

## Understanding What It Means to Believe

“After the two days He left for Galilee. <sup>44</sup>(Now Jesus Himself had pointed out that a prophet has no honour in his own country.) <sup>45</sup>When He arrived in Galilee, the Galileans welcomed Him. They had seen all that He had done in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, for they also had been there. <sup>46</sup>Once more He visited Cana in Galilee, where He had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. <sup>47</sup>When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to Him and begged Him to come and heal his son, who was close to death. <sup>48</sup>“Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders,” Jesus told him, “you will never believe.” <sup>49</sup>The royal official said, “Sir, come down before my child dies.” <sup>50</sup>Jesus replied, “You may go. Your son will live.” The man took Jesus at His word and departed. <sup>51</sup>While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. <sup>52</sup>When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, “The fever left him yesterday at the seventh hour.” <sup>53</sup>Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” So he and all his household believed. <sup>54</sup>This was the second miraculous sign that Jesus performed, having come from Judea to Galilee.”

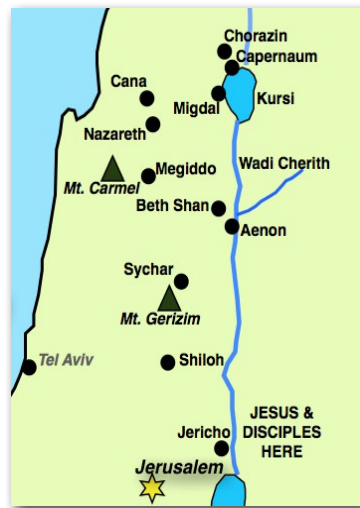
- John 4:43-54

### Some Perspective:

1. “After the two days...” — John is giving us a careful account of when these things happened.
2. Jesus left the Samaritan village and travelled to the Galilee.
3. Jesus already said that “a prophet has no honour in his own country” and now we begin to see proof. (Please note that Jesus hadn’t made this statement in the Gospel of John, so the writer is showing us again that he is filling in the blanks.)

“And they took offense at Him. But Jesus said to them, “Only in his hometown and in his own house is a prophet without honour.” - Matthew 13:57

“Jesus said to them, “Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honour.” - Mark 6:4



### The Galileans

The Galileans welcome Jesus because they had seen His miraculous signs while in Jerusalem.

One Galilean, a royal official from Capernaum, came to Cana to ask Jesus for a miracle. *Does this story sound familiar?*

*Who is this official?* No one knows, but there are theories.

“...Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod’s household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.” - Luke 8:3

“In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: ...Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul.” - Acts 13:1

### The Gap in Faith

The official goes to see Jesus to request that his son be healed.

He believed in Jesus as a miracle-worker but not as the Messiah.

This man and this crowd had issues with faith because Jesus said it was only witnessing miracles that would cause them to believe.

### The Gift of Life

The official asked Jesus to come to Capernaum to heal his child. Jesus assures the man that his son will be healed.

The man trusted Jesus’ words but apparently stayed a while to listen to Jesus.

When the official neared home the next day, he learned that his son was cured at 1 p.m. and he realized that this was the exact moment when Jesus had spoken to him.

### The Goal of the Story

The official and his whole household were brought to a new level of belief because of this event.

“So he and all his household believed.”

- John 4:53

This was the second miracle that Jesus had performed in either the Galilee or the specific town of Cana.

“This was the second miraculous sign that Jesus performed, having come from Judea to Galilee.”

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### The Lessons that We Learn:

1. There are at least four levels of belief, and to be a true follower of Jesus you must be at the highest level.
  - a. To believe that something is possible.
  - b. To believe because of someone else's testimony.
  - c. To believe because you have seen it with your own eyes.
  - d. To believe and then commit yourself to that which you believe - putting your faith into practice.
2. This story shows the contrast between people who believe without “proof” and those who need to have “proof” in order to believe.

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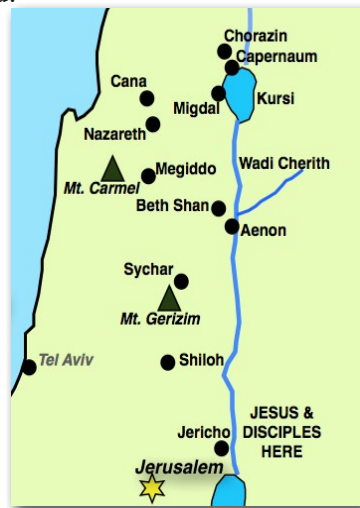
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