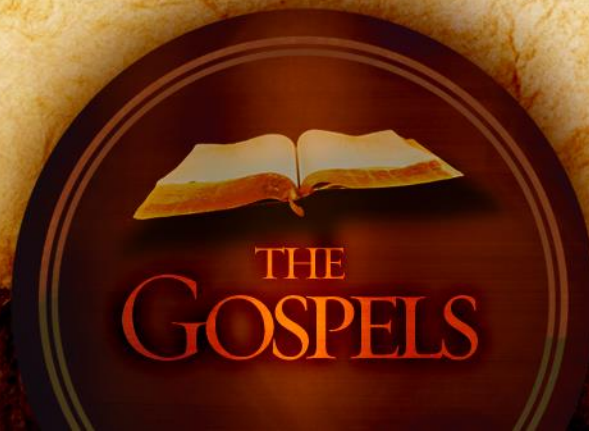




JOHN

Light of the World





SETTING:

1. The second of seven miraculous “signs” (20:30, 31)
 - A. This “sign” miracle was not the second miracle that Jesus performed, for that would contradict 2:23 and 3:2.
 - B. Both miracles were “private” rather than “public” ones.
 - C. Jesus’ first miracle (the wedding in Cana) revealed His power over time. Jesus made the wine instantly.
 - D. Jesus’ second recorded miracle (4:43-45) showed His power over space / distance.
2. The passage highlights the unbelief that existed among the Jews of Galilee and Judea (4:44, 48; cp. 2:23-25)

Map of Ancient Samaria





UNBELIEF CONTEMPLATED (vss. 43-45)

1. Unbelief in Galilee.

A. Specifically, in Nazareth (Lk. 4:16-31)

B. He denounces towns in Galilee (Mt. 11:20-24)

C. Final visit to unbelieving Nazareth (Mt. 13:53-58)

2. Unbelief in Judea.

A. First, Jesus words (Lk. 14:34-35; Mt. 23:37-39)

B. Then John in his Gospel (Jn. 12:37-41)



UNBELIEF CONFRONTED (vss. 46-49)

1. The royal official's request (vss. 46, 47)
2. The “awefully hard response” of Jesus (vs. 48)
3. The royal official's persistence (vss. 49, 50a)

UNBELIEF CONQUERED (vss. 50-54)

1. A crisis faith; faith in Jesus' *works*
2. A confident faith; faith in Jesus' *words*
3. A confirmed faith; faith in Jesus' *person*
4. A contagious faith: “He and all his household believed”



UNBELIEF CONQUERED (vss. 50-54)

1. Unbelief in Galilee.

A. Specifically, in Nazareth (Lk. 4:16-31)

B. He denounces towns in Galilee (Mt. 11:20-24)

C. Final visit to unbelieving Nazareth (Mt. 13:53-58)

2. Unbelief in Judea.

A. First, Jesus words (Lk. 14:34-35; Mt. 23:37-39)

B. Then John in his Gospel (Jn. 12:37-41)



MAKING IT PERSONAL

1. **Fathers** can learn a great deal from this account.

A faithful father . . .

- isn't too **independent** to admit his needs.
- isn't too **busy** to **know** his children.
- isn't too **proud** to believe God's Word.
- isn't too **logical** to walk by **faith**.

2. **Distance** is no barrier to God.



2. **Distance** is no barrier to God:
What an encouragement for all Christians to pray!
- A. Because God is **omnipresent**
there is no place beyond the reach of God's ear.
 - B. Because God is **omniscient**
there is no subject beyond the range of God's understanding.
 - C. Because God is **omnipotent**
there is no work that's beyond the ability of God to perform on behalf of His people.
3. Is your faith **contagious**? Sharing it with others?

PHILEMON 1:4-6

PHILEMON

"I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints. I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ."

PHILEMON 1:4-6

PHILEMON

"I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints. I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ."



4. The focus of this particular “miraculous sign” is a new dimension of believing; namely, believing without the immediacy of seeing.

“In general, we find that the Lord Jesus was not as pleased with a faith that was based on miracles as He was with that which was based on His Word alone. It is more honoring to Him to believe a thing simply because He said it than because He gives some visible proof. It is characteristic of man that he wants to see before he believes. But the Lord Jesus teaches us that we should first believe, and then we will see.”

William MacDonald & Arthur Farstad

JOHN 20:30-31

JOHN

"Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

Age Group	Male (%)	Female (%)
18-24	15	10
25-34	25	20
35-44	35	30
45-54	45	40
55-64	55	50
65-74	65	60
75+	75	70