



# The Nobleman's Son

## Lesson Overview

### 1. Critical Thinking

What does being without honor in your own country mean?

### 2. Watch a Video

Watch John 4:43-54 at [bit.ly/GCEDGospelOfJohn](http://bit.ly/GCEDGospelOfJohn) from 31min 08 sec to 34 min 12 sec (2min 54sec).

### 3. Discuss

Compare Jesus' second sign with his first sign. Explore similarities between this story and other accounts in John. p. 2.

## New Church Concept Healing Sickness

Since sicknesses represented the unrighteous ways and the evils of spiritual life the sicknesses which the Lord healed have as their meaning deliverance from the different kinds of evil and falsity that were molesting the Church and human race and that would have brought spiritual death. Divine miracles are distinguishable from other miracles by the fact that they involve and have regard to states of the Church and the heavenly kingdom; and this is why the Lord's miracles were primarily healing of sicknesses. *Arca-na Coelestia* 8364.6

## FaithBuilder 3 | Lesson 11 | Gospel of John

### Without Honor at Home

Today's story takes place in Galilee, to the north of Samaria, where Jesus grew up. As Jesus and the disciples approached his hometown, He said "a prophet has no honor in his own country." (John 4:44)

1. What does this mean?
2. What does say us about Jesus? Or about the people of Nazareth?
3. Do people (your age or older) who have known you all your life treat you differently than people you meet for the first time? Why might this be?
4. How did the people of Galilee treat Jesus when he arrived? (See John 4:45)

### Second Sign

The story of the healing of the Nobleman's son is the second of Jesus' seven signs or miracles in the Gospel of John. As you watch the story unfold think about ways in which this sign is different from changing water into wine at the wedding in Cana.

#### The Seven Signs of Jesus | Gospel of John

1. Changing water into wine at a wedding in Cana (John 2:1-11)
2. Healing the nobleman's son in Capernaum (John 4:46-54)
3. Healing the paralytic at Bethesda (John 5:1-15)
4. Feeding the 5000 (John 6:5-14)
5. Jesus walking on water (John 6:16-24)
6. Healing the man blind from birth (John 9:1-7)
7. The raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-45)

### Watch a Video

Watch John 4:43-54 Watch John 4:43-54 from *The Life of Jesus . Official Full HD Movie . English*, at [bit.ly/GCEDGospelOfJohn](http://bit.ly/GCEDGospelOfJohn). (Enter link in the web browser bar at the top of your screen.) **Start video at 31min 19sec. Watch until 34min 13sec; 2min 54sec.**

**Discuss**

Choose questions to discuss the story.

1. Compare Jesus' first sign (water to wine) with his second sign (healing the nobleman's son). In what ways is changing something in the world of nature different from changing something of the human spirit?
2. Like other interpreters of the Bible, the *Life of Jesus* video-maker chose to combine two stories in the Gospels: the story of the healing of the centurion's servant (Matthew 8:5; Luke 7:1), and the healing of the nobleman's son (John 4:46-54). The video we saw portrayed the nobleman as a Roman soldier. Is this plausible? Why might this be a good choice? Why might this be a poor choice? What choice would you have made if you were the director?
3. When the nobleman asked Jesus for help, he responded with a few brief words, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will be no means believe." (John 4:48) Jesus had much more to say to a woman at a well in Samaria (John 4:7-26). What was Jesus' attitude towards each of them?
  - a. Cold
  - b. Warm
  - c. Attentive
  - d. Dismissive
  - e. Other
4. Who does Jesus appear to care more about?
  - a. The woman
  - b. The nobleman
5. What were the nobleman's and the woman's attitudes towards Jesus?
  - a. Knew He had something special to offer
  - b. Willing to overlook comments that might have seemed discourteous
  - c. Defensive
  - d. Trusting
  - e. Believed what He said
6. What is faith? Explain your answer and give examples to show what you mean.
  - a. A concept of who the Lord is and what He can do for us
  - b. A belief system
  - c. A kind of inner strength and confidence
7. How does the Lord clean our impure thoughts and feelings?
8. In what ways is changing our ideas (truth we know) different than changing our hearts (what we love)? Which is harder?
9. What must we do so these miracles can take place in our own lives?

All who are in hell cause sicknesses because the hells are steeped in desires and cravings for what is evil. That being so, they are antagonistic to the things of heaven, and for this reason they exert an opposite influence on people. Heaven, which is the Grand Man, preserves the interconnection of all things and keeps them safe from harm; hell is destructive of all things and sets them at variance with one another. So if those in hell come into contact with people they bring sicknesses and even death. But they are not allowed to enter a person's body, but only his evil desires and false ideas. Only when he falls sick do they enter any further, into the kinds of uncleanness that are the essence of sicknesses. For as has been stated, nothing ever comes into being with people unless a cause also exists in the spiritual world. If the natural part of a person's being were separated from the spiritual part it would be separated from the entire cause from which it has its being and so from all that brings it life. Even so, a person can be healed by natural remedies, for the Lord's providence works in co-operation with means such as these. I have been enabled through experience to know the truth of this, for evil spirits have been brought in contact with me; and according to their presence they introduced feelings of pain and also sicknesses. I was shown where those spirits were and what they were like, and I was also told where they came from. See *Arcana Coelestia* 5713