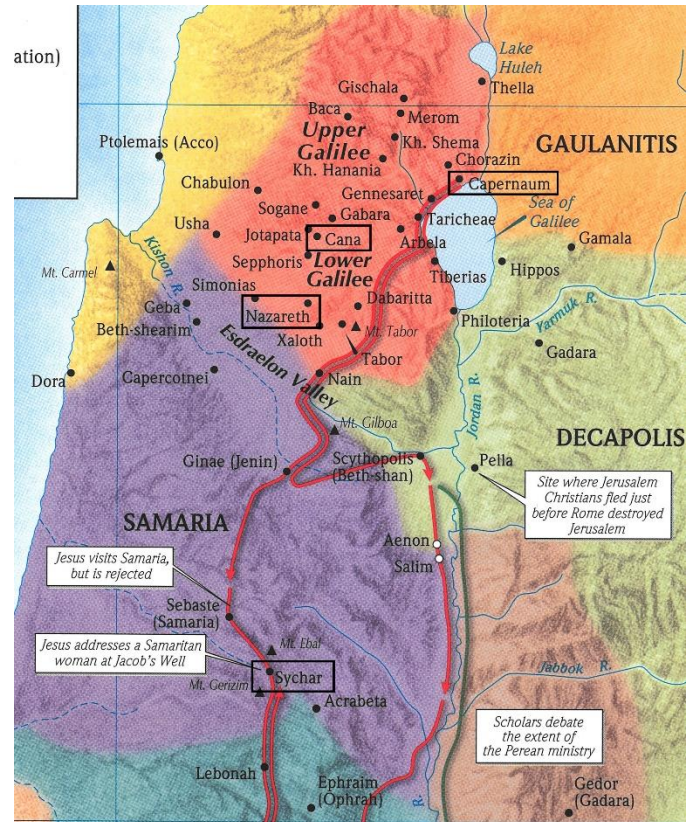
For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country.

A number of people believe that the events of Luke 4:16-30 take place here at v. 44. Nazareth was along the way from Sychar to Cana, and there was evidently a "pit stop" being made. Note the parallel of v. 44 above with Jesus' words Luke 4:24:

Assuredly, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own country.

Evidently, this encounter in Nazareth wasn't important enough for John to recount! Yet, even though those in Nazareth rejected him (after all, this was Joseph's son!), those in Cana would come to witness another miracle; or, at least be present when Jesus performs a miracle from a distance!

*A certain nobleman¹ from Capernaum travelled to Cana to implore Jesus to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death (v. 47).² This would've been a twenty-five mile journey, and is considered *down* as Capernaum was on the Sea of Galilee (about 700' below sea level), and Cana was up in the hill country! Jesus offers a bit of a stinging rebuke against the people there, criticizing their dependency on *signs and wonders* in order for them to believe (v. 48). Nevertheless, the nobleman persisted in desperate hope that Jesus had the ability to heal his son before he succumbed to death (v. 49).³*



¹Carson notes that the title "probably refers to someone officially attached to the service of. . . a king – here doubtless referring to Herod Antipas." *The Gospel according to John*, 238.

²Some claim that this is the same account as Matthew 8:5-13, as there are parallels; however, the similarities don't align. These are two different accounts.

³We see the nobleman's "faith" transition from hoping that Jesus would heal his son, to taking Jesus at His word when He said the boy had been healed, to believing that Jesus was the Messiah, the Promised One.

Jesus, showing mercy, heeds the pleas of the desperate father, but He doesn't do so by actually going to Capernaum and healing the boy there. Jesus healed him from Cana, saying: *Go your way; your son lives* (v. 50). Jesus' authority and presence transcends space. He did not need to be there with the boy in order to heal the boy. The man from Capernaum, even though he initially requested that Jesus go to his son, *believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way* (v. 50).

We need to keep John's purpose in writing this entire time. He's writing so that *you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name* (20:31). Here in John 4, John continues to demonstrate Jesus' power and ability as *the Christ, the Son of God*. John's hoping that all who read his Gospel would know that his words are true, and that Jesus is worthy of their trust. His Gospel was not merely for the Jews, either. John 4 demonstrates that the Samaritans were on Jesus' radar, as indeed the whole world would be.

John continues on to verify the fact that the man's son indeed lived. As the man returned to Capernaum, *his servants met him* and gave him the good news (v. 51). If this boy was on the verge of dying, yet made an immediate and miraculous recovery, surely that warranted his servants to leave the home and go find the nobleman. Jesus gives life!

Out of curiosity, the nobleman asks his servants what time his son was healed. They confirmed that it was *the seventh hour* from the day before (i.e., 7:00pm in the evening; keep in mind they were twenty-five miles away). We can almost see the man shaking his head in amazement and gratitude, for *it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, "Your son lives"* (v. 53). As a result, the man – *and his whole household* – believed in Jesus as the Messiah. There was no other explanation for the miraculous!