

A True “Health and Wealth” Gospel Story

Introduction

Narrative is the most prevalent genre in the bible. There are many examples of epistles, dramas, psalms and proverbs as well as fantastic apocalyptic episodes in the bible. The bible as a whole and in most of its parts is a story and story is told as narrative. A story can be simple or complex. Stories can be linked together and build off each other and form a meta-story: a story beyond the story and thus a meta-narrative. It is such the case as we look into the gospels.

Theological Context

Nicodemus- A man, Jewish, Rich, Religious orthodox, powerful, socially connected

Woman at well- A women, Samaritan Poor, immoral, powerless, social outcast

Both need what Jesus has to offer- water of life- eternal life

Men from Sychar come to believe-- Disciples don't understand the work or will of God

Narrative Context

Narrative markers

Stories contain plot, character, location and situation- tension and resolution

Geographical markers (2 New Stories)

JC had been in Capernaum 2:12 Now JC heals a rich boy in Capernaum 4:46
and a poor old man in Jerusalem 5:1

I. The Healing of the Rich (Story # 1) 4:43

The Place

The Players

The Plot

The Predicament

The Prescription

II. The Healing of the Poor (Story # 2) 5:1

The Place

The Players

The Plot

The Predicament

The Prescription

The Point

NB Story # 1 The man came to Jesus to ask him to heal his son
The son is rich, young and dieing, needs life
Social insider

Story # 2 Jesus goes to the man and asks him if he wishes to be healed.
The man is old, lame, needs to be set straight
Social outcast

The two stories are tied to the previous 2 stories of Nicodemus & Women at the well

- * The Rich man- focus on the need of life from the clutches of death.
The women at the well needed the water of life 4:10
Nicodemus needed to be born again- of water and wind 3:5
(Neither the water from Jacobs well nor the pool for the poor can give life and heal.
Only Jesus can give life to the sick (poor man) or the dieing (Rich mans son)
- * The Poor man needed to be healed by the water
Jesus is the giver of living water and eternal life
The women at the well is poor and a social outcast

Both stories introduce us to the key issue that is coming up in the confrontation of Jesus and the religious leaders. 5:16-17

- * Jesus broke the Mosaic law 5: 9,16, 39-47
Nicodemus and religious leaders are confused about the law 3:14
- * Jesus claims to be Messiah 5: 18, 44
(Signs of the Savior- Isa 35:5-7 and Matt. 11:5-7)
The woman at the well need to realize Jesus was the Messiah.
- * Jesus is doing the Fathers will and work 4:34 5:17

Neither Nicodemus, the women at the well, the disciples, the rich man, the poor man nor the religious leaders understand the meaning of Moses or the Messiah nor the will of the Father. But Jesus does. And His speech (5:19-47) will proclaim this central truth. Unless you believe that he is the Savior of the world you will die in your sins. (3:16, 4:42, 8:24)

Points to Ponder

1. All people of any religious, social or racial group need Jesus for life.
2. Some know they need a savior and others don't have a clue.
3. Are we doing the will of the Father by proclaiming the Son?