

Lighthouse Bible Church

November 25th, 2012

John 4: 43 – 54

‘Jesus miracle healing at a distance’

Stand – Read – Pray

Remember, last time, that the Samaritans had asked Jesus to stay with them and He did for 2 days and at the end of that time many of them concluded that Jesus was **the Christ, the Savior of** , not the Jews only, **the world**, partly because of the conversion and testimony of the Samaritan woman but mostly because of Jesus Himself.

That is the way John presents Jesus all throughout this book, as the Messiah, the Savior, the Christ, the Son of God, so that in believing in Him one may have eternal life. As you may be noticing, some of the people that Jesus comes in contact with have been converted, have become born again believes, have been saved by grace through faith.

What you don't see, specifically, like with Nicodemus or the Samaritan woman or many of the Samaritans, or as we are about to see with this Nobleman, is where it says ‘they were saved’ or ‘they converted to Christ’ or ‘they became born again’. At best, it says ‘they believed’. It is always implied and assumed because of what they DO after they encounter Jesus.

That is always one of the evidences of true saving faith and that is the works that accompany it. We are not saved by works, works are an evidence that we are saved, right? **Ephesians 2: 8 – 10** says **for by grace you have been saved by faith and that not of yourself, it is a gift of God not of works lest anyone should boast. We are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works.**

James says in **James 2: 18, 26** says, **show me your faith without works and I will show you my faith** (what) **BY my works ... because faith without works is (what) dead.**

What we are about to see in this passage is the desperation of a father for the love of his son, who is about to die, that compels him to take desperate measures to find a cure for him.

What we are also going to see in this passage is a miracle that Jesus will do that, once again, shows that He is truly God in human form. He is about to heal someone on the throws of death who is miles away and He is about to do it with mere spoken words 'your son lives'.

And we will see how this miracle that Jesus is about to do for this nobleman will profoundly affect him and cause him to come to saving faith and believe who Jesus truly is. So let's see how it begins by looking at Verses 43 – 44.

Verses 43 – 44: now after 2 days He departed from there and went to Galilee. For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in His own country.

Remember back in John 4: 3 that it said Jesus was leaving Judea and going to Galilee to avoid the Pharisees as well as fulfill a divine appointment that He had with a woman at a well that would eventually transform an entire city. Well, after staying **2 days** in Sychar, He continues His journey north to Galilee.

He and His disciples had an incredible ministry in the Samaritan city of Sychar that would be a prelude to the gospel being shared with all people everywhere, no matter what race or heritage they were. Remember what **Acts 1: 8... you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth.** And they got to witness that prelude with the Samaritans.

So they leave, and John records in Verse 43 that **Jesus testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country**, which is a sad thing. Jesus had just been involved in an incredible ministry in Samaria where many came to a saving faith and belief in Him. But He knew, coming back to His own country where He was raised in Judea and Galilee, they would not honor Him for who He was. He was too familiar to them.

Remember that passage read earlier in **Mark 6: 1 – 8** where Jesus says **they were offended at Him and that a prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives and in his own house.** **Matthew 13: 54 – 58** adds that **He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.**

As a matter of fact in **Luke 4: 16 – 30** Jesus went into the synagogue in His hometown of Nazareth, read the scriptures and they marveled at the gracious words He spoke and then they said ‘hey, isn’t this Joseph’s son?’. Then, in spite of his gracious words and the truth they contained, it says in Verse 28 **so all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath and rose up and thrust Him out of the city and they led Him to the brow of the hill that they might throw Him down over the cliff.** He was not welcome in Nazareth or around His own country.

But when He came back to **Galilee**, a little further away from Nazareth, Verse 45 says **the Galileans received Him** but not as the Messiah, not as the Savior of the World like the Samaritans did, but as a miracle worker that met their needs and entertained them and peaked their curiosity. Look what it says **having seen all the things He did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they also had gone to the feast.**

They were saying ‘hey, the miracle worker is back. More food for us, more healing of our sick, more more more of whatever. Remember back in **John 2: 23 – 25** where Jesus was in **Jerusalem at the Passover...**let’s look at that...it was a shallow, superficial, non-saving belief in a miracle worker but not believing that He was God in human form, that He was the Savior of sin that they needed.

So in **Verse 46** it says that **Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine.** Jesus went back to the same city where He had been back at the beginning of Chapter Two where He and His disciples were invited to a wedding and He turned the water into wine. Well, He's back there again and He has an encounter with a man while He is there.

It says in Verse 46 **and there was a certain nobleman.** This **nobleman** is someone of some importance in the area. That word **nobleman** is *basilikos* and it is used in Acts and James and twice here in John to mean, Kingly, Royal, or Regal and is used of someone who is in service for a king. *A man of importance humbling himself and admitting his need of.*

There is something else added about this nobleman; he had a **son who was sick at Capernaum.** Verse 47 adds that he was so sick that he was **at the point of death** and Verse 49 says that his father thought that he would **die** soon. That is why Verse 47 says.

Verse 47 when he heard that **Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death.** There was a sense of urgency with this nobleman wanting to find Jesus so that he could help his son. This nobleman, the father, was in Cana which is about 15 to 20 miles south and west of Capernaum where his son is.

He heard that Jesus had come back through **Judea into Galilee** so he wanted to find Him. The reason is, is because back at the end of Verse 45, he was probably one of those who had gone to Jerusalem or had talked to some people who had been in Jerusalem during the feast and heard or saw all the miracles that Jesus had done recorded back in John 2: 23.

So he comes to Jesus and notice that it says in Verse 47 that **he implored Him to come down**. In the original Greek construction that word implored, *erota*, means to *beg* or *entreat* or *beseech* or *request* REPEATEDLY. He kept begging Jesus to heal his son because **he was at the point of death**.

Notice what he wasn't coming to Jesus for; for salvation, for forgiveness or for spiritual cleansing. All indications are that he wouldn't have come to Jesus at all except that his son was dying and in desperation he thought that Jesus could help in his greatest time of need. He heard or maybe even saw that He was a miracle worker and his son is dying, so maybe He could help.

Have you ever known anyone to come to Christ because someone close to them was dying and how that incident brought them to faith in Jesus? Sometimes God uses trials and tests and situations in life to bring someone to desperation and then He uses that to bring them to saving faith in Christ.

Then look what Jesus says to him in Verse 48.

Verse 48 then Jesus said to him 'unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe'.

You know why He says this? First of all, because He is rebuking them all, not only the nobleman, but everyone standing around there, for them not believing in Him for who He was but for the sensational miracles He was doing for them. It wasn't a saving belief, it wasn't a saving faith, it was doubt looking for proof.

Secondly, this nobleman had faith, but it was a weak faith at best and this is why. He says in **Verse 49 sir, come down before my child dies**.

There are two things that He did not believe about Jesus. He didn't believe that Jesus could perform a healing miracle without actually being in the presence of the one who is sick. He said **come down before my child dies**. He is kind of like **Jairus** in **Mark 5**: whose **daughter was at the point of death** and he says to Jesus in **Verse 23** **come and lay Your hand on her that she may be healed**.

They are both saying, You have to be there in order to perform this miracle and Capernaum is 20 miles away, so let's go. You know why his faith was weak. Listen to a similar account in **Matthew 8: 5 – 10**: where a **centurion came to Jesus pleading with Him for his servant that was paralyzed and dreadfully tormented, to heal him**. Jesus said **'I will come and heal him'**. Do you remember what the centurion said **'I am not worthy that you should come under my roof (listen) but only speak a word and my servant will be healed**. Then He concludes in Verse 10 **I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel**.

You see, the centurion didn't want Jesus to go to his house and He said He would go. The nobleman wanted Jesus to go to his house and He said He wouldn't go. The difference is in the faith that these two men possessed and expressed in Jesus.

The other thing that he didn't believe about Jesus was that if his son did die, Jesus couldn't do anything, after death, to help him. If He could get there before he dies, He might be able to help, but if he dies, then it is too late. Does that sound familiar?

Back to **Mark 5: 35** before Jesus got to Jairus' daughter, she died and it says **some came from the ruler of the synagogue's house who said 'your daughter is dead**, then listen to this, **why trouble the Teacher any further**. He can't do anything after she has died. We know from the further account that He did in fact raise her from the dead.

Do you remember **Martha**, when Lazarus died, He showed up 4 days later and she met Him and said in **John 11: 21 Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.** Mary, later in **Verse 32** says **Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.** Then everybody there says in **Verse 37** **could not this Man who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying.** We do know that Jesus did in fact raise Lazarus from the dead.

Jesus says to this nobleman ‘you will only **believe** if you have some sort of **sign or wonder** or miracle’ and in **Verse 49** the nobleman again pleads with Jesus **sir, come down before my child dies.** I know that I have a weak faith that demands to see something but regardless of that wont you come and heal him? Look at Verse 50

Verse 50: Jesus said to him ‘go your way; your son lives’.

Jesus does not respond to the nobleman’s request to come to his house, He just simply says **go your way, your son lives.** He put this nobleman in a very unique situation. He is pleading with Him to come 20 miles away to his house and miraculously heal his son. Jesus says go away he is healed, I don’t need to go there.

There is a dilemma for the nobleman and a choice to make. Do I go my way believing what He says, not knowing for sure or do I stay and compel Him to come face to face with my son to heal him so I can see it first hand?

Then notice what John records at the end of Verse 50 **so the man BELIEVED the WORD that Jesus spoke to him and he went his way.** Listen, this nobleman was asking for a miracle from a miracle worker and he wanted to see it in person or else, as Jesus said, he would by no means believe.

And now Jesus brings him to the place where he is either going to believe, by faith, His word that his son is healed, or he is not. And the man **believed** and he showed his belief by **going his way**.

This nobleman no longer needed a miracle to believe, he had the word of our Lord and it was enough for him so **he went his way** in anticipation of what he would find when he got back home. He puts his trust, no longer in a miracle but in the word of Christ.

O that people would do that today. So many people are looking for some type of miracle to prove God exists or to prove there is a heaven or hell or salvation or that Jesus is who He says He is.

This reminds me of **Luke 16: 19 – 31** with the **rich man and Lazarus**. *Read*

Do you remember the account in the Old Testament of Naaman the leper in **2nd Kings 5: 1 – 14**. It said that Naaman was a **great and honorable man and a man of valor, but a leper**. He hears about the prophet Elisha being able to cleanse him of his leprosy so he goes to him.

You remember what happened, Elisha didn't even come out to meet him but sent a messenger that told Naaman to **go wash in the Jordan 7 times and his flesh would be restored**. Do you remember how he responded to that with **anger and indignation**. Doesn't he know who I am? *Read*.

Not this nobleman, he hears the words of Christ and believes them and shows that he believes them by going his way back home to see his son. Then notice what happens in Verses 51 – 53.

Verses 51 – 53: and as he was now going down, his servants met him and told him, saying, ‘your son lives’. Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better and they said to him ‘yesterday at the 7th hour the fever left him’. So the father knew that it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him ‘your son lives’.

This nobleman believed the word of Jesus and left for home. Remember he had about a 20 mile journey to get home. On his way home he runs into his servants who were looking for him to tell him his son was alive and healed.

The servant told him that his son was healed at the 7th hour. If it was Jewish reckoning it would have been around 1:00 pm, if it was Roman reckoning it would have been around 7:00 pm. Either way, his journey would have taken him into the next day to get home. That is why he says **yesterday at the 7th hour.**

It says **the father KNEW that it was at the same time in which Jesus said to him ‘your son lives’.** He knew that a miracle had taken place even though he did not see it. This brought him to the place of absolute belief that Jesus healed his son. This brought him to absolute belief that Jesus is God in human form, for who can heal like that and who can heal like that at a distance, only God.

Notice what it says at the end of Verse 53 **and he himself believed, and his whole household.** Can you imagine that? This father, this nobleman, when he gets home, recounts the events of what had happened. He says:

I left to find this miracle worker who I heard was back in Cana

I found him and pleaded with him to save you, my son. As the rest are listening on

He told me I was much like the other people that needed a miracle to believe in Him.

I told Him, all I wanted was Him to come and heal my son who was about to die and all He said was ‘go your way your son lives’.

So I left and started for home when I met the servants and they told me that you were alive and healed. When I asked them when it happened, it was at the very same moment that Jesus said ‘your son lives’.

I was foolish enough to believe that He had to come here in order to heal you. I was foolish enough to believe that He was nothing more than a miracle worker.

But son, family, I want you to know that what I witnessed yesterday and today and what I have seen and heard about this Man, I believe that He is the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of God and Savior of the world.

And in that evangelistic message it says **his whole household believed**. Much like some of the people of Samaria believed when the Samaritan woman told them about her encounter with Jesus back in **John 4: 39**

Much like the household of the Philippian jailer in **Acts 16: 25 – 34** when, it says, after an earthquake **he went in trembling before Paul and Silas and said to them ‘sirs, what must I do to be saved’**. You remember their answer; **believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, you and your household**. What happened to the Philippian jailer then happened to his family when he went home and told them all of what Paul and Silas did and had told him and he saw of their life and message. **Acts 16: 34** says **now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household**.

That is what we see happening here with the nobleman and his family. He evangelizes his own family after experiencing saving faith and belief in Christ. Then **Verse 54** says **this again is the second sign Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee**.

This nobleman’s unbelief demanded a miracle in order to believe. For the Samaritans, hearing His words was sufficient, they needed no proof or miracle to believe who Jesus was. Well, Jesus brought this nobleman to the place where he believed, not because he saw a sign but because he heard and believed the words of Jesus. What about you.

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Introduction and Review:

Ephesians 2: 8 – 10, James 2: 18, 26

Verses 43 – 44: A Prophet is without Honor ...

Acts 1: 8, Mark 6: 1 – 8

Matthew 13: 54 – 58, Luke 4: 16 – 30

John 2: 23 – 25

Verses 46 – 47: A Nobleman and his ill son

Verse 48: Unless you see signs you won't believe

Verse 49: Sir, come down before my child dies

Mark 5: 23, 35, Matthew 8: 5 – 10

John 11: 21, 32, 37

Verse 50: Go your way, your son lives

Luke 16: 19 – 31, 2nd Kings 5: 1 – 14

Verses 51 – 53: Your son lives

John 4: 39, Acts 16: 25 – 34

Verse 54: This again is the 2nd sign Jesus did

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Verse 54: This again is the 2nd sign Jesus did