

# **Taking Jesus at His Word**

## **John 4:43-53**

That sign thing again!

You are Israel's teacher and do you not understand these things? (NIV Jn 3:10)





# Water into wine

## Chapter 2

Number reference v11

The request v3

Jesus' reluctance v4

Obedience to words v5

The servants vv7,8



# The official's son

## Chapter 4

Number reference v54

The request v47

Jesus' reluctance v48

Obedience to words v50

The servants v51



# Signs

## 1. A sign has significance

The sign points to something important.

## 2. Someone put the sign there!

Someone wants to tell you something.

## 3. The sign has a meaning

What is it that the sign is communicating?

## 4. What is the meaning for me?

How does the message affect *me*?





# Signs

1. A sign has significance
2. Someone put the sign there!
3. The sign has a meaning
4. What is the meaning for me?

**5. A sign can be misunderstood!**

We may not react as the signwriter intended  
(v48)





# Words, pictures, actions

A picture is worth a thousand words

*So why is the proverb not a picture?*

What does that smile mean?

A smirk?

A shared secret?

Tummy ache?

Is it our interpretation, or what  
the artist intended?



Image: Wipedia commons



# Words, pictures, actions

Actions speak louder than words

*So why is the proverb not a video?*

I enter a bank wearing a mask-

Covid precaution or heist?

Word and action must work together

(James 2:15-16)





# Prophets and healers

Healers welcome (v43). No prophets (v42)!  
Seeing is believing (v48), but prophets speak!

‘If they do not listen to Moses and the  
Prophets, they will not be convinced even if  
someone rises from the dead.’ (NIV Lk 16:31)





# Prophets and healers

Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. . . .” Then he said to the paralytic, “Get up, take your mat and go home.” (NIV Mt 9:5–6)

*It is actually in the interplay between word and action that understanding is to be found*





# Words and actions

Sir, *come down* before my child dies. (4:49)

- a request for action

But remember Elisha and Naaman. *Go and bathe in the Jordan* (2 Kings 5)

A word requiring action:

Go. Your son will live

He took Jesus at his word (v50). Do we?





# Words and actions

The journey home (vv51-53)

an anxious night

an encouraging report

a time check

Faith (v50) → Action → Faith (v53)





# Words and actions

The sign understood

These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

(NIV Jn 20:31)

Take Jesus at his word - and act!

