

Pt 24 Healing of the Nobleman's Son – John 4:46-54

A sermon series in the Gospel of John, by Pastor Byron Chesney at Porchlight Baptist Church www.pbcknox.com

John 4:46-54

46 So Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum.
47 When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judaea into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son: for he was at the point of death.
48 Then said Jesus unto him, **Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.**
49 The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die.
50 Jesus saith unto him, **Go thy way; thy son liveth.** And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way.
51 And as he was now going down, his servants met him, and told *him*, saying, Thy son liveth.
52 Then enquired he of them the hour when he began to amend. And they said unto him, Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.
53 So the father knew that *it was* at the same hour, in the which Jesus said unto him, **Thy son liveth:** and himself believed, and his whole house.
54 This *is* again the second miracle *that* Jesus did, when he was come out of Judaea into Galilee.

As we pick back up in our sermon series in the Gospel of John, we will look at John 4:46-54 which details Jesus' second recorded miracle, the healing of the Nobleman's son.

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

Jesus has now made it from Jerusalem after spending some time in Samaria and then into his hometown in Nazareth, and now he is back in Cana where he had performed his first recorded miracle during the marriage where they had run out of wine and Jesus turned water into wine.

The Gospel of John is the only Gospel that gives the account of Jesus healing the Nobleman's son. Matthew and Luke give a similar story of when Jesus healed a Centurian's servant, but this is not the same occurrence.

By this time Jesus' popularity has really grown. Of course the people in Cana would have remembered the miracle of turning water into wine, but Jesus had been doing many things since then and word has gotten out. In those days they didn't have a mobile phone, email, Facebook, or Twitter so for word to have spread about Jesus coming to Cana was all word of mouth. People were very excited for him to be coming to their town.

One of these people was a man from Capernaum whom the Bible calls a "**certain nobleman.**" That word "**nobleman**" is a Greek term which means "**a royal official.**" This would have been someone that was in service to the King. The King at that time was Herod, Tetrarch of Galilee. This is the same Herod who had John the Baptist arrested and eventually beheaded. This nobleman worked for him.

The Nobleman had a big problem in which he was desperate to find a solution to – the Bible says, **whose son was sick at Capernaum.**

47 When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judaea into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son: for he was at the point of death.

How wonderful it must have been for the Nobleman when he heard that Jesus was passing through just 20-miles from where he lived (that's how far Cana was from Capernaum. That was no small undertaking to get to Jesus. It would have taken him a full day to get there. He obviously had either heard or witnessed Jesus turning water into wine and about the murmurs of him possibly being the Messiah. He saw this as his opportunity to find a way to save his son, so he made his way to find Jesus.

You know, there are a lot of people in this world who are in desperate need. The majority of those people will turn to the world's ideas for a solution. They will turn to drugs, alcohol, sinful relationships, psychiatrist, fortune tellers, crime, and even suicide to try and get help for their desperate need – but none of those things are the answer.

The greatest solution for the world's most desperate problems is a relationship with the Lord Jesus. We have no idea what the Nobleman had tried up to this point, but we know he finally turned to the One who could help, Jesus the Nazarene.

The Bible says that the Nobleman's son was "**was at the point of death.**" I'm sure with the Nobleman being part of the royal household, they probably had the best doctors at their disposal. They certainly would have had enough money to seek out the specialists of that day. But here his son was at the point of death. Instead of sending someone else to seek out Jesus and have him brought to his son, he humbled himself to stand before Jesus himself.

That is how we must all approach Jesus. We do not come to him in our pride and make demands of him. We lower ourselves and understand that He is King of King's and Lord of Lord's.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus was talking with the prideful Pharisees, and he said in: **Matthew 23:11-12** **But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. 12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.**

Also, when the Disciples came to Jesus asking who would be the greatest in the Kingdom, he told them this: **Matthew 18:3-5** **And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. 4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.**

No doubt the world probably told the Nobleman it was hopeless to think his son would live. Much as they did to a man named Jairus who's daughter had died, and he desperately came to Jesus and asked him to heal her. If you remember, Jesus went to his house and people were already starting the funeral, but Jesus ran everyone out of the room, and he brought that little girl back to life. The Nobleman is in a very similar situation.

48 Then said Jesus unto him, **Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.**

Here we find Jesus giving the Nobleman and all the people of Galilee for requiring some kind of sign or wonder before they would believe. The Samaritans, which he had just come from, did not require any kind of sign or wonder, they simply believed him because of His Words. But, the Jews in Galilee were always looking for some kind of sign, some kind of wonder, some kind of miracle before they would believe.

People are no different today. I can't even begin to tell you how many people have asked me why they didn't "feel" something. So many people mistakenly think that

accepting Christ should be followed up with fireworks, bells ringing, and birds singing. The truth is none of that is in the Bible.

What IS in the Bible is this: **Ephesians 2:8-9** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

The Bible is clear that Salvation is based upon faith in Christ and faith alone to be saved. We are not to be looking for some kind of explosion or a certain "feeling."

49 The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die.

Notice he addresses Jesus as "Sir" here. That word sir has been translated from the Greek word "koo'-ree-os" which means; "Supreme Authority." The same word is translated as Lord over 700 times in the New Testament. This is showing that the Nobleman holds Jesus in high respect and recognizes his authority.

The Nobleman is desperate and pleads for Jesus to come. He has enough faith to believe Jesus can heal his son, yet not enough to think Jesus can save him unless he physically comes to his home to do it. Again, he expects to see a wonder performed.

50 Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way.

Despite the fact that Jesus gave the Nobleman a mild rebuke for his lack of faith, he still intends to heal his son. That's often how Jesus works, he points out your flaws and your sins to humble you.

Jesus tells the man, **Go thy way; thy son liveth. In other words, "I'm not going to come down to Capernaum to heal your son. I've already healed him."** And, upon hearing that, the Nobleman believed. It says: **And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way.** That is true faith. Simply believing in the Word of the Lord.

The Bible says in **2 Corinthians 5:7** (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

1 Peter 1:7-9 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: 8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: 9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

I have never seen Jesus with my own eyes. I did not see him hang on a cross and I did not see them bury him in a borrowed tomb. I did not see him ascend into Heaven. Neither has any other Christian that has lived for the past 2,000 years – yet I believe in Him. The reason I believe is because I have faith that the Bible is true, and I believe.

The Nobleman believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way. The man believed.

51 And as he was now going down, his servants met him, and told him, saying, Thy son liveth.

52 Then enquired he of them the hour when he began to amend. And they said unto him, Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.

53 So the father knew that it was at the same hour, in the which Jesus said unto him, Thy son liveth: and himself believed, and his whole house.

Now we see that not only did the Nobleman believe Jesus could heal his son, but he believes in Jesus as the Messiah. This was saving faith that he had now. He obviously told everyone else in his house about it and they too believed in Jesus.

Here we see the results of true salvation. One believer telling others about Jesus, and they also believed and were saved. That is how the Gospel is shared, by telling others about Jesus.

I told this the other day, but I think it's worth telling again. In the years I have been in the ministry I have had more than one person tell me that they don't share their testimony because it wasn't exciting and figured no one would want to hear about it. Some have said that they had been saved at a very young age and hadn't ever done anything really bad, so they didn't have some exciting testimony about what the Lord had brought them out of like some people have.

I'm sure everyone has heard the testimony of a man here in Knoxville named Robert Gibson, who murdered someone in 1976 when he was 17-years old and was sentenced to 99-years in Brushy Mountain State Prison. In 1982 he was part of a group of inmates that took guards hostage and fatally shot rival prisoners in their cells with a smuggled gun. He got saved in 1988 and was released from prison in 1999. He now preaches and goes around telling his testimony.

I'm not taking anything away from that and it's a powerful testimony and I'm glad of it. But you do not have to have such a testimony to simply tell others how Jesus saved you. I've heard some testimonies where the people telling them spent more time glorifying their past sins than they did their present Savior.

It doesn't matter if you were 6-years old and hadn't committed any kind of crime or if you were 26 and killed 12 men. The Bible says in **Romans 3:23** For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

We all are saved in the same way by the same Savior. Each person's testimony is special and should be shared. We are all a walking testimony for the Lord Jesus.

54 This is again the second miracle that Jesus did, when he was come out of Judaea into Galilee.

This verse seems to give some people problems because Jesus performed other miracles before this. Not only the turning water into wine but the Bible says in **John 2:23** Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. This was before the healing of the Nobleman's son.

I think here in Chapter 4, John is just referring to the miracles Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee and not all the miracles he had performed up to this point.

John 20:30-31 And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: 31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

In the last verse of the Gospel of John he says this: **John 21:25** And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.