

The Second Sign

The nobleman's son healed- of what is this a sign? (John 4:46-54)

And there was a certain royal official whose son was lying ill in Capernaum. Having heard that Jesus had come back from Judea into Galilee, he went away to meet Him and began to beg Him to come down and cure his son, for he was lying at the point of death.

One thing is certain, namely that our Lord's Second Sign, being wrought after leaving Judea and arriving in Galilee, has nothing to do with the Jews. It must, therefore, be related to the Gentiles and like our Lord's First Sign, when He turned water into wine, it must relate to this Dispensation. As it follows the typical "two days" in Samaria, it evidently refers to an event after the 2,000 years of the Christian Dispensation. This second sign of our Lord Jesus Christ has yet to witness its counterpart in our own day.

Without examining the details of this incident, we may say that it appears to us quite clear that the nobleman, being a Royal Personage (as the Greek word used implies), is a type of the Holy Spirit and that the son is a type of the Church, which is the Body of Christ, at the end of the age. Every member of the Body of Christ has been "born of water and of the Spirit" and every such one has been baptizes "by one Spirit..... into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles" (I Cor.12:13).

Anyone with a discerning eye, who is instructed in the Holy Scriptures, and who knows what the Church of Christ was at the beginning, must realize that it is now, at the end of the age, "at the point of death". As so few lament this dishonoring state of things, it will be only a few who realize how near to the "point of death" the Church is. Are we to regard our Lord's prayer in John seventeen as uttered in vain, or may we still believe that His prayer for the unity of His own members will be answered before He returns to take them to the "place" He went away to prepare? Not only has this sign to be fulfilled which will restore the Church to being a living and vitalized organism, but there are many more Scriptures that hold out the same hope.

The name Capernaum, from whence the nobleman came, means "the village of the Comforter". All will know that our Lord referred to the Holy Spirit as "the Comforter". No doubt, therefore, Capernaum may be viewed typically as representing the present sphere of the Holy spirit's activities, namely, Christendom.

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