

TEXT: John 4:43-54

STORY ELEMENTS:

Setting: circa 26 AD in Cana, Galilee

Main Characters: God, Jesus, and a government official

Plot: Jesus heals the deathly ill son of a government official.

Key word(s): " _____ "

Climax: John 4:49 *The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die.*

No Honor in the Home Country

1. (vv 43-46) Having spent two days in _____, Jesus and his disciples returned to Cana in Galilee - the same place where Jesus had performed his first public miracle.
 - (a) The Galileans welcomed Jesus because they had seen his miracles at Jerusalem and were enthusiastic about what he could do (but not so much about what he had said).
 - (b) The Savior testified of a reluctance to leave Samaria and return to Galilee because of the typically cool response a prophet receives in his _____.
 - (c) (v 47) A _____ official, upon hearing of Jesus arrival in Galilee, leaves Capernaum and seeks out Jesus in Cana so that he would come and heal his sick son.

No Faith Without a Sign

2. (v 48) Jesus tested the man's faith by saying, "Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not _____."
 - (a) By using the second person plural (ye), Jesus purposefully lumped the man in with the majority of Jewish people who were only interested in what Jesus could do and not what he had to say.
 - (b) (v 49) But the man's desperation became the springboard of _____ when he pleaded, "Come down ere my child dies!"
3. (v 50-54) Jesus simply _____ and the child was healed. There was no trip to Capernaum – his word was sufficient.
 - (a) When the official returned to his home, he learned that the same time Jesus had spoken the word was the same time his son began to recover.
 - (b) Not only did the man's faith grow in Christ but also those in his household believed. Matthew Henry remarked, "He *believed*, and *went away*. Though Christ did not gratify him so far as to go down with him, he is satisfied with the method Christ took, and reckons he has gained his point. How quickly, how easily, is that which is lacking in our faith perfected by the word and power of Christ. Now he sees no sign or wonder, and yet believes the wonder done."¹

Applications and Observations

4. Many people who reject God say that if God would give them a sign, or appear unto them, or speak to them, then they would believe. But this is false. Belief isn't really the issue – faith is the issue. There is a difference. **Though all faith has belief, not all belief has _____.** Though often in Scripture faith and belief are used synonymously, there are times when their difference is demonstrated:

¹ Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 1941.

- (a) In John's gospel especially do we see the difference between superficial belief and saving faith. Superficial belief wants what Jesus can do; saving faith believes what Jesus _____.

*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.** 24 But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men,*

- (b) John contrasted the saving faith of the Samaritans with the superficial belief of the Jews: the Jews sought for more signs and the faith was contingent upon it, but the Samaritans believed Jesus' _____. (cf. John 4:42; 45).
- (c) This is why Jesus speaks of having no honor in his own country...yet John mentions that the Galileans welcomed him. They welcomed him because of what miracles he could do (for them), but they did not _____ him by receiving his word.
- (d) And this is why Jesus tests the official's faith – it is to help him go from superficial belief in what he does to saving faith in who he is. We see the official go from one to the other in verse 50: “And the man believed the _____ that Jesus had spoken unto him.”

5. Faith is founded on the _____ of God; it rests on God's word.

*Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen...Hebrews 11:13 **These all died in faith, not having received the promises**, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*

Notes

ANSWER KEY:

Key word(s): “believe”

1. Samaria; b. hometown; c. government
2. Believe; b. faith
3. spoke
4. faith; a) says; b) word; c) honor; d) word
5. promises