

The Gospel of John

Chapter 4, Verses 46-54

Review

- General Introduction to the Gospel of John
 - one of the ***five Johannine books***, all of which are among the last books in the Bible to have been written
 - *one of the **four gospels**, each of which is a biography of Jesus and an historical narrative of his life*
 - written in Greek ***to both Jews and Gentiles***, primarily (but not exclusively) to those who had already accepted Christ

Review

- **Prolog (1:1-18)**
 - Jesus Christ was the ***Word become flesh*** (1:14).
 - The “***Word***” (Greek, *Logos*) was what God was, and did what God did, from the beginning.
 - “***Flesh***” emphasizes that Jesus became exactly what we are.
 - He was and is ***rejected by the world***, in general.
 - But he is the ***savior of all who receive him***.

Review

- **The narrative begins....**
 - Jesus was revealed to Israel by ***John the Baptist***, after which ***Disciples*** began to follow Jesus (1:19-51).
 - Jesus performed his ***first sign at Cana of Galilee***, changing water into wine (2:1-11).
 - He then went up to Jerusalem, ***cleansed the temple*** and performed other ***signs*** (2:12-25), which attracted the attention of the Jews.

Review

- **Jesus discussion with Nicodemus**
 - Nicodemus, a Pharisee and leader of his people, was ***attracted by the signs*** Jesus performed. (3:1-2)
 - Jesus explains to him that in order to see the Kingdom of God, ***a man must be born again***, and that whoever believes in the Son of Man will have eternal life.(3:1-15)
- **Important commentary by the author**
 - By sending Jesus to save it, ***God demonstrated his love for the world***. (3:16-21)

Review

- **Jesus begins to surpass John the Baptist**
 - John's disciples were concerned that many who came to be baptized were now ***going to Jesus instead of John***. (3:22-26)
 - John told them that this is what ***should*** be happening (3:27), what John had always ***foreseen*** (3:28), and that he was ***happy*** to see this happen (3:29)!
 - ***“He must increase, but I must decrease,”*** John said. (3:30)
 - These are the last words of John the Baptist recorded in John's gospel. A brief commentary by the author follows (3:31-36).

Review

- **The Samaritan woman:**
 - To avoid conflict with the Pharisees, Jesus moved to Galilee, which took him through ***Samaria***, where he met a woman by a well and surprised her by ***asking for a drink***. (4:1-9)
 - During the ensuing conversation, the woman ***confessed her sins*** and gradually ***came to know who Jesus was*** (4:10-25).
 - Jesus openly declared himself to be ***the Messiah***. (4:26)
 - The woman went away to ***call others to come and meet Jesus***, as Jesus disciples returned from shopping, (4:27-30)

Review – Last Week’s Lesson

- **Jesus Teaches His Disciples Concerning “the Harvest:”**
 - Using figurative language, Jesus teaches his disciples that *doing the fathers will and work was more important to him than his personal comfort.* (4:31-34)
 - Here he seems to me to be saying that *his work is to save* those who will see the kingdom and enter into eternal life, and *the time for this work, into which his disciples also will enter, now is at hand.* (4:35-38)
 - Surprisingly perhaps to some of this disciples, the harvest will include many Samaritans.

Review – Last Week’s Lesson

- **Many Samaritans believe in Jesus:**
 - Because of the **woman’s testimony** regarding his **prophetic powers** (“he told me all that I ever did”) the townspeople invited Jesus to stay with them for two days. (4:39-40)
 - Consequently many more came to believe in Jesus, and those who had believed because of the woman’s testimony, now **believed because of what they themselves had heard**, confessing that **Jesus was the Savior of the world!** (4:41-42)
 - After two days, Jesus left and came to Galilee (4:43-45)

John 4:46-54

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4:47 この人が、ユダヤからガリラヤにイエスのきておられることを聞き、みもとにきて、カペナウムに下って、彼の子をなおしていただきたいと、願った。その子が死にかかっていたからである。

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4:48そこで、イエスは彼に言われた、「あなたがたは、しるしと奇跡とを見ない限り、決して信じないだろう」。

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4:50イエスは彼に言われた、「お帰りなさい。あなたのむすこは助かるのだ」。彼は自分に言われたイエスの言葉を信じて帰って行った。

John 4:46-54

4:51 その下って行く途中、僕たちが彼に出会い、その子が助かったことを告げた。

4:52 そこで、彼は僕たちに、そのなおりははじめた時刻を尋ねてみたら、「きのうの午後一時に熱が引きました」と答えた。

4:53 それは、イエスが「あなたのむすこは助かるのだ」と言われたのと同じ時刻であったことを、この父は知って、彼自身もその家族一同も信じた。

John 4:46-54

4:54これは、イエスがユダヤからガリラヤにきてなされた第二のしるしである。

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⁴⁶ So he came again to Cana in Galilee, where he had made the water wine. And at Capernaum there was an official whose son was ill.

⁴⁷ When this man heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went to him and asked him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death.

⁴⁸ So Jesus said to him, "Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe."

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⁴⁹ The official said to him, "Sir, come down before my child dies."

⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, "Go; your son will live." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way.

⁵¹ As he was going down, his servants met him and told him that his son was recovering.

John 4:46-54

⁵² So he asked them the hour when he began to get better, and they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him."

⁵³ The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." And he himself believed, and all his household.

⁵⁴ This was now the second sign that Jesus did when he had come from Judea to Galilee.

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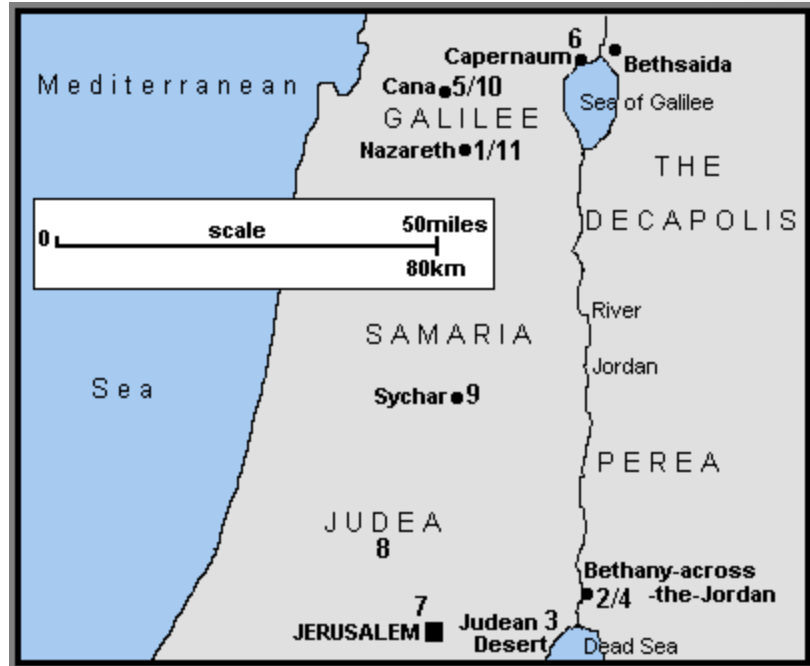
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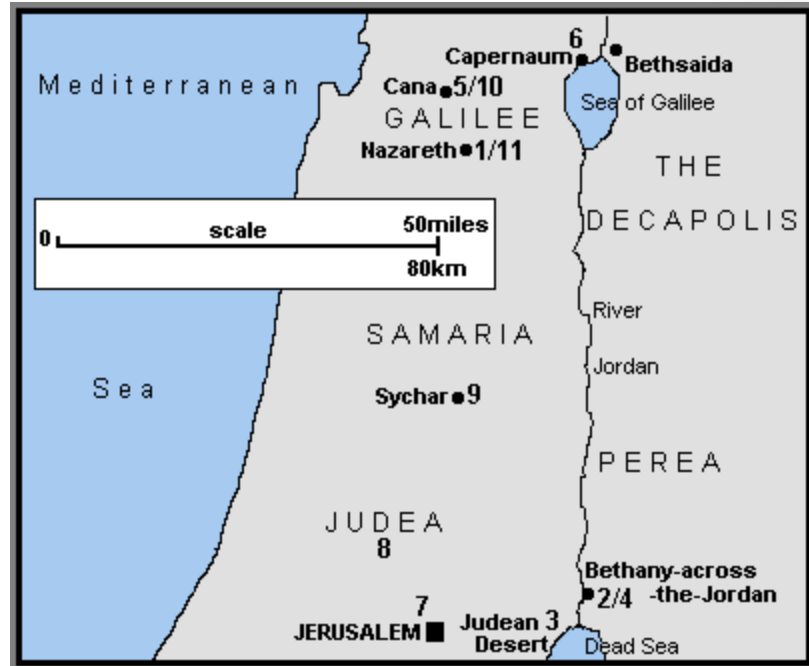
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 - It is worth remembering how reservedly he performed it

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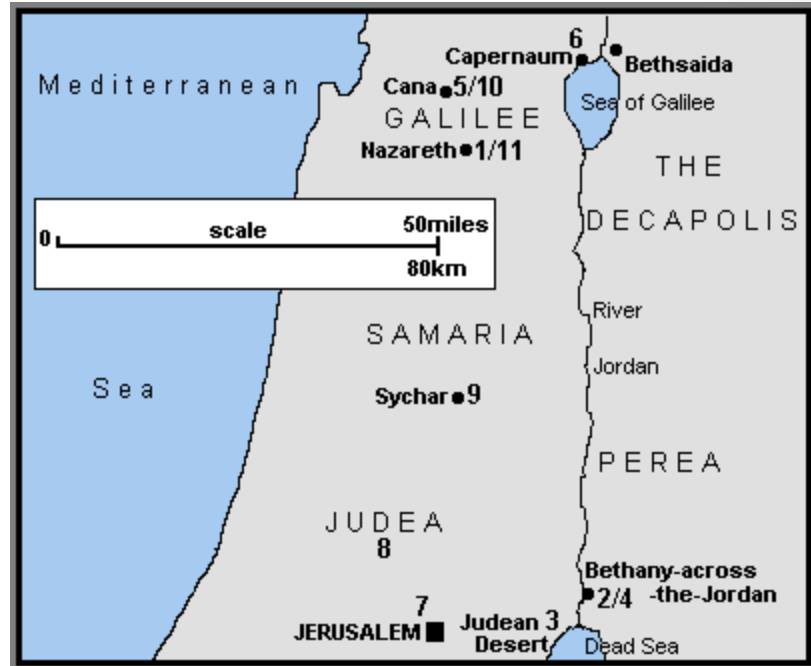
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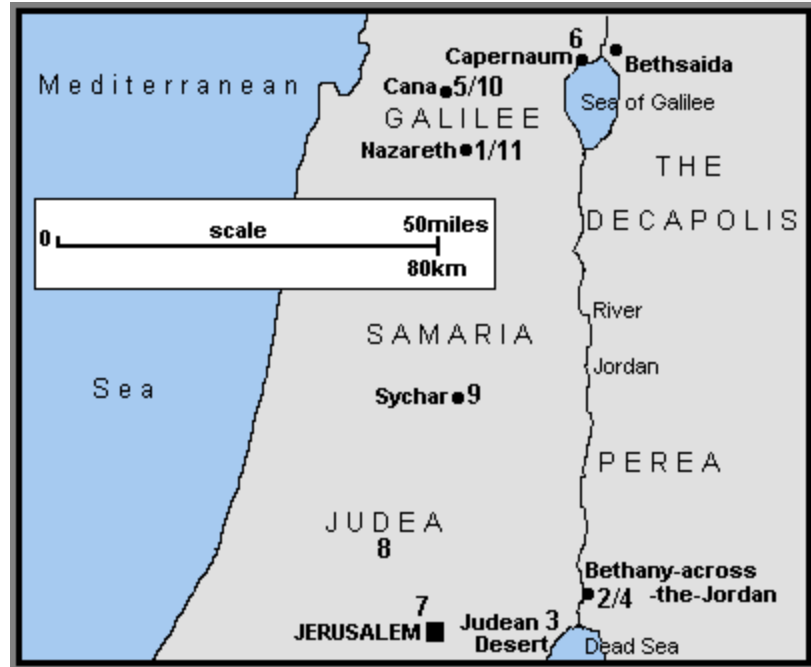
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- His disciples have begun to baptize more than John.
- Many in Samaria have believed that Jesus is the Savior of the World.



His Reception This Time

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- We also remember that ***“...when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them...”*** (2:23,24a)

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- This helps to explain the parenthetical insertion at 4:44

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- This time Jesus is asked to return to Capernaum to heal the son of a local official.

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- There is no reason to assume he was a gentile.

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- I think this is a different event. It can be compared, but should not be confused with the one in Matthew/Luke.

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- Jesus is obviously attracting attention: a royal official in Capernaum is aware that he has traveled from Judea to Galilee and knows that he is staying at Cana.

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- And it must have been known, or at least rumored, that Jesus had supernatural powers.(2:23)

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 - He underestimates Jesus' power.
 - He misunderstands who Jesus is.

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- Is Jesus is addressing himself to all mankind, all Jews, all Jews in Galilee, or to the group present before him now?

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- In any case, I believe Jesus' intent was to foster a deeper saving faith, one which does not need signs and wonders.

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- We are nearly all guilty of this: putting God to the test.

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- To the extent there *is* a personal rebuke here, I think we are well to remember Jesus' equally difficult saying to his own mother some months earlier at the wedding in this same city. (See 2:4)

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- His form of address indicates that he does not yet know who Jesus is.

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- The man simply believed what Jesus said, and went away.

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- Then, in both cases, Jesus simply spoke and people simply accepted what he said.
- In neither case did Jesus himself do anything other than speak and in neither case did he speak very publicly.
- In both cases (2:11, 4:53) the result seems to have been real saving faith in Jesus himself.

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- However these miracles, in and of themselves, were comparatively unimportant.
- The gospel itself is the only miracle that finally matters.

John 4:51

その下って行く途中、僕たちが彼に出会い、その子が助かったことを告げた。

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- So far the official has demonstrated some faith in coming to Jesus, and some more faith in taking Jesus as his word.
- He now receives news that what Jesus had said (i.e. your son will live) has actually come to pass.

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- If this official had come to Jesus with little real faith and no definite expectation of his son being healed, then he might have forgotten all about Jesus when he received the joyful news that his son was recovering.
- He was moved to verify the miracle because he really had expected Jesus to do something, or so it seems to me.

We Should Notice Miracles!

- I think we should also be more mindful of what we ask and how God answers us.

John 4:52

そこで、彼は僕たちに、そのなおりはじめた時刻を尋ねてみたら、
「きのうの午後一時に熱が引きました」と答えた。

So he asked them the hour when he began to get better, and they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him."

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- He aims to verify a cause and effect relationship between Jesus' words and his son's recovery.

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それは、イエスが「あなたのむすこは助かるのだ」と言われたのと同じ時刻であったことを、この父は知って、彼自身もその家族一同も信じた。

The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." And he himself believed, and all his household.

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- The meaning here is that he became a Christian.

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- It is also remembered that this man's whole household converted to Christianity, something that occasionally happens (c.f. Acts 10:44, 11:14, 16:15ff, 18:8, 1Co.1:16)

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- This refers only to the signs which Jesus has done in Galilee and not to those which he performed elsewhere.
- We begin to see that Jesus was very reluctant to perform “wonders” except for a few signs pointing to the gospel.

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- Therefore we in our own time should not desire or expect to see miracles which fail to glorify Christ.
- If we think we see one, then either we do not understand it, or it is not coming from God.