

“Point of Death Praying”

John 4:43-54

*I. What can destroy the best (or most spiritually privileged) of us –*

<sup>43</sup> Now after the two days He departed from there and went to Galilee. <sup>44</sup> For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country. <sup>45</sup> 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. John 4:43–45 (NKJV)

1. What does it mean “that a prophet has no honor in his own country.”?

A. We know it is true for <sup>44</sup> For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country.

B. What it means is a prophet can become “old hat” someone you are “used to” someone you think you KNOW maybe even if you do not –

<sup>42</sup> And they said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, ‘I have come down from heaven’?” John 6:42 (NKJV)

Now Jesus was not just “a prophet” He was and is the Eternal Son of God and the Christ, but He wore no halo, and those who grew up with Him thought they knew Him!

How much more are regular prophets and preachers taken for granted when they actually are ordinary people and those who know them know this –

<sup>17</sup> **Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.** <sup>18</sup> And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit. James 5:17–18 (NKJV)

James’ point about Elijah is he was an ordinary guy, we can pray and expect RESULTS TOO –

<sup>16</sup> ... The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. James 5:16 B (NKJV)

2. When even a very ordinary Pastor like myself speaks, when I speak according to God’s Word, I am like a biblical prophet, my words should be believed, and known by true Christians to be powerful –

<sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, ... Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)

3. Beware of letting your familiarity with the messenger, or thought perceived familiarity of Christ or even “Christianity” make you doubt the power of the message –

A. Faith can move mountains, even a little of it –

<sup>22</sup> So Jesus answered and said to them, “**Have faith in God.** <sup>23</sup> **For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.** <sup>24</sup> **Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.** Mark 11:22–24 (NKJV)

*B. Lack of faith causes all kinds of problems –*

<sup>54</sup> When He had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, “Where did this *Man* get this wisdom and *these* mighty works? <sup>55</sup> Is this not the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? <sup>56</sup> And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this *Man* get all these things?”

<sup>57</sup> So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, “**A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house.**” <sup>58</sup> Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief. Matthew 13:54–58 (NKJV)

- *Note they heard His wisdom*
- *They noted His mighty works*
- *But He did not do many “mighty works” in His own place because of their unbelief!*

*4. This may seem a little confusing –*

<sup>45</sup> 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. John 4:43–45 (NKJV)

*A. At least some had welcomed Him, because they saw things He had done in another place? Cleanse the Temple? Did some know or hear about the water made wine?*

*B. Or here Jesus is calling Jerusalem is own country because as God He should have been welcomed in the Temple which was His house, but instead, He had been questioned –*

<sup>18</sup> So the Jews answered and said to Him, “What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?” <sup>19</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, “**Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.**” <sup>20</sup> Then the Jews said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?” John 2:18–20 (NKJV)

*Some questioned Jesus, they were authorities (in their own minds) questioning HIS authority!*

*II. What can save the WORST, even the seeming farthest from God among us –*

<sup>46</sup> 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. <sup>47</sup> 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. <sup>48</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “**Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe.**” <sup>49</sup> The nobleman said to Him, “Sir, come down before my child dies!” <sup>50</sup> 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. <sup>51</sup> And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told *him*, saying, “Your son lives!” <sup>52</sup> 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.” <sup>53</sup> 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. <sup>54</sup> This again *is* the second sign Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee. John 4:46–54 (NKJV)

*1. Note Capernaum was one of those places which as a whole was rejecting Jesus and His ministry –*

<sup>23</sup> **And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.** <sup>24</sup> **But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you.”** Matthew 11:23–24 (NKJV)

2. *Yet, even in this Hell bound place some were helped / saved –*

<sup>50</sup> 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 4:40 (NKJV)

3. *Note here is a Nobleman, he would be rich, money wise, just like politicians typically are today and Jesus had said ... –*

<sup>25</sup> **It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”** Mark 10:25 (NKJV)

*Question: If this is the case what makes this rich man a candidate for salvation?*

*Answer: This man saw the deceitfulness of riches –*

<sup>19</sup> **and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.** Mark 4:19 (NKJV)

*Question 2. How are riches deceitful?*

*Answer 2. They lie about what they CAN DO –*

<sup>15</sup> **The rich man’s wealth is his strong city; The destruction of the poor is their poverty.** Proverbs 10:15 (NKJV)

*We all know this is true to an extent, maybe a rich person can afford the best health care, while a poor person cannot, but there is a point with illness where NO AMOUNT of money can help or save and this is where the rich are fooled ... they thought their money could do more than it actually does ... they put their FAITH in something that does NOT SAVE –*

<sup>7</sup> **Their eyes bulge with abundance; They have more than heart could wish.** Psalm 73:7 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> **Behold, these are the ungodly, Who are always at ease; They increase in riches.** Psalm 73:12 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> **Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction.** <sup>19</sup> **Oh, how they are brought to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors.** <sup>20</sup> **As a dream when one awakes, So, Lord, when You awake, You shall despise their image.** Psalm 73:18–20 (NKJV)

4. *This man’s son’s sickness was his poverty of spirit –*

<sup>3</sup> **“Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.** Matthew 5:3 (NKJV)

*No money or medicine would save his son, he NEEDED a miracle, and somehow He saw Jesus as the only SOURCE of those –*

<sup>47</sup> **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.** John 4:47 (NKJV)

III. *Application: what we NEED more of today is **point of death** praying -*

<sup>47</sup> **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.** John 4:47 (NKJV)

1. *“implored Him” means that this man PRAYED!*

A. *He prayed like the people of Nineveh prayed when they thought they were about to be judged and DESTROYED –*

<sup>4</sup> And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

<sup>5</sup> So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. <sup>6</sup> Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered *himself* with sackcloth and sat in ashes. <sup>7</sup> And he caused *it* to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying,

Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water. <sup>8</sup> But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. <sup>9</sup> Who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish?

<sup>10</sup> Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it. Jonah 3:4–10 (NKJV)

B. *What would it take to make YOU, US, Christians in America to PRAY like Nineveh did? Like this man imploring Jesus for his dying son did?*

*ἐρωτάω - erotao it means to ask, to pray, to implore, to beg...*

C. *Note Jesus' first response to this man's begging –*

<sup>48</sup> Then Jesus said to him, **"Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe."** John 4:48 (NKJV) *What is this? A call to a higher faith ...*

D. *Note the man's continued prayer –*

<sup>49</sup> The nobleman said to Him, "Sir, come down before my child dies!" John 4:49 (NKJV)

E. *Note Jesus' second response, a call to walk by faith, not sight –*

<sup>50</sup> 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 4:50 (NKJV)

2. *The prayer and the walking by faith, not sight is ANSWERED –*

<sup>50</sup> 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. <sup>51</sup> And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told *him*, saying, "Your son lives!" <sup>52</sup> 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." <sup>53</sup> 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. <sup>54</sup> This again is the second sign Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee. John 4:50–54 (NKJV)

A. *I have seen this kind of prayer answered, Okinawa, Dallas City, IL*

B. *We need to pray **point of death** prayers for our church!*

C. *We need to pray **point of death** prayers for our country!*

<sup>14</sup> if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NKJV)