

John 4:43–54

43 Now after the two days He departed from there and went to Galilee.

44 For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country.

45 So when He came to Galilee, the Galileans received Him, having seen all the things He did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they also had gone to the feast.

46 So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum.

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.

48 Then Jesus said to him, “Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe.”

49 The nobleman said to Him, “Sir, come down before my child dies!”

50 Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your son lives.” So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way.

51 And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told him, saying, “Your son lives!”

52 Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better. And they said to him, “Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.”

53 So the father knew that it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, “Your son lives.” And he himself believed, and his whole household.

54 This again is the second sign Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.

“The Nobleman’s Son” ***John 4:43-54***

INTRO:

There are different reasons why we come to Jesus. Some folks, like Nicodemus, seek out Jesus because they recognize that He is a teacher sent from God. They may not initially understand that He is God the Son, but they recognize there is something special about Him. Others come to the Lord because someone else pointed them to

Him. This is what happened with Andrew, John, and Peter. Still others are drawn to the Lord because of the wonderful things He has done in the lives of someone else.

This morning we will be looking at a fourth reason people seek out Jesus. Some come to Jesus because they are desperate and He is the only one who can help them. This is the case in **John 4:43-54**. Here is a man who is clearly desperate. He is not an ordinary man with an ordinary job. We are told that he is a man connected in some way with the king. He is probably someone who works for Herod. He is a man of wealth, influence, and power. Yet, all of his wealth, influence, and power cannot help his very sick son. So, because he heard about what Jesus could do, he humbled himself and sought this Jesus.

I. A Father's Request (v. 43-47)

II. The Savior's Response (v. 48-50)

III. The Miracle's Purpose (v. 51-54)

I. A Father's Request (v. 43-47)

A. To understand the Apostle John's point in recording this particular miracle in his Gospel we need to know where he sets the scene in v. **43-45**.

"Now after the two days He departed from there and went to Galilee. For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country. So when He came to Galilee, the Galileans received Him, having seen all the things He did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they also had gone to the feast."

After two days in Samaria ministering to this group of Samaritans who believed, Jesus finally completes His journey to Galilee.

1. **Verse 44** He went to Galilee, ***"His native country."*** A warm welcome greeted Him when He entered Galilee.

2. Why did they respond so positively to Him? John subtly made an important point. The Lord Jesus was honored in Samaria, a ***"foreign land,"*** because the people heard His message and believed on Him. In ***"His native country,"*** Galilee, folks flocked to Him, not because they believed in Him, but because of the ***"magic show."***

3. We do not honor Him by simply flocking after Him. We honor Him by hearing His Word and believing in Him.

B. In **verses 46-47** a desperate father came on the scene.

"So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum." 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."

The geography here is important. Jesus is in Cana of Galilee. The nobleman hailed from Capernaum and that is where his very ill son is! These two cities are somewhere around twenty miles apart, a considerable distance when your transportation options are walking or a donkey.

C. Notice the man's request.

“He went to Him and was imploring Him to come down and heal his son.”

This nobleman did not have a full understanding of who Jesus was. He knew Jesus was a miracle worker. Certainly, Jesus was a prophet, but even the great prophets like Elisha and Elijah had to be in the presence of the people they healed.

II. The Savior's Response (v. 48-50)

“Then Jesus said to him, ‘Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe.’ The nobleman said to Him, ‘Sir, come down before my child dies! Jesus said to him, ‘Go your way; your son lives.’ So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way.” John 4:48–50

A. How would you expect Jesus to respond to this man's request? *“Sure, let's go!”* Or maybe He would say, *“I don't need to be there to heal him. Go your way I have already done the job.”* He did not say these things. Rather, He answers him with a general rebuke.

“Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe.”

B. Jesus used the plural ***“you”*** in this statement. This applied to the crowd listening to this exchange, and it also applied to the desperate father.

1. Why did Jesus do this? Jesus said it to rebuke all of those who demand the spectacular in order to believe. Many folks in Jesus' day, just like those of today, were not satisfied with God said it and I believe it. They were too addicted to the extraordinary. Jesus did not come to be a magic show. He came to take away the sin of the world!

2. This lesson is underlined in **Luke 10:16-20**. Jesus sent out the 70 two by two. In **verse 17**, they came back flushed with success, rejoicing over the spectacular. The sensational is all that they can see! Now, look at the Lord's response.

v. 18-20 “And He said to them, ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.’”

3. Jesus sometimes became angry with the crowd who sought the magic show. Sometimes, He is impressed and praises those who don't need the magic show to believe in Him. For example, remember the Centurion in **Matthew 8:10**?

“When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, ‘Truly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!’”

Of course there was Thomas.

John 20:29 ***“Jesus said to him, ‘Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.’”***

C. In spite of the rebuke this desperate father persists in his request (v. 49-50).

“The nobleman said to Him, ‘Sir, come down before my child dies!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go your way; your son lives.’ So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way.”

Jesus gave him a promise. He did not provide visible evidence for a miracle to encourage this man's faith. He gave him a promise, His word is all that the man has. The drama of this account was whether the father will believe. The real miracle is that he does!

III. The Miracle's Purpose (v. 51-54)

“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 seventh 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.’” And he himself believed, and his whole household. This again is the second sign Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.” John 4:51–54

A. As the man was going home, his servants met him on the road. When he saw them coming, for a moment he might have feared the worst. But these servants came with wonderful news. The son was healed!

1. We don't know exactly how this happened. Still, Jesus said the word and the feverish child suddenly was up bounding around and playing!

2. The change was dramatic enough that the servants had no trouble marking the time the miracle happened. It was one o'clock yesterday when the fever left him!

B. Why did John record this miracle? What is the point he wanted to make about Jesus?

1. First, John included this miracle to show us Jesus is Sovereign over time and space. Miles cannot keep Him from using His power. This makes Jesus equal with God. Just as God the Father transcends space and time, God the Son also is not limited by time and space. Twenty miles or twenty million miles cannot keep the Lord Jesus from working. Do we really believe this?

2. The second purpose for this miracle is so we will see the Lord Jesus keeps His word! We serve a Lord who can do anything He wants, except those things which His character will not allow Him to do. He cannot lie! He said,
“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.” John 6:37.

If you have come in faith to Him, He will not cast you out.

3. Third, John included this miracle so we would understand we don't need the magic show to believe on Him. His word is enough. Will you believe? This is the major question.

Hymn #409 *I Know Whom I Have Believed*