

John Chapter 4:43-54

Sermon – His Word Was Enough (All You Really Need is His Word)

⁴³Now after two days he departed thence, and went into Galilee. ⁴⁴For Jesus himself testified, that a prophet hath no honour in his own country. ⁴⁵Then when he was come into Galilee, the Galilaeans received him, having seen all the things that he did at Jerusalem at the feast: for they also went unto the feast.

Background – Jesus has just left a city in Samaria where many people believed and yet they were saved based only on his word. There is no indication that he performed any great miracles there. Yet, many came to believe on him. He stayed there longer than planned because of their faith and the way the Samaritans celebrated him.

Now Jesus travels back to his home country and he recognizes that he was not honored as he should have been. The application here is common and relevant today. Don't be surprised if you receive more credit and honor from an unlikely source, from outside folks rather than from your own kinfolk and family. When people are too familiar with you, they may discount your gift. I want to always see Jesus as special and worthy of honor. I don't want to take the Savior for granted.

⁴⁶So 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. ⁴⁷When 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.

We have here a nobleman who is dealing with a problem that he can't solve. Trouble and hard times can hit regardless of your status and your checkbook. His problem caused him to look for Jesus. Watch me now:

- His problem caused him to go looking for Jesus.
- His issue caused him to leave his comfort zone to look for Jesus.
- His situation which he didn't have a solution for caused him to be sensitive to any news pertaining to Jesus.

The same holds true today. Many of us would have never looked for Jesus had it not been for a problem or problems that we realized we couldn't handle. If we were not in jail, we wouldn't be looking for him. If the marriage wasn't on the rocks, we wouldn't be looking for him. If we never got the pink slip, we

never would have gone looking for him. If the relationship wasn't at the point of death, we probably wouldn't be interested in Christ.

The only reason I'm saved today is because there were problems in my life that I could no longer deal with or have an answer for. I had to surrender trying to solve it on my own and look to Jesus. Until you start looking to Jesus you will never get the true answer to your problem. Jesus is still the answer today.

My favorite commentaries state this nobleman might have travelled 20 or more miles to get to Jesus.

- When he finds Jesus his request is that Jesus come back with him because his son was near 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.

Jesus' response to his request is calling him out telling him if he doesn't see a sign or miracle, he won't believe. What is it he won't believe?

- He just left Samaria, a place where many believed but they didn't see a sign except the word of a testimony. They believed that Jesus was the Messiah.
- So Jesus is telling him he won't believe in who he is unless he sees a sign or a miracle.
- Jesus will always focus the conversation on what is most important. Believing in Him is more important than your miracle or your problem. Your problem has an expiration date, but what Jesus offers is everlasting.

To his credit, the nobleman stays right there. He repeats his request for Jesus to come to where his child is or he will die.

- In his mind, he thinks that Jesus can only solve his problem by being there.
- He thinks Jesus has to be where the problem is to heal his son.
- He doesn't realize Jesus is versatile; can't put him in your box.

Jesus answers his request, but not the way he thought he would and not the way the man planned. He wanted Jesus to come with him but Jesus instead gives him a word.

- The nobleman goes through the three stage process that every believer must go through to be in right standing for a breakthrough. Every believer goes through this three steps process to be in right relationship with God.

- He is humble. The problem causes him to humble himself and submit to the Lord. This is always the first step in salvation. Until you recognize a need that you can't meet; until you surrender your pride and cease trying to work it out your way, then you can humbly submit to Him.
- He repents. He was thinking it can only work one way but now changes his mind and turns from trusting in himself and turns to trusting in him.
- He has new hope and new life. He was down but he is walking away with hope. New hope. Resurrected hope. All he has is a word from the Lord.
 - The way he left is totally different from the way he first showed up. When you have had a real encounter with Jesus and when you receive his word, you can expect a change in your walk. There should be a difference.

Often, all we need is a word. All the Samaritans needed was a word to believe. Now a nobleman who thought he needed Jesus to do something spectacular just found out how powerful Jesus is; he can just speak a word and change your life.

Even though he had not realized the manifestation of his son's healing, he continues to follow the word of Jesus by faith.

⁵¹And as he was now going down, his servants met him, and told him, saying, Thy son liveth. ⁵²Then 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. ⁵³So 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.

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

The Nobleman continues his walk of faith. That in itself is powerful. Often we can start out our walk after hearing the Word but it is even more impressive when one is able to continue to walk by faith. There is a difference between faith and faithfulness.

He gets word and good news along the way. His faith helps to release a miracle. Notice his circumstances.

- All he had was a word from Jesus and his faith in that word.
- His son was healed hours earlier, he just didn't know it. Often God has already worked it out in our favor before we get there. We just may not have seen it yet (refer to the Danny Gokey song).
- The man tests the word by asking what time the healing occurred. I like that because you should test the word of God applied to your life.

- When the nobleman realizes how Jesus just by his word has healed his son, he believed.
- Wait a minute, didn't he believe before he left Jesus and didn't he believe along the way? Certainly, but here with the manifestation of his miracle, he has an even deeper belief.
- Perhaps he believed he could heal earlier, but now after this, he must believe that Jesus is the Christ.
- He believed that Jesus could heal by actions, but now he knows that there is power in Jesus' word.
- He believed because he now has a new experience in Jesus.

Now at the end of this miracle story, we find the nobleman's whole house believed. I wonder how that happened. The whole house didn't go looking for Jesus, he did. The whole house didn't find Jesus, he did. The whole house wasn't there to receive a word from Jesus, but he did. So if they were not there to experience Jesus face to face, how did they come to believe?

I propose they believed based upon the experience and testimony of the nobleman. Unless he shares his encounter with Jesus with his household, they would not have believed that day.

Oh, it is never just about you. God can and will use your situation and how He brings you out so you can have a testimony which leads others to a saving knowledge and belief in Jesus as our Savior and Messiah.

Let us look at the summary of events so we can learn and apply today.

- If I wasn't for his son being sick, the nobleman would never seek Jesus.
- If he wasn't facing a significant problem, he never would have moved.
- Once he made it to Jesus, he received a word.
- He didn't experience the miracle until he moved by faith.
- It didn't happen the way he had planned or expected, but the nobleman now knows that Jesus' way was better than what he had planned and expected.

I believe if it happened for the nobleman, it can happen for you and me. When you place yourself in the story, you can get the same results by faith.

- You can start to praise him for your problem because it is the first step to your miracle.
- It may be a journey, you may have to go through a difficult walk, but at the end of the day your break through could be on the way.
- Jesus always has a word for your situation. When you get there, Jesus will give you further instructions.
- When you obey the word of God, you set yourself up for receiving a miracle. If you have not received your breakthrough yet, if your miracle has been delayed, it could be God is waiting on you to believe in His word.
- Just because you don't see it, just because you haven't experienced your break through yet doesn't mean God hasn't worked it out. You just may not have seen it yet.
- Your problem is never just about you. You may be going through something so God can use your problem to show others how to stand on His promise.
- God wants to bless you with a testimony on purpose so you can share it and help others to believe.



- The best way to save your household might be to share with them what Jesus has done for you. We overcome through the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony (Rev 12:11).
- It may not happen the way you plan. It may not be what you expected. But when you trust in God and follow His plan, it will be better than you could have imagined.
- God can turn your mess into a miracle that becomes a message that saves many. God wants to use us like that.
- Often we are looking for a miracle or a sign, when all we really need is His word.

If Jesus did it for the nobleman, he can do it for you and me. That is the plan of God; just follow the steps and believe.