

ii. Progression from the 6th to 7th Hour

iii. The royal official comes to Jesus in the full light of day.

Summary: *The bride of Jesus is made up of people in a relationship of faith with Jesus, regardless of ones heritage, through prayer and His Word.*

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- What do you think of the E. Peterson quote about how many have “squeezed all the imaginative stuff out of Scripture” in our day? How can one go too far in either direction with this?
- What are some of the details of this story that compare or contrast with the preceding stories in John?
- Have you ever felt like you've been rejected by Jesus, or rebuked by Jesus when you've come to Him in prayer? If so, how did you respond? Do you let it cause you to think He doesn't care? What can we learn from the royal official about how to respond?
- How does Jesus' 2nd answer (4:50a) demonstrate the Wisdom of God in Jesus?
- How does this story demonstrate that being the bride of Christ is about having a relationship of faith with Jesus through prayer and His Word?
- V45 tells us that the Galileans welcomed Jesus because they saw the signs he was doing at the festival in Jerusalem. That means they had a response similar to those of Jerusalem who were also there (2:23). Is there anything wrong with believing because one has seen?

The Word Became Flesh (10) *What's it Like to be Married to Jesus?*

Jerry Cisar — February 19, 2017

Text: John 4:43-54

Introduction

A. Reading the Gospels

Eugene Peterson, translator of The Message Bible, talks about the travesty that has occurred in some of our modern reading of the Bible in which we've “squeezed all the imaginative stuff out of Scripture....”

➤ Jeremiah 2:13

B. What's it like to be married to Jesus?

I. Jesus Stops in Cana (4:43-46)

A. *After the two days...* (43)

B. A Prophet without Honor... Welcomed in Galilee (44-45)

- i. There are 3 ways this has been understood:
 - a) In John's Gospel Jesus' “homeland” means either Judea or Jerusalem, where His Father's house is.
 - b) Jesus' homeland is Galilee.
 - c) That Jesus homeland is more specifically Nazareth (or I will add possibly Nazareth and Capernaum).

➤ Matthew 11:23

C. Once more he visited Cana in Galilee... (46)

i. Jesus enters Cana of Galilee. (46a)

ii. The need is in Capernaum. (46b)

D. Is the royal official Jewish or Gentile?

ii. *“Therefore Jesus said to him (sg), “Unless you (pl) see signs and wonders, you (pl) absolutely won't believe.”*

C. This “rejection” matured his faith rather than stifling it. (49)

D. How does Jesus meet the man's need and perfect his faith at the same time? (50)

i. By answering as He did, Jesus requires faith in His Word without seeing, yet grants the request at the same time!

ii. How can a spoken word have such power and reach?

➤ John 6:51, 63

II. A Man from Capernaum Goes to Cana (4:47-50)

A. This man heard Jesus had stopped in Cana. (47)

i. He goes to Cana and asks Jesus to come and heal his son.

ii. This is a sign of faith.

a) John 2:23-25

b) Do these Galileans have genuine faith? Does this royal official from Capernaum—a town well known for its lack of faith—have genuine faith? Mature or immature faith?

c) *“Come Jesus, help me overcome death for my son!”*

B. Jesus answers harshly. (48)

i. John 2:4 – the last time in Cana.

III. Jesus Word Goes to Capernaum (4:51-54)

A. There's an emphasis on the power of Jesus' Word. (50, 51, 53)

B. The 7th Hour (52)

i. Confirms the source of the healing as the Words of Jesus.