

The Word Became Flesh

Jesus Christ Heals the Nobleman's Son

Lesson #10 John 4: 43 - 54

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Memory Verse: “Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.” John 20: 30 & 31

Definition of Miracle- a less common, extraordinary demonstration of God's activity in the world - displaying great divine power with supernatural results - that arouses people's awe and wonder – and it bears witness to God Himself.

Jesus' Eight Signs/Miracles in Gospel of John- [from J.MacArthur's Study Bible]

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| 1. Turns water into wine (2:1-12) | Jesus is the source of life. |
| 2. Heals an official's son (4:46-54) | Jesus is master over distance (distance is no obstacle to Divine power) |
| 3. Heals a lame man at the pool of Bethesda (5:1-17) | Jesus is master over time. |
| 4. Feeds 5,000 (6:1-14) | Jesus is the bread of life. |
| 5. Walks on water, stills a storm (6: 15-21) | Jesus is master over nature. |
| 6. Heals a man blind from birth (9:1-41) | Jesus is the light of the world. |
| 7. Raises Lazarus from the dead (11:17-45) | Jesus has power over death. |
| 8. Causes abundant catch of fish (21:6) | Jesus is master over the animal world. |

(Below) is from The MacArthur New Testament Commentary John 1-11

“John's gospel is preeminently the gospel of belief. He wrote his inspired record so that his readers ‘may believe that Jesus is the Christ...and that believing they may have life in His name (20:31). The verb *pisteuo* (‘believe’) appears nearly 100 times in this gospel, and the overwhelming majority of its occurrences refer to believing savingly in the Lord Jesus Christ (e.g., 1:12; 6:29; 8:30; 12:44; 14:1; 17:20).

Through believing in Jesus people:

- Become children of God (1:12; 12:36)
- Obtain eternal life (3:15-16, 36; 6:40, 47)
- Avoid judgment (3:18; 5:24)
- Partake in the resurrection of life (11:25; cf. 5:29),
- Possess the indwelling Holy Spirit (7:38-39)
- Are Delivered from spiritual darkness (12:46)
- Find empowerment for spiritual service (14:12)”

Jesus Christ Heals the Nobleman's Son (the 2nd Sign/Miracle in John's gospel) –

- 1) **Sign Seeking Unbelief** (4: 46-49) [Mere belief in Jesus' miracle working power]
 - At this point, this man's faith was a desperate hope that Jesus would do something
 - There's sense of urgency. But the man wasn't urgent for his salvation, just that Jesus perform a miracle
 - The man is focused on the physical (his son's severe condition being at the point of death), not for spiritual truth or a spiritual change in his life
 - His faith is ‘uninformed’ when it comes to the power of Christ in that he wrongly assumed 2 things:
 - 1) Unlike the Centurion in Luke 7:6-7 he assumed Jesus had to physically come to his house to heal his son
 - 2) He had a hope that Jesus could raise his son from the sick bed, but lacked faith to believe Jesus could raise his son from the dead
 - That's why he is desperate, insistent, and desiring for Jesus to act immediately. He kept asking (importunity)
 - The nobleman's desire – save my child's physical life! (and parents ought to be daily praying for their children)
 - Jesus' rebuke- “unless you people see signs and wonders” The people had disregarded the spiritual message & mission of Jesus and wanted to see sensational miracles. “His confidence, and that of others, has to be constantly fed by signs and wonders.” William Hendriksen
 - Interesting- Jesus' rebuke did not stop the nobleman's pursuit for an answer to his need. He would not be denied (see parable in Luke 18:1-8 of the importunate woman and the unjust judge. This nobleman wouldn't stop asking until he had an answer)
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- Application- do not walk by sight, always needing to ‘see’ God visibly do something. And don’t limit the Lord by putting your own boundaries & definitions on what God can and cannot do. Our God is great and does wondrous things (Psalm 86). Be careful to focus on the spiritual aspect of ministry, not only the physical - yes, take care of the physical needs of peoples’ bodies, but pray for the salvation of their souls! And...don’t give up praying for the salvation until they or you breathe your last!

2) **Relying Faith** (4:50) [Faith in the word of Jesus]

- Notice, Jesus didn’t heed the man’s request to go to his house - He merely says, “Go, your son lives!” According to Hendriksen this phrase is powerful and “indicates that by a deed of omnipotence performed at this moment the child is now fully restored and is, therefore, enjoying complete health and vigor.”
- The nobleman’s faith goes to a higher level. He believed the Word that Jesus spoke to him
- There is no confirmation, no report that his son is healed – yet this man believes. (Living by faith and not sight)
- Having received what he had come to Jesus for, he is satisfied and eventually starts off for home
- The nobleman’s desire – to rest completely in the Word of God & trust God will do what He says He will do
- What increased this nobleman’s faith? It was the very Words of the Lord Jesus. (see John 6:68- Jesus alone has the word of eternal life). He accepted Jesus’ word though he saw no deed!
- Application- what does it take for you to believe? Do you need visible signs, good circumstances, answers to prayer, healings, miracles? – shouldn’t the words of our Lord Jesus alone (the scriptures) be enough?

Consider this anonymous poem:

“Three men were walking on a wall—Feeling, Faith, and Fact;
When Feeling took an awful fall and Faith was taken back;
So close was Faith to Feeling, he stumbled and fell, too;
But Fact remained and pulled Faith back, and Faith brought Feeling, too.”

3) **Faith of Full Assurance** (51-53) [Faith in the Person of Jesus Christ]

- The man delayed his return home by some period of time. He, no doubt, possibly heard more teachings of our Lord and this was instrumental in his ultimate belief & full assurance (v. 53)
- When he meets his servants, they tell him that his son was healed about the 7th hour (between 1 to 3pm), and he immediately recognized this as the very hour he was with Jesus! This confirmed that he had witnessed a miracle because his son’s healing had occurred at the exact hour that Jesus had said to him, “your son lives.” What a powerful Savior we serve!
- The nobleman’s desire – save my soul and the souls of my family!
- God used this news of his son’s recovery to bring him to another level of faith, he now believed in the Person of Christ and came to full assurance. He believed (v. 53) along with each person in his household (Acts 11:14; 16:15, 31-34)
- Application- The faith that saves is only found in one Person, our Lord Jesus Christ who loved us and gave Himself for us at Calvary. We are not supposed to seek for assurance, but seek Christ Jesus Himself and let Him fully assure us. (Illustration - Christ Jesus is the locomotive, and assurance is the caboose – and when we put & keep Christ first and seek him by faith, the caboose of assurance is sure to follow).

This demonstration of Jesus’ power over sickness (and doing it from a distance) was a miracle that brought the faith of this nobleman from seeking sign & wonders to seeking the Person of Jesus Himself....a genuine saving faith!

Referring to the 1st miracle of turning water into wine and the 2nd of healing the nobleman’s son- “Both of these miracles were used by the Lord as means (in conjunction with His words) to bring about faith in the hearts of his children. After the first sign the disciples believed. After the second, not only the official at the royal court believed but so did his entire household.” William Hendriksen

This passage is yet another example of the theme of the gospel of John found in 20: 30 & 31- “*Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.*”