

As you read...

After His encounter with the Samaritan woman and the other Samaritans, Jesus returns to Galilee back to the site of His first miracle of turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana (John 2:1-12). It's here that Jesus performs His second sign.

You would think that turning water into wine would be something that could not be topped. Who in that town would ever forget the incredible wedding where the best wine came out at the end? However, when Jesus leaves Cana this time He's leaving them with plenty more to talk about.

An official in the town's son is sick—gravely sick and about to die. He heard Jesus was back in town and went to see Him, pleading for his son's life, saying, "Sir, come down before my boy dies."

What's fascinating in this moment is what Jesus does or, rather, what He doesn't do. He doesn't go with the man. He doesn't follow him to heal his son, Jesus simply says, "Go, your son will live."

And guess what? The man's son lives.

With only a word, Jesus grants healing to the official's son. Did you notice what that word was? "Go, your son will *live*."

Here at the end of John 4 Jesus speaks *life* quite literally. There's nothing figurative about this encounter as there was with the Samaritan woman at the well. Even by simply uttering the word, rescues the boy from death. He gives life in a moment.

Read [John 4:43-54](#)

A Galilean Welcome

⁴³ After two days he left there for Galilee. ⁴⁴ (Jesus himself had testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country.) ⁴⁵ When they entered Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him because they had seen everything he did in Jerusalem during the festival. For they also had gone to the festival.

The Second Sign: Healing an Official's Son

⁴⁶ He went again to Cana of Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. There was a certain royal official whose son was ill at Capernaum. ⁴⁷ When this man heard that Jesus had come from Judea into Galilee, he went to him and pleaded with him to come down and heal his son, since he was about to die.

⁴⁸ Jesus told him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will not believe."

⁴⁹ "Sir," the official said to him, "come down before my boy dies."

*⁵⁰ "Go," Jesus told him, "your son will **live**." The man believed what Jesus said to him and departed.*

*⁵¹ While he was still going down, his servants met him saying that his boy was **alive**. ⁵² He asked them at what time he got better. "Yesterday at one in the afternoon the fever left him,"*

*they answered. ⁵³ The father realized this was the very hour at which Jesus had told him, “Your son will **live**.” So he himself believed, along with his whole household.*

⁵⁴ Now this was also the second sign Jesus performed after he came from Judea to Galilee.

Questions

1. The Samaritans earlier in John 4 believed because of what Jesus said. What causes the father to believe here at the end of John 4?
2. The people of Cana have seen Jesus work a miracle prior to this one. As Jesus arrives, He says, “Unless you see signs and wonders, you will not believe” (verse 48). Why do you think these Galileans needed signs and wonders? Why did they not believe Jesus at His word like the Samaritans?
3. Are you more like the Galileans or the Samaritans these days? Do you need God to show you He’s working through signs or are you able to trust Him at His word? Consider what steps is God placing in front of you to help strengthen your faith today.

A moment to pray.

Lord Jesus, I need You. Give me strength to see both Your work in this world through signs and wonders especially through Your life-giving Word. Open my eyes to see the ways You are working to strengthen my faith in You. In Your name. Amen.

