

***, 2005***

**Taking Jesus at His Word**

*John 4:43-54*

**Opening question**: Do you believe things easily, or are you a more of a doubter who asks for evidence or proof? On a scale of 1 to 10 – 1 being “I can't believe in anything without any visible proof” and 10 being “I can believe in anything without tangible evidence/verification” – how would you rate yourself?

**Read John 4:43-54.**

**1. Discuss the details of the situation in verses 46-50 (skip v. 48 for now). Discuss the royal official’s heart and the qualities he possessed.**

Qualities of the royal official

4:47: A humble man. He was a royal official more than likely one of King Herod’s official workers and in charge of many servants more than likely, but he humbled himself before a poor carpenter (Jesus). He begged for his son.

4:49: He persevered. He kept knocking. He kept begging. He was not discouraged.

4:50: He took Jesus at his word. He had faith. He believed Jesus could do what he said. His promise you can take to the bank.

**2. Discuss verse 48. Who is Jesus addressing? What is the issue he is addressing?**

Jesus was not just addressing the royal official. He was addressing the crowd of on lookers. And probably those who had heard of or seen his previous miracle from John 2 which was turning water into wine.

Jesus was addressing the hardness of people’s hearts. That they would not believe Jesus was the Son of God and the Christ (Messiah, Savior, Lord) unless they saw a miraculous sign.

**3. Let's take a deeper look at miracles:**

**a) Let’s do a word study on the words “miracle” and “sign” just in the book of John. Please look up John 2:11, 2:23, 3:2,**

**4:48, 10:24-25, 10:38, 14:11, and 20:29-31. Why does Jesus do miracles? What is the purpose of a miracle?**

**b) Today, do most people pray for miracles according to this purpose? Do you pray for miracles? Why or why not?**

Scriptures for Word Study on the words “miracle” and “sign” reveal that that the performance of miracles and signs and wonders was so that people believed in Jesus. Believed what about Jesus? That they believed Jesus was the Son of God and the Christ (Messiah, Savior, Anointed One). The one sent by God to save the World.

Jesus wants people to believe not in the miracle but Him. He wants them to love the Giver not the Gift. This is why he says to Thomas and us after Thomas sees Jesus as the resurrected Lord, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed (John 20:29).” Or Jesus at the end of the Parable of the Rich man who goes to hell and begs God to tell his family to listen to Jesus and do what is right says ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced (believe) even if someone (implying Jesus) rises from the dead (a miracle).’”

Verses

Jn 2:11: This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

John 2:23: Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many people saw the miraculous signs he was doing and believed in his name.

John 3:2: He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

John 4:48: “Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders,” Jesus told him, “you will never believe.”

John 10:24-25: The Jews gathered around him, saying, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ,[a] tell us plainly.” Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father’s name speak for me,

John 10:38: But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.”

John 14:11: Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.

John 20:29-31: Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But 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.

**4. John 4:50 says, “The man took Jesus at his word and departed.” In what ways do we not take Jesus at his word and not do what Jesus tells us to do? Possible topics to get things started are: “Don’t worry! (Mt 6)”, “Do not fear for I am with you. (Is 41:10)”, “Do not covet (Gen 20)”, “Trust in me with all your heart (Pro 3:5-6)”, “Come to me all of you who are weary and I will give you rest (Mt 11:28)”.**

**5. Look at verses 51-54. Discuss the results of seeking out Jesus and taking Jesus at his word. Also, share how we can come to seek out Jesus and simply take Jesus at his word more.**

Two major results occur. 1st is that his son was healed and given life. Life came to his family. Jesus is life and brings life if we believe and trust in him. Jesus brings life and healing into our PRESSE (Physical, relational, emotional, sexual, spiritual, economical parts of our life). 2nd is that the royal official and his household believed (4:53). They didn’t just believe a miracle. They believed the Miracle Worker. They believed Jesus was the son of God the Christ, Messiah. And more than likely this brought persecution because we know King Herod was not a friend of John the Baptist or Jesus.

Cana and Capernaum were 20 miles apart which explains the day’s journey.

This was not a coincidence. It was the power of God.

4:52: 7th hour is 1:00pm (Jewish day was from 6am-6pm).

4:54: Jesus had performed many miraculous signs (2:23, 3:2) but this was the 2nd miracle in Cana of Galilee.