

MIRACLES OF JESUS - THE NOBLEMAN'S SON

THE GROWTH OF FAITH - JOHN 4:46-53

A. Faith in Jesus begins by believing His works (46a-47)

1. Jesus returned to Cana in Galilee (46a), *So he came again to Cana in Galilee, where he had made the water wine.*
 - a. This miracle took place at Cana of Galilee like His first miracle where Jesus turned water into wine.
 - b. Since Jesus had been in Cana, He performed miracles in Jerusalem, John 2:23, *Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing.*
 - c. Even the religious leaders thought that God must be with Jesus, John 3:2, *This man (Nicodemus) came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him."*
2. An official was attracted to Jesus because of his seriously ill son (46b-47), *And at Capernaum there was an official whose son was ill. When this man heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went to him and asked him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death.*
 - a. The official was a royal officer in the service of Herod, in charge of the Roman province of Galilee.
 - b. His son was at the point of death.
 - c. Larry Richards, *When we meet the royal official...we don't see an important man; we see an anxious father. All the externals such as social position meant nothing; all he could think of was the son who appeared to be dying.*
 - d. Jesus' reputation had reached the hearing of the nobleman and he believed Jesus could heal his son.
 - 1) His request was forceful and persistent.
 - 2) He felt that his son could be healed by Jesus only if Jesus want to his son.
3. Physical needs can lead to spiritual blessing.

B. Faith in Jesus matures by believing His words (48-50)

1. Faith in works alone was rebuked by Jesus. (48), *So Jesus said to him, "Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe."*
 - a. Jesus rebuked the faith of the crowd.
 - 1) *you* is plural.
 - 2) Jesus was speaking to the bystanders who were following Jesus in hopes of seeing a miracle.
 - 3) Their interest was not in who Jesus is or why He had come but to experience the excitement of the miraculous.
 - b. The official responded to Jesus in desperation (49), *The official said to him, "Sir, come down before my child dies."*
 - 1) His interest was not in signs and wonders but in having his son restored to health.
 - 2) Jesus knows our hearts and identifies the curious from the needy.
 - 3) Larry Richards, *There are men and women all around us who hurt and for whom only a relationship with Jesus can heal. These are the people to whom we are to give our time and show Christ's compassion. These are the people whose hearts God is preparing to open.*
2. Faith in Jesus' words brought blessing (50), *Jesus said to him, "Go; your son will live." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way.*
 - a. The official thought that Jesus must go to his son but Jesus told the man to go to his son.
 - b. Jesus declared that the son was healed.
 - c. To that point, the official did not know that Jesus' power was not bound by space or time.
 - d. The official experienced Jesus' power as he responded by faith, believing what Jesus said.
 - e. From Cana to Capernaum was about 15 miles. What a time of excitement as the official believed in his heart and couldn't wait to believe with his eyes.

- C. Faith in Jesus is perfected by believing in who He is (51-53)
1. Trust in Jesus' words was confirmed by what Jesus did (51-53a), *As he was going down, his servants met him and told him that his son was recovering. So he asked them the hour when he began to get better, and they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live."*
 - a. The official's servants met him as he was heading down from Cana to Capernaum.
 - b. He asked them if his son was getting better.
 - c. The servants told the official that his son was *alive and well*, a better way to translate *recovering*.
 - d. The servants' answer revealed that at the very moment Jesus said *Your son lives*, the boy recovered, completely and instantly.
 - e. The official new his son was healed at the moment told him that his son would live.
 2. The miracle continued (53b), *And he himself believed, and all his household.*
 - a. The official and his household believed in Jesus.
 - b. Their faith was now in Jesus as Savior, not just in Jesus as a miracle-worker.
 - c. The father was looking for a temporary blessing but he and his household received eternal blessing.
 - d. Warren Wiersbe, *His faith grew from "crisis faith" (v. 47), to "confident faith" (v. 50), to "confirmed faith" (v. 53), to "contagious faith" (v. 53).*
 3. Who Jesus is determines what He can do.
 - a. He can perform miracles because He created all things, Hebrews 1:1-3, *Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son (Jesus), whom he (God the Father) appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he (God the Father) created the world. He (Jesus) is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his (God the Father) nature, and he (Jesus) upholds the universe by the word of his (Jesus') power. After making purification for sins, he (Jesus) sat down at the right hand of the Majesty (God the Father) on high.*
 - b. He can take a person from curiosity to faith because He is the only Savior of mankind, John 14:6, Jesus said to him, *I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*
 - c. He can give life meaning because He removes the barrier separating man from God, 2 Corinthians 5:21, *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*
- D. What type of faith do you have?
1. Intellectual: do you believe Jesus died and rose from the dead?
 2. Emotional: do you believe Jesus died on the cross to pay for sins?
 3. Will: have you received Jesus' payment for your sin? It is a matter of trust, place your faith in Christ alone.

CONCLUSION

- A. The nobleman went looking for a miracle worker and he found a Savior.
- B. Author Unknown, *I seek not for a faith that will move a mountain, but for faith that will some how move me.*
- C. May that be true for anyone here who has not placed faith in Jesus Christ alone.