

Jesus Heals a Government Official's Son

John 4:46-54

A man of earthly authority walked about 20 miles to see Jesus and asked Him to cure his dying son. The officer believed that Jesus' authority as the Son of God could heal his precious child. No expanse of time or distance can hinder the power of Christ. As a result of this officer's sincere faith and testimony his entire household believed.

Read John 4:46-54

v. 46 – This was the location of His first miraculous sign (2:11). Jesus was remembered in Galilee and the people came out to greet him (4:45). For what in Galilee was Jesus remembered?

After His miracle at the wedding, Jesus rebuked the merchants for turning His Father's house (temple courts) into a market and turned their tables (2:13-17). He predicted His own miraculous resurrection (2:18-22). Jesus also performed many other unnamed miracles during this time in Jerusalem (2:23). Look up: John 21:25

Jesus' reputation is what caused this powerful government official, likely with access to best healthcare available at the time, to seek the Christ. What would others say of your reputation? Look up: Proverbs 22:1

v. 48 – The Bible says that Satan is perfectly capable of producing misleading signs and counterfeit miracles (2 Thessalonians 2:9). Our saving knowledge and blessed hope must be in the person of Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

Signs and wonders from God are obviously good and powerful things, but they should not form the foundation of our faith. We should not depend on them to "prove" God to us. In themselves, signs and wonders cannot change the heart; Israel saw incredible signs at Mount Sinai and even heard the very voice of God (Exodus 19:16-20:1), yet a short time later they worshipped a gold calf (Exodus 32:1-6).

The healing of this boy was more than a favor to one official. It was a sign to all people. John's Gospel was written to all mankind to urge faith in Christ. The official believed that Jesus could do what He claimed. He demonstrated faith and then he saw a miraculous sign.

Consider the belief of the despised Samaritans who believed on Jesus without an extraordinary sign. They believed Him at His word (John 4:39-42).

v. 49 – This man was a royal official, a man of high standing and stature. How little all his standing and stature seemed to be when he was at his point of need. Sometimes Jesus brings us low so we will come to Him with this kind of deep need, and find that we all need Christ Jesus. Look up: Romans 3:23

The fact remains that this man's son was ill. What is God's purpose in affliction?

Look up: Psalm 119:67,71 Jeremiah 30:11 2 Corinthians 1:3,4 Hebrews 12:11 1 Peter 1:7

v. 51-53 – What is the three-fold result of his coming to Jesus in his trouble? (son healed, he believed, household believed)

v. 53 - Didn't this man believe before? Of course he did, but now his faith is deepened by his personal experience of God's power. How has your personal experience with Christ affected your life?

v.54 - This is the second miraculous sign from Jesus. And all of His miraculous works were given that we might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:30-31)