

GOSPEL PEARLS

Strengthening our faith

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15_03_2021



After the two days he departed for Galilee. (For Jesus himself had testified that a prophet has no honour in his own hometown.) So when he came to Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him, having seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the feast. For they too had gone to the feast. So he came again to Cana in Galilee, where he had made the water wine. And at Capernaum there was an official whose son was ill. When this man heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went to him and asked him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. So Jesus said to him, "Unless you see signs and wonders you

will not believe." The official said to him, "Sir, come down before my child dies." Jesus said to him, "Go; your son will live." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way. As he was going down, his servants met him and told him that his son was recovering. So he asked them the hour when he began to get better, and they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." And he himself believed, and all his household. This was now the second sign that Jesus did when he had come from Judea to Galilee. (John 4: 43-54)

In the recounting of this miracle, Jesus does not intervene until the father of the dying child turns to him and calls him "Lord." Miracles ought to strengthen our faith and not satisfy our curiosities. That is why we need to recognise Jesus as our Lord, that is, admitting we belong to Him, that we are His. Only then we can accept that we are full of shortcomings, while He can do everything! Once we have strengthened our faith, we will be able to effectively pay witness to the good that God has done for us, just as the father did in this Gospel passage.