

John 4.43-54
Go, Your Son Lives!

Aim: may we see, believe and savor the sheer glory and power of Jesus to heal and to save!

Scripture Reading: Luke 4.14-22

INTRODUCTION:

Last week we learned the affects of how one woman's testimony of Christ can lead to a spiritual awakening for a whole city. We too must testify of the great things that God has done for us in His Son Jesus Christ to everyone. Testifying must be a part of our daily lives where we rightfully give God public glory for all things in our lives. We must give Him glory through our words and to testify of our great testimony in Jesus. For God has done an amazing work of sovereign grace in your life through His Son's atoning work on the cross and then giving us life in the resurrected life of Jesus. What an amazing story you have been given to testify about to others.

In today's passage the Apostle John takes us back to the whole reason why his gospel was written. If you remember when we started the gospel of John we started at the end of the gospel and read **John 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.”

Today the Apostle John will testify of another man's encounter with Jesus. He will testify of the sheer glory and power of Jesus to divinely heal this man's son and to keep this boy from dying. This encounter has been written so that you today will believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. It is written so that believing you may have life in His name. Today you will read and you will hear and you will listen to this amazing story of the Son of God and His sheer transcending power to heal with His words. Today you will read and you will hear and you will listen to this amazing story of the Son of God and how this healing leads to this family's new birth and new life in the Son of God.

Today, you will be a witness of the absolute power of Christ to heal and to save. The Spirit of LORD has come upon Jesus and He has anointed Him to heal the brokenhearted, to set the captives free, to recover the sight of the blind, and to preach the gospel to the poor. Today we will all be witnesses of this incredible encounter between a gentile official and the Anointed Christ.

Let's read it together...John 4.43-54.

Title: Go, Your Son Lives!

Aim: may we see, believe and savor the sheer glory and power of Jesus to heal and to save!

A Prophet, Honor, And His Hometown (v.43-44)

“After two days He went forth from there into Galilee. For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country.”

So after Jesus' two days in Sychar, Samaria he left there and he went further north. He went **into Galilee**. This was the region and territory that Jesus was from. Jesus was from Nazareth in **Galilee**. Nazareth, **Galilee** was north of Samaria. So after two days with the Samaritans and many more believing because of His word, Jesus journeyed **into Galilee**.

What we are going to keep seeing over and over again in Jesus' ministry is that He simply does not spend much time in one place. He is constantly on the move. He is sojourning. He is demonstrating the truth of His word when He told His disciples... **“the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”** There is a great spiritual truth for the disciples to behold in Jesus regarding His sojourning. That spiritual truth in Jesus is to show them what the mission is about. It is about people beholding Jesus; it is about people seeing Jesus' **signs**; it is about people believing in Jesus because of the **signs**; it is about people believing in Jesus and having life in His name.

Jesus goes to the people. Jesus, very soon, will send His disciples to the people...to the nations. He will send them to Jerusalem, to Judea, to Samaria, and to the remotest parts of the earth. This is why some of you here this morning have been here in Memphis most of your life. Jesus has sent you to these people to testify of Him here. This why some of the rest us here this morning seem to be transient people. We live in one place for a little while and then we live in another. Jesus is sending us as well to people to testify of Him wherever we are. Jesus' is demonstrating this to His disciples because no matter where they are they will all be sent out to testify of Him and to witness of Him in all these places to people.

So Jesus leaves Samaria after two days and goes **into Galilee**. And in **verse 44** John says something that seems a little different. He says, "**For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country.**"

Jesus goes **into Galilee**. Jesus is from **Galilee**. Jesus now **testifies that a prophet has no honor in his own country**. Now why is that? J.C. Ryle says, "It is one of the most melancholy proofs of man's fallen and corrupt state, that he never values what he is familiar with, and that familiarity breeds contempt."

The **Galileans** were all too familiar with Jesus. Jesus grew up right in front of them. He was Joseph the carpenter's son. So why would anyone in **Galilee** honor him any differently than any other **Galilean**? Their familiarity with the young Jesus now put them in contempt with the Anointed Jesus. They watched him grow up. They knew his humble family. They knew Him, but they didn't know Him.

Often times this is the case with pastors and ministers. Last Thursday, Pastor Mike came by the house and we were sitting on the back porch talking about a pastor that he knew who grew up in a small town in North Carolina. The pastor was now a little over 40 years old, but he was born in the church he was pastoring. He was raised in that church. He grew up and eventually as he got older he became the youth pastor of the church. And when they hired him as the youth pastor he was unanimously voted in by the congregation of around 300-400 people.

But when the senior pastor retired he became the pastor of the church. But when it was time for them to vote him in for the senior pastor role, which he was now 37 years old, many of the older ladies in the church could not fathom “little Johnny” being their pastor. You know what some of the older ladies actually said? We changed his diapers in the nursery. How can he be our pastor! They could not fathom the idea of “little Johnny” being their pastor, being their shepherd. Well the church didn’t unanimously vote him in, but they made him their pastor and God has been blessing them tremendously since.

But it goes to show you that familiarity breeds contempt. These little old ladies could not fathom the idea of “little Johnny” being their pastor. It is somewhat true here with Jesus, but in a more infinite kind of way. They couldn’t fathom Jesus being the Son of God, because some of them probably watched Him grow up and changed His diapers.

Luke 4.22 “...Is this not Joseph’s son?”

Listen, in a similar way we have to guard ourselves from the temptation of allowing the Scriptures to become familiar to us. Familiar in the sense of...I’ve heard this before or I already know these things to be true. I’ve read that time and again and it just doesn’t move me like it once did. We must always be filled with the awe of who Christ is and what Christ has done.

So when you get into your closet to pray and study you must pray that your mind and your heart will never become callous to the things of God. Never! We must pray that the Holy Spirit will always keep us soft and tender and sensitive to the majesty of Christ. We must pray to be moved, humbled, and to have our affections stirred by God when we read and see the love of Christ in the Scriptures. Let us never even come close to complacency, familiarity, contempt in regards to Christ and His work. Never! If this is where you are today, you must humble yourselves before God, confess your sin, and repent of your callousness to Him. This is not the way of Christ!

But John says something even more surprising in **verse 45**. He says that the **Galileans received Jesus when He came into Galilee**. Now, does He have honor or doesn't He?

They Received Him Only Because Of What they Saw (v.45)

“So when he came to Galilee, the Galileans received Him, having seen all the things that He did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they themselves also went to the feast.”

Now this is what I love about expository preaching and exegetical studying. When you read and study chunks of Scripture you are automatically forced to think about the context of all those chunks together. Because what the Apostle John is doing in **verse 45** is he is connecting these **Galileans** back to the Passover and to the feast in **John 2.23-25**. Read!

John connects these hometown **Galileans** to those back in **John 2.23-25** who were at the Passover and the feast. They were nothing more than superficial in their curiosity of Jesus. They **received Him** only because of what they saw and what they thought they could get out of Jesus. They thought that this hometown boy had struck it rich and now everyone wants to be his friend. Everyone wants to **receive** the hometown miracle worker.

So their **receiving** of Jesus is like the two-faced friend who **receives** the grunt of the class into their home, so they can quickly copy his homework. They only **received** Jesus because they were superficially fascinated with His miracles. And because they witnessed what Jesus did in Jerusalem, everyone was ready to **receive Him** when He came **into Galilee**. They remembered what they saw and they were hearing of all that He was doing.

These Things Were Not Done In A Corner

So here in **verse 45** we learn that all these things that Jesus is doing are not taking place in some corner of the world where no one knows about Jesus. If you remember in **Acts 26.26** in Paul's defense of his ministry before King Agrippa he tells the king, **“for the king knows about these matters, and I speak to him also with confidence, since I am persuaded that none of these things escape his notice; for this has not been done in a corner.”**

The ministry of Jesus is now so widespread in Judea, Samaria, and **Galilee** that nothing is now taking place in some corner where no one knows about it. It is not hidden from them of what Jesus has done and continues to do. His reputation is now growing and it is preceding Him wherever He goes.

A Royal Official (v.46-47)

“Therefore He came again to Cana of Galilee, where He had made the water wine. And there was a royal official whose son was sick at Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and was imploring Him to come down and heal his son; for he was at the point of death.”

As you know the word **therefore** connects us back to what was just written. **Therefore He came again to Cana of Galilee.** Even though the people **received** Jesus only because of what they saw, when they **received** Him it was nothing more than a two-faced lie, so Jesus **comes again to Cana of Galilee** and He endures the sinful, superficial embrace of the people.

Everywhere Jesus went there were those who would embrace Him on the outside, but mock Him and disdain Him in their hearts, because they were thrill-seekers and not worshippers. The writer of Hebrews encourages us to consider Jesus in this way.

Hebrews 12.3 “For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

Jesus knew what was in this people’s hearts even though on the outside they **received** Him. He endured their sinfulness against Him. He knew what was in their thoughts; He knew what was in their hearts. He knew them and yet **He comes again into Cana of Galilee.** He **comes again** for He has another divine appointment to keep; this time with **a royal official.**

It is believed that this **royal official** who was also called a **nobleman** was from the court of Herod Antipas. Herod was the very one who had John the Baptist beheaded, so there is nothing righteous about Herod nor his official court of rulers. So what would move such a **nobleman** of his stature who most likely scorned the God of the Bible and all Jews to come to Jesus? His **son!**

This man was **royalty**. And like one commentator says, “the rich have afflictions as well as the poor. We read of a **nobleman** in deep anxiety because **his son** was **sick**. We need not doubt that every means of restoration was used that money could buy. But money is not almighty. The sickness increased, and the **nobleman’s son** lay at the point of death.” (Ryle)

So this **royal official**, this **nobleman** from Herod’s court hears that Jesus is **in Galilee** and so he takes off from **Capernaum** to go and meet with Jesus. Perhaps all the things that Jesus had been doing in Judea, Samaria, and Galilee was also not hidden from the Roman rulers. Perhaps this **nobleman**, this **royal official** has simply come to his wits end and is taking every measure possible to see that **his son** not die from this **sickness**.

It doesn’t take much imagination to think about what a man feels when his son is **sick** and **sick** to **the point of death**. Many of you here this morning know firsthand what it’s like to lay over your child while they are on death’s door. You feel the urgency. You feel the pressure. You feel the need to do anything and everything within your power to make what is wrong right with your child.

When Abby was 3 weeks old I was working at FedEx one Sunday morning when a fellow employee came to me to tell me that I needed to call my wife ASAP. So I called and Stephanie had taken Abby to Baptist East because she hadn’t nursed all night long. Stephanie called to tell me that they did a spinal tap on Abby and she had Bacterial Meningitis. Most of you know this, but some of you may not know, but this scar on the side of my head is from when I was 3 months old and had Spinal Meningitis. I almost died. The doctor informed us that if Stephanie would have gone just a few more hours we most likely would have lost Abby.

We stood over her sick, tiny little body for two weeks. To the best of my knowledge this was the first time that we had ever been on this side of the prayer chain in this way. So many brothers and sisters were praying for her and us and so many were taking care of us for those two weeks. We had no money. I didn’t work at all for those two weeks.

We had excellent physicians and disease control doctors working on Abby around the clock. But there is nothing that I would not have done if needed to save her life.

Perhaps this nobleman had done everything, but there was this man; this man who was healing the sick and casting out demons and making water wine. Perhaps he can heal my son. So he does what every pagan would do for their sick, dying kid. He goes to God!

The Apostle John tells us in **verse 47** that he **was imploring Jesus to come down and heal his son; for he was at the point of death**. The word **implore** means that he was literally begging and pleading with Jesus in desperation to come down to **Capernaum** and **heal his son**.

Well as you can guess this probably was catching the attention of all those in the area in **Cana**. Remember these are the people who saw what Jesus did in Jerusalem and they saw and heard about what Jesus did at the wedding not too long ago. So you can almost picture them hearing this **royal official**, this **nobleman**, finding Jesus and screaming and pleading and begging for Jesus **to heal his son**. After seeing and hearing this man use the word heal you can only imagine what these self-seeking Galileans were now thinking. Wonderful another show; some more wonders; some more miracles for us to see. Their superficial hearts were stirred with the possibility of more entertainment from this carpenter's son.

So Jesus says in **verse 48**, **“Unless you people see signs and wonders, you simply will not believe.”** If you will look in verse 48 and notice the word *people* is in italics. That's because it is not in the original manuscript. But it actually serves us well, because when Jesus uses the word **“you”** in verse 48 it's actually in the plural. He is saying **you all**. Jesus is not talking directly to **the royal official** he is talking past him to the onlookers, to the crowd, to those who are only interested in seeing a good show of entertainment. So Jesus rebukes them for their unbelief and sin.

But notice the **royal official's** resolve in **verse 49**...

The Royal Official's Resolve (v.49)

“The royal official said to Him, ‘Sir, come down before my child dies.’”

Now we have to remember why this man is before Jesus. He is before Him simply because he loves his son and he doesn't want him to die. Mark Johnston says, "He clings to Christ because he is convinced that there is no one else to whom he can turn. Yet, even in his great desperation, he had not fully appreciated the true depth of his need. What the official did not realize was that God was using this crisis in his family to expose the deeper need of his soul. He did not come to Jesus and say, 'I am a sinner and I need to be saved, but rather, 'I am a father and my son needs to be healed.'

Many times God uses these crisis moments in our lives to save us, to lead us to Christ in salvation. Many times God uses these crisis moments in our lives to make us utterly dependent upon Him. He uses these crisis moments in our lives to make us deeper worshipers of Him. This man had no idea what he personally needed most. His son needed to be healed, but there was something else that needed healing as well.

Many times God uses affliction to show us our true need of Him. Listen to how the Psalmist sings, "**It was good for me that I was afflicted that I might learn your statutes.**" (Psalm 119.71) Who sings like that? Who writes like that? Who believes like that? Those who have tasted affliction and have feasted upon the goodness of God during those afflictions.

This royal official couldn't care less about the Galileans unbelief and Jesus' spiritual assessment of them. He was there to take only to take Jesus to His son, so that His son would be healed...period!

So he submits himself to Jesus. He says, '**Sir**' or better translated **Lord**. It was a term of high respect and honor. **Lord** means one who owns, has power, and decides things. He gets right to the point by saying Sir/Lord and demonstrates to Jesus that unless Jesus comes down to his son dies.

Christ's Word Is As Good As Christ's Presence (v.50)

"Jesus said to him, "Go; your son lives." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and started off."

As MacArthur says the man thought that Jesus had to be present in **Capernaum** for **his son to be healed**. The man had no idea the sheer transcendent power of Jesus over places, people, time and space. The man had no idea who this man from Galilee really was. All he knew was what he had seen or had been told of him.

He didn't know that Jesus was in the beginning. He didn't know that Jesus was with God. He didn't know that Jesus was God. He didn't know that all things that came into being came into being through Him and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. He didn't know that in Jesus was the life, and the life was the Light of men. He didn't know this.

He just **implored** Jesus to **come down to Capernaum** because he didn't know how the Miracle worker worked.

Jesus in a **word** tells the man to **Go, because his son lives**. From 15 miles away Jesus, the Son of God, the Word made flesh **heals** a boy and sustains his very life from a distance. The **nobleman's** request was **come and heal**, Jesus' answer was, **Go he lives!**

We need to see the glory of Jesus' power in **healing** the boy and keeping him from death. His power is effectual. His power is transcendent. His power is anointed with the Spirit of the Lord. He only speaks a word and the **son is healed...your son lives!**

Matthew Henry says, the nobleman, unlike the Galileans, "he sees no sign, sees no wonder yet **believes** the wonder done. Christ said, **Thy son lives**, and the man **believed** Him; not only **believed** the omniscience of Christ, that he knew the child had recovered, but the omnipotence of Christ, that the cure was effected by his **word**. He left him dying; yet, Christ said, **He lives.**"

His new found **belief** in Christ led him to do what Christ commanded him to do. **Go!** So he went. There was no further questions, no further imploring. He left.

Verses 51-53 tells of the encounter the **royal official** had with his **slaves**, his servants. It's almost as if when he returns to **Capernaum** he's so giddy and excited about the news of his **son** that he inquires further to think about the exact time when Jesus said the words, **Go, your son lives!** And when they told him it was around 1 pm when **the fever left him**, that's when he knew that Jesus said the words, **your son lives**. John says the fever left him. Notice it doesn't say the fever started to break. No, no! It left!

Jesus rebuked **the fever**. He rebuked the **sickness** and it **left**. Can I tell you what the word **left** in Greek means? It means it **left**...it was gone. The son was healed instantaneously at 1 pm because at 1 pm 15 miles away, Jesus said the words, **your son lives!**

Oh, how he must have played those words in his mind over and over as he journeyed back to **Capernaum** from **Cana**. What a beautiful demonstration of young belief in Christ.

But there is something else here...

An Even Greater Miracle (v.53-54)

“and he himself believed and his whole household. This is again a second sign that Jesus performed when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.”

This is what the **signs** are supposed to do for people. They are pointers to Christ. Notice the man and **his whole household believed**. **Believed** in what? They **believed** in Christ! They all saw the **sign**, the **sign** of Jesus' power to heal at 1 pm when Jesus spoke the words. They all saw the sign and how it was intended to be seen...as a marker to something else. The **healing** of **his son** pointed them all in the way of **belief** in Jesus Christ. So not only does the power of Jesus to heal transcend time and places, but the power of Jesus to save transcends time and places.

Jesus heals **the son** physically from 15 miles away. Jesus heals the **whole household** spiritually from 15 miles away. So not only does the son live physically, but Jesus says to this whole household...Go, because you are all living now!

Think about this...“if the nobleman’s son had never been ill, his father might have lived and died in his sins. (Ryle) Health is a great blessing, but sanctified disease is a greater blessing. (Ryle)

Psalm 119.71 “It is good for me that I was afflicted that I may learn Your statutes.”

Notice the Psalmist does not say it *was* good for me. No, he says and he sings...it *is* good for me that I was afflicted. Past godly affliction always has a present application. **It is good that I was afflicted that I may learn Your statutes.** Although affliction can be very wearisome to our all of our lives, because there is nothing more painful than seeing your child suffer, affliction can also be the very means that lead us to our closeness with God; our intimacy with God; and our communion with God.

This man’s affliction in regards to his son’s health and life not only *was* good for him, but *is* good for him. Because through the affliction he met Jesus. Through the affliction he heard the words of Jesus. Through the affliction he saw the healing power of Jesus. Through the affliction he **believed** in Jesus. Through the affliction **his whole household believed** in Jesus.

Affliction is indeed painful. It’s painful to receive and it’s painful to watch those who are afflicted. But we must also remember that Jesus Himself was afflicted.

Isaiah 53.4 “Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.”

Jesus Himself was afflicted by God. He was afflicted by God for our griefs, for our sorrows, and for our sins. He was afflicted. And when we consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners, it moves us to tears, it moves us to weep for what our Lord and our Savior endured for our griefs and for our sorrows and sins. But we also know that unless Jesus is afflicted we have not hope. We have no salvation a part from His affliction from God. God the Father into the flesh of Jesus nailed your sins. So watch this...through Jesus’ affliction...you are healed!

You must **see** Jesus’ affliction from the Father for your sin. You must **believe** in His affliction from the Father as your only means to escape the punishment of your sin. You must then **savor** the Savior’s affliction as you enjoy what that affliction has now granted you...you now live in Him!

And are we greater than our Master?

The Apostle Paul says to the Corinthians,

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.”

This man’s affliction in regards to his son led him and his whole household to Christ. We must see in this man’s encounter with Jesus the sheer glory and power of Christ to not only heal the son physically, but to heal the whole family spiritually. This whole family was born again, because of the **sign** of Jesus in the healing of the son.

The son lives, but so does the whole family!

Can you **see** the sheer glory and power of Jesus in this sign?

Do you **believe** in Jesus’ glory and power because of the sign?

Are you **savoring** Jesus because of His power and glory to heal both physically and spiritually?

Be in awe of Jesus this morning. Do not be like the Galileans who were superficial in their receiving Jesus. Pray that God would move you and stir you to greater worship and awe of who Jesus is when you encounter His signs. The signs are always pointing to Jesus and not merely the miracle.

See / Believe / Savor Jesus!