



Church of God Sunday School

THE MIRACLE WORKER IS RECEIVED AND REJECTED

John 4:43-54; Luke 4:16-32



THE NOBLEMAN'S SON IS HEALED: After spending two days in Samaria, Jesus and His disciples traveled to the country of Galilee. Many Galileans had traveled to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. There they had seen the many miracles of Jesus. They eagerly received Him in their own country. Jesus soon arrived in Cana (*KAY-nuh*), the city where He performed His first miracle—turning water into wine.

There was a nobleman who lived in Capernaum (*kuh-PUHR-nee-uhm*), a city on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. His son was very sick. He was "at the point of death." The nobleman had heard of Jesus. Although it was approximately fifteen to twenty miles from Capernaum to where Jesus was in Cana, the nobleman traveled the great distance to ask Jesus to heal his son.

When the nobleman found Jesus, he begged Jesus to come and heal his son. What great love he had for his son! Jesus told him, "Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe."

The nobleman pleaded with Jesus to come immediately or else his son would die. He believed that Jesus was the only One who could heal his son. Jesus said to him, "Go thy way; thy son liveth."

The nobleman did not doubt the words of Jesus. He did not wonder how Jesus could heal his son without going to him. The nobleman "believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way." He did not see "signs and wonders," yet he believed Jesus would do exactly what He said. What a lesson this is to us! What Jesus has said, He will do. It is up to us to believe His Word.

The nobleman traveled toward his home. As it was a long journey, it was the next day before he reached

Capernaum. As he drew near, his servants came to meet him, saying, "Thy son liveth." His son was healed!

The nobleman asked his servants what time his son began to get well. The servants told him that the fever had left his son at the "seventh hour," or one o'clock in the afternoon. This was the very same hour Jesus had told the nobleman, "Go thy way; thy son liveth." What a miracle! The nobleman and his whole house believed in the Lord Jesus.



JESUS IS REJECTED IN NAZARETH: Jesus traveled to Nazareth, the town where He had lived for many, many years. It was Jesus' custom to go to the synagogue (*SIN-uh-gog*) on the Sabbath day. The synagogue was a Jewish meeting place for worship. Jesus stood up to read the words of the Prophet Isaiah, words that were written about seven hundred years earlier.

Jesus opened the book, or scroll, and read from Isaiah 61:1-2. Jesus said: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

After reading the Scriptures, Jesus closed the book, gave it back to the minister (the officer in charge of the scrolls), and sat down. It was customary for the Jews to sit down while teaching or commenting on the Scriptures. However, when reading the Scriptures they stood up. Not only that but when one read the Scrip-



tures, it was not lawful to even lean on anything. What great respect they had for God's Word!

When Jesus sat down, everyone's eyes were on Him. What would He say? How would He explain the words of Isaiah?

Jesus said, "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears." The people were surprised at what Jesus said. They did not know He could speak so well. They had known Jesus all of His life. They knew He was the son of Joseph. How could He be the One Isaiah prophesied about? How could He be the Promised Messiah?

Jesus knew they were rejecting Him. He said, "No prophet is accepted in his own country." In other words, a prophet is not honored by the people of his hometown. Jesus spoke of the rejection of God's prophets, Elijah and Elisha. The miracles of the widow's oil and the healing of leprosy was not for their own countrymen but for foreigners and heathens.

When those in the synagogue heard the words of Jesus, they were filled with anger. Not only was Jesus comparing Himself to the great prophets, but He also was saying that God had love and mercy for the Gentiles. The proud Jews did not want to hear this!

The people would not listen to Jesus any longer. They rose up and pushed Jesus out of the city. They led Him to the top of the high hill that the city of Nazareth was built on. They wanted to throw him over the cliff down to the sharp rocks below. They knew what kind of a man Jesus was. They had watched Him grow up in their midst. Earlier that day, they had marveled at Jesus' words. But now they wanted to kill Him!

However, it was not Jesus' time to die. He passed through the midst of them and went on His way. Not a one of them could stop Him! He left Nazareth and went to stay in Capernaum.

The people of Nazareth were unaware that their pride and anger had caused them to drive the Savior out of their city. Jesus came unto His own people, but they rejected Him.

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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"He came unto his own, and his own received him not."*  
 —John 1:11  
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The Miracle Worker

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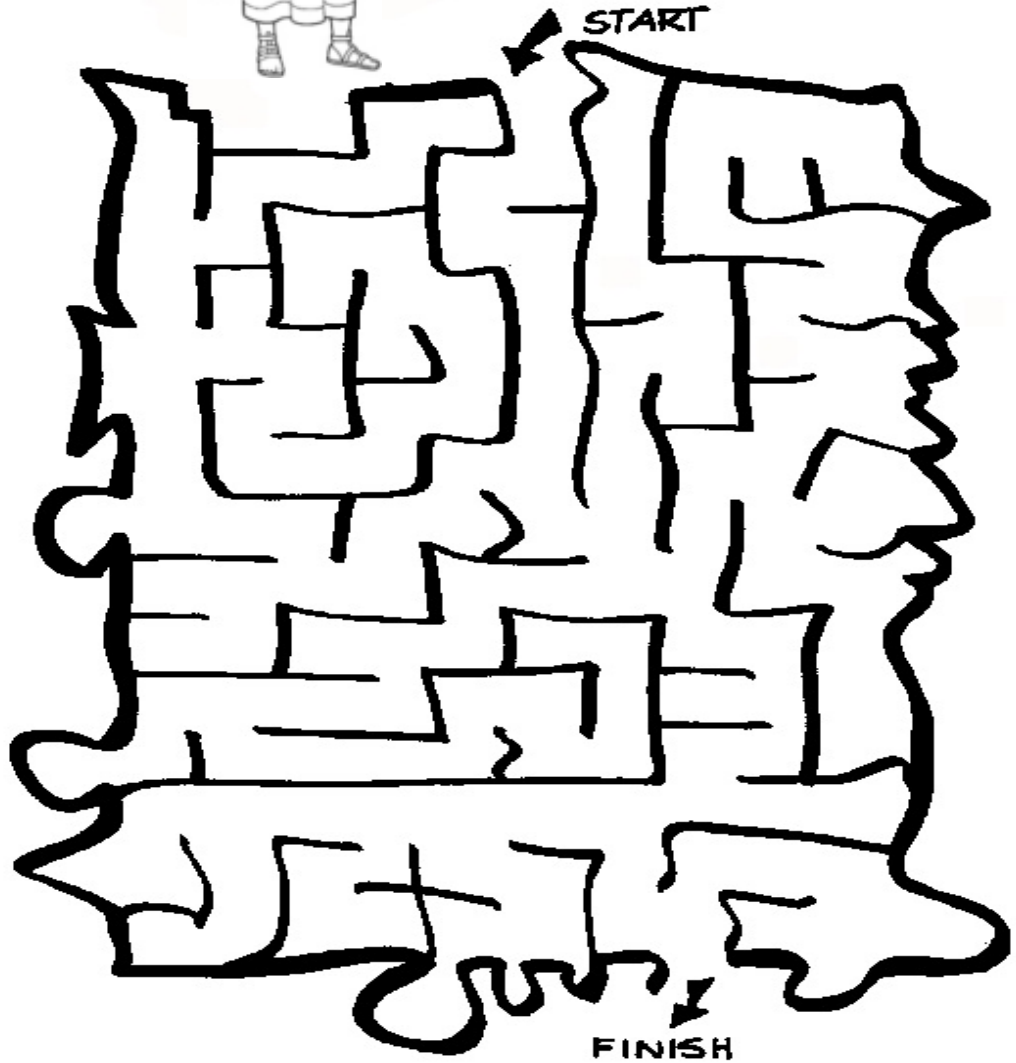
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The Nobleman Returns to Find His Son Healed