

I was once told that if you use a map of Roman Palestine as you read Luke's Gospel the places mentioned form a spiral leading to Jerusalem and then Acts forms one going outwards into the rest of the world.

John's Gospel, obviously, doesn't do the same because here we are back again at Cana and it wasn't because they had run out of wine again.

John's Gospel is different from the three 'synoptic' Gospels for many reasons, not the least of which, is the audience that it is aimed at. That said, even in John's Gospel, there is still, according to the narrative, a huge groundswell of scepticism at the suggestion that Jesus is really the 'long awaited Messiah'.

Yet, within that, there are nuggets of true belief and acceptance, sometimes even without an associated miracle.

I frequently wonder about how I, personally, would have reacted had I been on the fringes of the events surrounding the ministry of Jesus.

Read John 4:43 - 54

1. Why does a 'prophet receive no honour in his own country'? [see verse 44].
2. Read verses 46-50 again. How we understand those verses can vary on where the emphasis is put in the dialogue. How do you read it and why?
3. What does John mean by 'a royal official' [verse 46]? Which Royalty would that be?

4. Verse 48 could suggest a sense of exasperation. Do you think Jesus could be exasperated with people and events? What things make you frustrated with other people?
5. Verse 50 sounds a bit familiar. Where else in the Gospels is this kind of event recorded? How many can you remember?
6. A Roman soldier would expect to march 20 miles in a day [and then build a defensive camp and take it down again before leaving the next morning]. It took the 'royal official' two days to get from Capernaum to Cana. How far apart were these two places do you think? Why is that?
7. What event in your life made you believe? If it wasn't a single event what series of events brought about your faith journey? [see verses 52 & 53].
8. 'This was the second sign . . .' we are told in verse 54. What was the first?
9. It seems that Jesus was never alone throughout His ministry, although that may not be exactly the case. Could you cope with such pressure? If so how? Why do we all need some 'me' time nowadays?
10. What do you find most difficult about explaining the miracles in the Gospels to other people? Or what strategy do you use to get round any difficulty. [The same may apply to the parables].

Prayer Points:

Please pray for the Taylor family as they prepare this week for Catherine's funeral. Pray that all the various aspects will come together.

BMS World Mission's Board of Trustees is drawn from across the Baptist community and is responsible for BMS' vision, mission and strategy. The Trustees are seeking to increase the diversity of the Board in terms of ethnicity, gender and skills. Pray that God will guide them and give them wisdom as they appoint new Trustees.

Sermon Notes



BIBLE STUDY

June 29th 2025

Healing at Cana:

John 4:43 - 54

John 1–7 presents key themes that reveal Jesus' identity and mission. Jesus is the eternal Word of God, bringing light and life to a dark world. He calls people to believe in Him for eternal life, but many reject Him despite His miracles and teachings. A central theme is new birth—spiritual transformation through the Holy Spirit. Jesus offers living water and calls Himself the Bread of Life, showing He alone satisfies the soul. These chapters also highlight growing conflict and division, as people respond to Him with belief, confusion, or hostility. Through signs and deep conversations, Jesus reveals His divine nature and the offer of salvation to all, regardless of background or status.

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001