

***, 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.

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

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?

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.