

Take Jesus at His Word

John 4:43-54

Key Verse: 4:50

1. Read verses 43-45. Where did the event in this passage take place? Where had Jesus spent two days? What had happened there? What kind of reception did he receive when he arrived in Galilee? What does verse 44 mean? Why was Jesus not so pleased with the Galilean welcome? (48; Jn 2:23-25) Contrast the way the Samaritans and Galileans honored Jesus.
2. Read verses 46-47. What had happened previously in Cana? Who came to see him there? What was the man's problem? What request did he make of Jesus? Read verses 48-50. How did Jesus respond to this man's request? What does this mean? How did the official respond? What did he ask Jesus to do? (49) What did he believe? What does his persistence show about him? What did Jesus promise him? (50a)
3. How did the man show his faith in Jesus' promise? (50b) What does his obedience show about his faith? Why might it have been hard to obey?
4. Read verses 51-52. Who met him on the way home, and with what good news? What was his first response to this news? (52) What does this show about him?
5. Read verses 53-54. What did the father realize? What affect did this have on him and on his household? Review the three levels of belief found in this passage. How are they different? Why was the first kind inadequate? (48, 50b, 52-53) Why is it hard to practice obedient faith? (50) Why is it important for faith to grow from benefit-seeking to committed faith? How can it?
6. What can we learn from this official? At which level of faith are you now? What can we learn from Jesus? Why can we take Jesus at his word?