

SS-Q4-L1 - Signs That Point the Way

SEPTEMBER 28-OCTOBER 4, 2024

Adult
Sabbath School Lesson
Meat in Due Season
Oct Nov Dec 2024

Themes in the
GOSPEL of JOHN
4th Quarter



Lesson 1 for
October 5, 2024

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Sabbath Afternoon—September 28, 2024

Scripture Reading for the Week:

[John 2:1-11](#); [4:46-54](#); [5:1-16](#), [16-47](#); [Mark 3:22-23](#); [Matthew 12:9-14](#).

Thought for Meditation:

With a deference born of this fear, they went to Him with the inquiry, "What sign showest Thou unto us, seeing that Thou doest these things?" **{DA 164.1}**

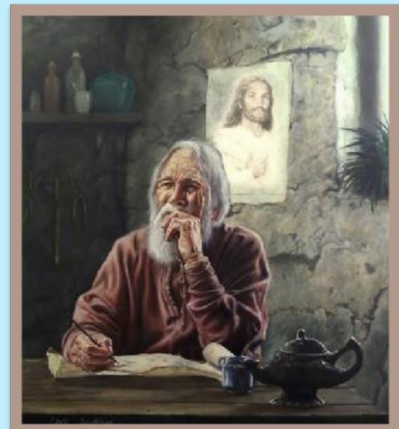
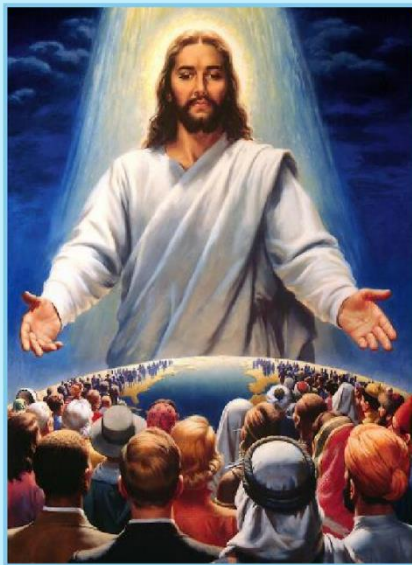
Jesus had shown them a sign. In flashing light into their hearts, and in doing before them the works which the Messiah was to do, He had given convincing evidence of His character. Now when they asked for a sign, He answered them by a parable, showing that He read their malice, and saw to what lengths it would lead them. "Destroy this temple," He said, "and in three days I will raise it up." **{DA 164.2}** *The Desire of Ages, 1898*

Memory Verse

“And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name”

(John 20:30-31).

This week's SS Lesson will divulge into the writings of John which touches upon the early signs/miracles that occur not in the street, but a miraculous event attended by the close relatives and the Jewish people. It also includes the typical presence of two opposing influences in His Ministry.



Outline of the Study

The Miracle of the Wedding at Cana - John 2:1-11

Sunday-September 29, 2024

The Wedding at Cana-The Sign that Marks the Beginning of the Path

[John 2:1-25](#); [Deuteronomy 6:22](#); [26:8](#); [18:15](#); [Matthew 17:5](#);
[Acts 7:37](#).

The Miracle of the Official's son - John 4:46-54

Monday-September 30, 2024

The Second Sign in Galilee-The sign for those without faith

[John 4:46-54](#)

The Miracle at the Pool of Bethesda - John 5:1-47

Tuesday-October 1, 2024

The Signal for the desperate

[John 5:1-9, 14](#)

Wednesday-October 2, 2024

Hard Hearts-The sign for those who do not want to understand

[John 5:10-16, 38-42](#); [9:1-16](#); [Mark 3:22-23](#); [Matthew 12:9-14](#).

Thursday-October 3, 2024

Jesus' Claims-The sign supported by witnesses

[John 5:16-18, 19-47](#).

Friday - October 4, 2024

Insights and Further Study

From the Pen of Inspiration

Points to Ponder Upon

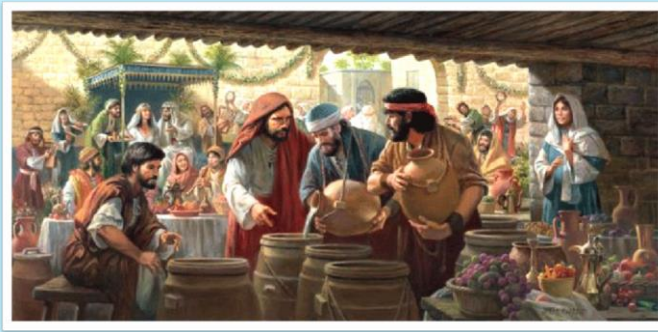
The Miracle of the Wedding at Cana John 2:1-11

Sunday - September 29, 2024

The Wedding at Cana - The sign that marks the beginning of the path

[John 2:1-25](#); [Deuteronomy 6:22](#); [26:8](#); [18:15](#);
[Matthew 17:5](#); [Acts 7:37](#).

"What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him" (John 2:11)



Moses turns the "holy" water of the Nile into blood

Jesus turns "purified" water into wine, a symbol of his own blood



He Starts His Ministry at the Household in a Little Galilee

Jesus did not begin His ministry by some great work before the Sanhedrin at Jerusalem. At a household gathering in a little Galilean village His power was put forth to add to the joy of a wedding feast. Thus He showed His sympathy with men, and His desire to minister to their happiness. . . . **{CSA 10.2}**

There was to be a marriage at Cana, a little town not far from Nazareth; the parties were relatives of Joseph and Mary; and Jesus, knowing of this family gathering, went to Cana, and with His disciples was invited to the feast. . . . **{CSA 10.3}** *A Call to Stand Apart, 2002*

He Teaches Lessons at Cana not to Attract Public Attention

His first noted miracle was performed at a marriage feast in Cana, when He turned water into wine. . . .

By this miracle Christ wished to teach that unfermented wine is far preferable to fermented wine. Christ never created fermented wine. The wine made on this occasion was exactly like the wine that comes fresh

from the cluster. Christ knew the influence of fermented wine, and by giving them pure, unfermented wine, He showed them the only safe way in which to use grape juice.

Christ did not draw attention to this act to receive public notice. He wished to teach an important lesson. He did not make or use fermented wine. . . . Christ did turn water into wine, but He used wine fresh from the grapes, and never any other. He is our example in all things, and before His death He left as a last legacy to His church the bread, representing His body given for the sins of the world, and the wine, representing His spilt blood. But nothing but unleavened bread and unfermented wine could be used. Nothing of a fermented character is to be used in the Communion service, for fermented wine would destroy the figure representing the blood of Christ. We may all look upon this question as forever settled. **{CTr 230.2-4}**
Christ Triumphant, 1999

Jesus Exercises His Divine Mission/Authority over an Earthly Control

His manner was respectful, yet firm; he designed to teach Mary that the time for her to control him as a mother, was ended. His mighty work now lay before him, and no one must direct concerning the exercise of his divine power. There was danger that Mary would presume upon her relationship to Christ, and feel that she had special claims upon him and special rights. As Son of the Most High, and Saviour of the world, no earthly ties must hold him from his divine mission, nor influence the course he must pursue. It was needful that he should stand free from every personal consideration, ready to do the will of his Father in Heaven. **{2SP 101.1}**

Jesus loved his mother tenderly; for thirty years he had been subject to parental control; but the time had now come when he was to go about his Father's business. In rebuking his mother, Jesus also rebukes a large class who have an idolatrous love for their family, and allow the ties of relationship to draw them from the service of God. Human love is a sacred attribute; but should not be allowed to mar our religious experience, or draw our hearts from God. **{2SP 101.2}** *The Spirit of Prophecy, Volume 2, 1877*

Consider the Following

— Running out of wine during the wedding feast was embarrassing for the bride and groom. But thanks to Jesus'

intervention, they were able to present “the good wine” as the culmination of their party (**John 2:1-10**).

— In describing this miracle, John directs our minds from water—a symbol of purification (**Jn. 2:6**)—to the new wine—a symbol of redemption (**1 Cor. 11:25**)

The Miracle of the Official's son - John 4:46-54

Monday - September 30, 2024

The Second Sign in Galilee - The sign for those without faith

[John 4:46-54](#)

"This was the second sign Jesus performed after coming from Judea to Galilee" (John 4:54)



A Faith that Brings Hope and Life

A messenger comes with hurried steps to the mansion and asks to see the nobleman. He tells him that he has just come from Jerusalem, and that there is in Galilee a prophet of God, declared by some to be the long-expected Messiah. His work has awakened an intense interest in the city of Jerusalem, the messenger says, and crowds follow him wherever he goes. It may be that he can heal the child. {**YI, Dec 4, 1902 par. 1**}



As the nobleman listens, the expression of his countenance changes from despair to hope. Determined to leave no means untried to save his child's

life, he decides to go himself to see this prophet. The hope born in his soul strengthens as he prepares for his journey. Before the day dawns, he is on his way to Cana of Galilee, where Jesus is supposed to have gone. The journey is long and the road rough, but nothing can deter the anxious father. **{YI, December 4, 1902 par. 2}**

Finding Jesus, he beseeches him to come to Capernaum and heal his son. "Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe," Jesus answers. To a certain extent, the nobleman did believe, else he would not have taken the long journey at that critical time. But Christ desired to increase his faith. **{YI, December 4, 1902 par. 3}** *The Youth's Instructor*

The Joy of Restoration through His Wisdom is a rebuke to Satan's Power.

And the power of the words of the Redeemer flashes like lightning from Cana to Capernaum, and the child is healed. The nobleman shows his faith by not insisting on the presence of Jesus, and immediately the power of Satan is rebuked. The dying boy feels the joy of restoration. **{YI, December 4, 1902 par. 6}** *The Youth's Instructor*

The Saviour cannot withdraw from the soul that clings to Him, pleading its great need. "Go thy way," He said; "thy son liveth." The nobleman left the Saviour's presence with a peace and joy he had never known before. Not only did he believe that his son would be restored, but with strong confidence, he trusted in Christ as the Redeemer. **{DA 198.5}** *The Desire of Ages, 1898*

Consider the Following

— A royal official living in Capernaum, distressed about his sick son, decided to travel to Cana and ask Jesus to come and heal his son (**Jn. 4:46-47**). If Jesus did this, he would believe in Him.

— Jesus' response indicated that He was well aware of the officer's thoughts (**Jn. 4:48**). Miracles in themselves did not prove that Jesus was the Messiah (Satan himself can perform miracles [**Ex. 7:22; Rev. 13:13**]).

— The officer had to decide whether or not to believe in Jesus before the miracle could be performed. Although the narrative does not say so, we can imagine the officer's tears as he pleaded for his son's life, which now depended on his own faith (**John 4:49**).

— At Jesus' words, and without any evidence of the miracle, he believed (**Jn. 4:50**). Such was his confidence that he made the journey, spending the night on the road. When they announced to him that his son had been healed, he only cared to verify that he had indeed been healed at the moment when Jesus had spoken his words (**Jn. 4:51-53**)

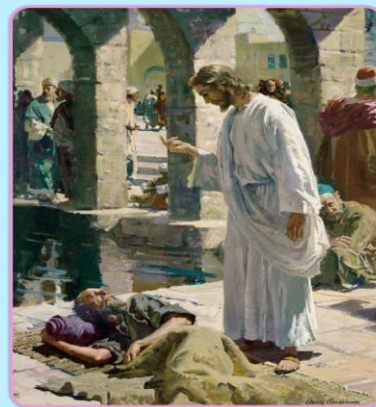
The Miracle at the Pool of Bethesda

Tuesday - October 1, 2024
The Signal for the desperate

[John 5:1-9, 14](#)

"When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?"

(John 5:6)



Jesus at Bethesda, He showed His Great Love to the Poor, the Suffering, and the Sinful

"After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water; whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had." **{3Red 19.3}**

Jesus did not hold himself aloof from the poor, the suffering, and the sinful. His great heart of love went out in yearning tenderness for wretched objects who needed his help. He was acquainted with the sufferers who had learned to look forward to the period when it was thought that the waters were agitated by a supernatural power. Many suffering from

different maladies visited the pool; but so great was the crowd at the appointed time, that they rushed forward, trampling underfoot men, women, and children weaker than themselves. **{3Red 20.1}** *Redemption: Or the Miracles of Christ, the Mighty One, 1877*

A Wise Purpose Underlay Every Act of Christ's Life on Earth

For this reason He had chosen the Sabbath upon which to perform the act of healing at Bethesda. He could have healed the sick man as well on any other day of the week; or He might simply have cured him, without bidding him bear away his bed. But this would not have given Him the opportunity He desired. A wise purpose underlay every act of Christ's life on earth. Everything He did was important in itself and in its teaching. Among the afflicted ones at the pool He selected the worst case upon whom to exercise His healing power, and bade the man carry his bed through the city in order to publish the great work that had been wrought upon him. This would raise the question of what it was lawful to do on the Sabbath, and would open the way for Him to denounce the restrictions of the Jews in regard to the Lord's day, and to declare their traditions void. **{DA 206.2}** *The Desire of Ages, 1898*

The Healing Ministry Demonstrates an Important Lesson - Be Made Whole!

The healing of the impotent man at the pool of Bethesda teaches an important lesson,--a lesson of priceless value to the Christian and of fearful import to the unbelieving and the skeptical. As the paralytic lay beside the pool, helpless and well-nigh hopeless, Jesus drew near, and asked, in tones of pity, "Wilt thou be made whole?" Be made whole!--this had been the burden of his desire and prayers for long, weary years. With trembling eagerness he told the story of his trials and disappointments to the sympathizing Son of God. No friend was near to bear him to the healing fountain at the troubling of the waters. His agonizing appeals for help fell unheeded. All around him were those who sought the coveted boon of health for their own loved ones; and while he painfully sought to reach the pool, another would be hurried down before him. **{ST, July 15, 1886 par. 2}** *The Signs of the Times*

Consider the following

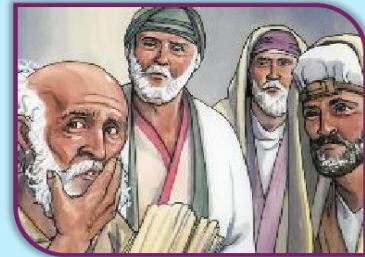
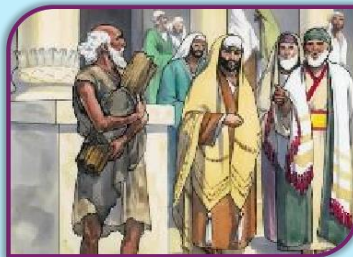
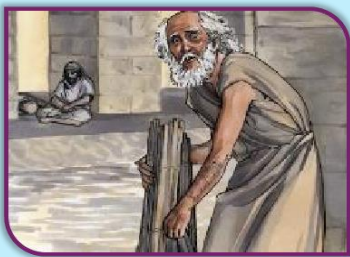
- Among the multitude of sick people who were at the edge of the pool of Bethesda, Jesus chose the most desperate one (**Jn. 5:1-5**).
- The sick man recognized in Jesus' loving question someone who wanted to help him (**John 5:6-7**). But Jesus did not help him perform a superstitious rite. He simply ordered him: "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk" (**John 5:8**).
- At this command, the sick man responded. He stood up, and his limbs, paralyzed for 38 years, regained strength. He who made his legs had restored his own.
- Later, Jesus identified his illness as a consequence of his sins (**Jn. 5:14**). Illness may or may not be a direct consequence of our sin. But regardless of its origin, God has the power to heal our illnesses (**James 5:14-15**).
- The life, death and resurrection of Jesus are not events that should be silenced.

Wednesday - October 2, 2024

Hard Hearts - The sign for those who do not want to understand

[John 5:10-16, 38-42; 9:1-16; Mark 3:22-23; Matthew 12:9-14.](#)

"So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him." (John 5:16)



Performing Miracle Healing on the Sabbath-Restoration to Health and Spiritual Re-creation

Should God forbid the sun to perform its office upon the Sabbath, cut off its genial rays from warming the earth and nourishing vegetation? Must the system of worlds stand still through that holy day? Should He command the brooks to stay from watering the fields and forests, and bid the waves of the sea still their ceaseless ebbing and flowing? Must the wheat and corn stop growing, and the ripening cluster defer its purple bloom? Must the trees and flowers put forth no bud nor blossom on the Sabbath?



{DA 206.4}

In such a case, men would miss the fruits of the earth, and the blessings that make life desirable. Nature must continue her unvarying course. God could not for a moment stay His hand, or man would faint and die. And man also has a work to perform on this day. The necessities of life must be attended to, the sick must be cared for, the wants of the needy must be supplied. He will not be held guiltless who neglects to relieve suffering on the Sabbath. God's holy rest day was made for man, and acts of mercy are in perfect harmony with its intent. God does not desire His creatures to suffer an hour's pain that may be relieved upon the Sabbath or any other day. {DA 207.1} *The Desire of Ages, 1898*

Malicious Acts of the Leaders toward the Healing Ministry of Jesus

After the work of healing that Jesus had performed upon the Sabbath at the Pool of Bethesda, the malice of the leading Jews was so kindled against him that they plotted against his life, and it was no longer safe for him to remain in Jerusalem. Therefore he repaired to Galilee, making Capernaum the scene of his labors. At this place he taught; and upon the Sabbaths, multitudes gathered to listen to his doctrine. Here his way seemed to be unobstructed, although spies were upon his track, watching for something whereof they might accuse him. {2SP 173.1} *The Spirit of Prophecy, Volume 2, 1877*

Sin No More, Lest a Worse thing Come Unto Thee

In the temple Jesus met the man who had been healed. He had come to bring a sin offering and also a thank offering for the great mercy he had received. Finding him among the worshipers, Jesus made Himself known,

with the warning words, "Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee."

The healed man was overjoyed at meeting his Deliverer. Ignorant of the enmity toward Jesus, he told the Pharisees who had questioned him, that this was He who had performed the cure. "Therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath day." {DA 204.2-3} *The Desire of Ages, 1898*

Consider the following

— It was logical that, once healed, the sick man would return home carrying his belongings. But... he was breaking the Sabbath! (**Jn. 5:10**). Faced with this accusation, the man defended himself by saying that his healer had ordered him to do so, and the matter was settled (**Jn. 5:11-13**).

— Thinking that they wanted to praise their healer when he heard that Jesus had healed him, he ran to tell those who had asked him (**Jn. 5:14-15**).

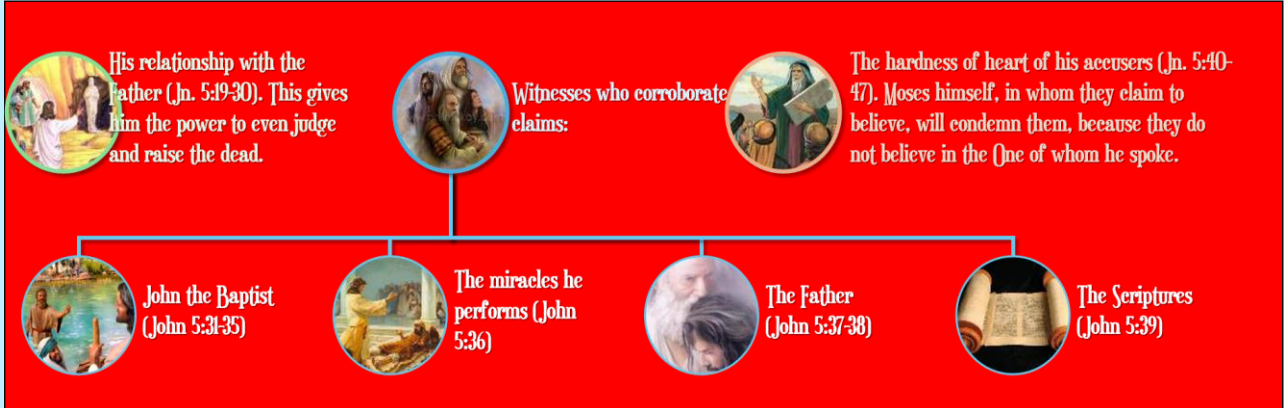
— But not everyone reacted the same way to Jesus' signs (**John 5:16**). Jesus knew He would arouse prejudice when He ordered the paralytic to carry his bed on the Sabbath. His purpose was to make His antagonists think about what was more important, His tradition or the healing of a man. Why did they not want to understand this?

Thursday - October 3, 2024

Jesus' Claims - The Sign Supported by Witnesses

[John 5:16-18, 19-47.](#)

*"For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God" (**John 5:18**)*



The Divine Mystery that the Majesty of Heaven, Equal with God

This Saviour was to be a mediator, to stand between the Most High and his people. Through this provision, a way was opened whereby the guilty sinner might find access to God through the mediation of another. The sinner could not come in his own person, with his guilt upon him, and with no greater merit than he possessed in himself. Christ alone could open the way, by making an offering equal to the demands of the divine law. He was perfect, and undefiled by sin. He was without spot or blemish. The extent of the terrible consequences of sin could never have been known, had not the remedy provided been of infinite value. The salvation of fallen man was procured at such an immense cost that angels marveled, and could not fully comprehend the divine mystery that the Majesty of Heaven, equal with God, should die for the rebellious race. **{2SP 11.1}** *The Spirit of Prophecy, Volume 2, 1877*

By His Grace He can Keep Every Man from Transgression

Christ is the Minister of the true Tabernacle, the High Priest of all who believe in Him as a personal Saviour; and His office no other can take. He is the High Priest of the church, and He has a work to do which no other can perform. By His grace He is able to keep every man from transgression.--**The Signs of the Times, Feb. 14, 1900. {7ABC 484.4}** *SDA Bible Commentary, Volume 7A, 1970*

The Father Ordained Christ as Himself, His Words are to be Obeyed, Salvation is Through Him

The great Creator assembled the heavenly host, that he might in the presence of all the angels confer special honor upon his Son. The Son was seated on the throne with the Father, and the heavenly throng of holy angels was gathered around them. The Father then made known that it was ordained by himself that Christ, his Son, should be equal with himself; so that wherever was the presence of his Son, it was as his own presence. The word of the Son was to be obeyed as readily as the word of the Father. His Son he had invested with authority to command the heavenly host. Especially was his Son to work in union with himself in the anticipated creation of the earth and every living thing that should exist upon the earth. His Son would carry out his will and his purposes, but would do nothing of himself alone. The Father's will would be fulfilled in him. **{1SP 17.2}** *The Spirit of Prophecy, Volume One, 1870*

Consider the following

— When accused of being a Sabbath-breaker, Jesus gave an answer that was interpreted as an affirmation of his divinity **(Jn. 5:17-18)**.

— Jesus now defends himself in three steps:

(1) His relationship with the Father **(Jn. 5:19-30)**. This gives him the power to even judge and raise the dead.

(2) Witnesses who corroborate his claims:

(a) John the Baptist **(Jn. 5:31-35)**

(b) The miracles he performs **(Jn. 5:36)**

(c) The Father **(Jn. 5:37-38)**

(d) The Scriptures **(Jn. 5:39)**

(3) The hardness of heart of his accusers **(Jn. 5:40-47)**. Moses himself, in whom they claim to believe, will condemn them, because they do not believe in the One of whom he spoke

Friday – October 4, 2024

Insights and Further Study

"Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure."
Philippians 1:27-29; 2:1-13. {9T 275.1}

From the Pen of Inspiration

"In the gospel the character of Christ is portrayed. As He descended step by step from His throne, His divinity was veiled in humanity; but in His miracles, His doctrines, His sufferings [...] are inexhaustible treasures of wisdom, recorded for us by inspiration in the Word of God. [...] Time will not be sufficient to exhaust the wonders of salvation, but through everlasting ages, Christ will be the science and the song of the redeemed soul. New developments of the perfection and glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ will be forever unfolding. And now there must be perfect reliance upon His merit and grace; there must be distrust of self, and living faith in Him." **EGW (Lift Him Up, January 26)**

Questions to Ponder upon

1. Why does John write for signs and miracles as points of Messiah's identity?
2. How is the miracle at Cana becoming an attraction for the disciples to believe in Christ?
3. What's the significance of Jesus doing this miracle for His close relatives, as it was not done in public places?
4. What was John's purpose in writing this second miracle in that little city of Galilee? Why?
5. Why did Jesus choose the man at the pool and ask Him if he wanted to be healed? How did the man respond?
6. Why do the religious leaders harden their hearts to believe seeing the miracle was a reality?
7. Based upon the statement above, **{9T 275.1}**, what are the reasons that made people believe Jesus is the Son of God? And what should be our response to it?

Disclaimer

This Sabbath School Lesson, Meat in Due Season Advanced Commentary is not to replace, discredit, disapprove, or discriminate against what had been made by the Sabbath School Department of General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist but to uphold, advance, sustain, facilitate, clarify, and protect the essence of the truth taught in the Bible **{Isa. 8:20}** and the inspiration (through the Prophetic Ministration of Ellen G. White and another prophet she predicted in **TM 475**).

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Glory be to the Lord Jesus Christ, Our Coming King of kings!