

Books of the Book Series

The Gospel of John Outline of Script for TV Production 3ABN Studios March 4-12, 2013

10. Two Remarkable Healings (John 4:43 - 5:18)

These two stories could be handled separately, but they are connected within the text and both are acted parables that illustrate important things about Jesus.

10. Scene A. A Crucial Transition (4:43-45)

Contradictory assertions at first glance
Explained by 2:23-25 (chiasm)
Story parallels temple scene (then Cana with Cana)
Enthusiasm that is based on miracles is no honor
Jesus is not honored by awe of the miraculous
He is honored by response in spirit and truth
Story that follows is an acted parable of inadequate faith
Then true faith

10. Scene B. The Royal Official: Inadequate Faith (4:46-48)

4:46

According to the Synoptics, royal official was a Gentile
Lived in Capernaum, Jesus and he had been neighbors (2:12)
Explains hesitation to trust Jesus (he saw and touched him)
An acted parable of 4:43-45, Galilean faith!
How a prophet has no honor in his home town!
Illustrates God's problem in becoming human

4:48

Contrast with 20:29
Signs intend to produce faith, but better faith is not based on signs
Better faith is based on who Jesus is
"Wonders" can blind the eyes to the revelation of who Jesus is
They can be stumbling blocks to real faith
(Song of Solomon)
Official was not relying on the word of Jesus, he needed physical evidence
in order to believe
Startled to find out he couldn't hide his unbelief from Jesus—
Jesus knows! (2:25)

10. Scene C. The Royal Official: Genuine Faith (4:49-54)

4:50 “Took Jesus at His word”

Royal official is a representative of second generation

Faith comes by hearing (Rom 10:17)

4:51-53

Child is healed at the very moment of Jesus’ word

At a distance of 16 miles

His word is as good (or better) as His presence

Duodirectionality:

This story is a fitting climax to chapters 2-4

Good introduction to chapters 5-12, where emphasis is “life”

Here Jesus provides spiritual life to nobleman’s son

Prepares the way for Bethesda, 5:21,24; 11:24; Lazarus

10. Scene D. Bethesda: Structure and Background

1) Structure

John 5-10 (or 12) is a new section with a double emphasis

– The “Life-Giving Word”

– Jesus replacing Jewish Feasts

2) Background

5:1– Which feast? Not stated

Probably Feast of Trumpets

– Creation motif

– Judgment

The Pool of Bethesda

Note location of temple and Bethesda

Pool was a squarish figure eight, 200' by 300', widest to south

40' deep, Hellenistic construction

Fed by intermittent stream

May be Asclepius temple

Drew a large mixture of peoples and beliefs

10. Scene E. Verse by Verse

5:2– Beth-Edsa in original = “House of Mercy”

Jesus showed mercy where it ought to have been

5:5– Paralyzed for 38 years

40 years is a full generation

Almost a lifetime

The great center of healing proved to be no help

5:7– He was an abandoned man

The system had nothing to offer him

Illustration of 5:21– there are no limits to Jesus’ life-giving power

5:10– Healing happened on the Sabbath

Certainly was no emergency

When Jesus takes the initiative in a healing it is almost always on the Sabbath

5:11-15– The man seems to have been pretty dense

5:14– “stop sinning”

10. Scene F. Concluding Themes

– Jesus replaces the waters of Jerusalem

They could not heal, but Jesus does

– Jesus healed the man arbitrarily

Picked one man out of the crowd

Man didn't know him, expressed no faith

Ever happen to you?

Experience of grace

– Jesus healed the man on the Sabbath

Priests allowed for emergencies, this was no emergency (38 years)

Like God, who brings rain and sunshine on the Sabbath

Sabbath is a day to do good

– Verse 14: “stop sinning”

Illness caused by sin, could happen again

Extremely continuous form

How could a paralyzed man sin?

Rob banks

Kill people

Commit adultery

Sin of the mind

A psychosomatic illness

Physical healing was only the tip of the iceberg

Jesus wanted to heal the whole person