

Taking Jesus at His Word

John 4:43-54 (Page 74 in the NT section of the BPB)

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³⁰Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which were not written in this book; ³¹but 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. (John 20: 30-31)

Introduction

In today's passage we see another contrast between those who placed their belief in Jesus because of His word and those who are not seeking Jesus for who He is but because of what He can do for them. The passage should cause us to ask ourselves, "Do I seek Jesus because of who He is and what He has done to secure my salvation?" Or do I seek Him for what He can do for me to make my life better or easier?"

Receiving without Honoring

⁴³After the two days (John 4:39-42)

He went forth from there into Galilee. ⁴⁴**For** [because] Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country.

Matt. 13:54-58; Mark 6:1-6; Luke 4:14-30

⁴⁵**So** [therefore] 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.

(Remember John 1:11 & 2:23-25)

Return to Cana: Inclusio

⁴⁶**Therefore** He came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. (John 2:1-11)

⁵⁴This is again a second sign that Jesus performed when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.

John here doesn't include the signs that were done in Judea (2:23-25).

The Request of Desperate Father (and Royal Official)

And there was a royal official whose son was sick at Capernaum.

Royal Official – “an officer in the service of the king”, here, referring to one in the service of Herod Antipas, tetrarch of Galilee; “not properly a king but he was still referred to as one.”

Mark 6:14 “...king Herod...”

This is not the same healing incident as the one recorded in Matthew 8:5-13.

Capernaum was about 15 miles northeast of Cana

⁴⁷When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee,

Feel the Urgency of the Request

he went to Him and was imploring *Him* (“kept imploring, pleading”)

to come out and heal his son; **for he was at the point of death.**

The Testing of Faith

⁴⁸So Jesus said to him, “Unless you [plural] *people* see signs and wonders, you [plural] *simply* will not believe.”

Matthew 15:21-28 – The Syrophenician Woman

1 Peter 3: 6-9; James 1:12

The purpose of signs and wonders point to the glory of Christ and can result in faith (John 20:26-31) but for those to whom the signs are an end in themselves there is no saving faith.

Perseverance and the Progression of Faith

⁴⁹The royal official said to Him, “Sir, [“Lord”] come down before my child dies.”

⁵⁰Jesus said to him, “Go. Your son lives.”

The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and started off.

The man’s faith is seen in his obedience to Jesus’ command to “go”.

“The obedience of faith” – Romans 1:1-6 (esp. v. 5) & 16:25-27 (esp. v. 26)

1 Thess. 1:6-7 & 2:13

⁵¹As he was now going down, *his* slaves met him, saying that his son was living.

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

⁵³So the father knew that *it was* at that hour in which Jesus said to him, “Your son lives;”

Strengthened Faith and Its Effect on the Household

And he himself believed and his whole household.

“Household” Cornelius Acts 10:2; 11:14; Lydia 16:15, Philippian Jailer 16:31

“This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.” (John 2:11)

Application:

Believe the word of Jesus. Take Jesus at His word.

Trust in Jesus.

Demonstrate your faith by obedience to what the Word of God says.

Trust in the Lord to provide His grace for you to do what He has called you to do.

The Lord is gracious and faithful!