



TALKS FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS TRANSCRIPT

John 4:43-54: The Second of Our Lord's Sign Miracles: The Healing of the Nobleman's Son

Let's read together John 4:43-54. In this last section of John 4, we have the second of our Lord's sign miracles in the gospel of John – The healing of the Nobleman's Son. John 4:43:-54:

"Now after the two days He departed from there and went to Galilee. 44 For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country. 45 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.

A Nobleman's Son Healed

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

Background notes

So first of all some background notes, in (v43) we read that it was after two days that He departed from there and went to Galilee. The two days here refer to the two days that the Lord spent in Samaria, after He had led the Samaritan woman to salvation. Look back in (v40) *"So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days."*

The Lord's statement in (v44) *"For Jesus Himself testified **that a prophet has no honor in his own country.*** This bold text doesn't seem to make sense at first when you see what we have in (v45) *"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."* After all, the Galilee area was His own country. So what does the Lord mean then when He says in (V44) ***that a prophet has no honor in his own country?*** Do you see the apparent contradiction here? John is recording the Lord's statement here in view of what

was about to happen. The Galileans would reject the Lord; even though at first they received Him with praise because they saw and heard of the miracles that He was performing, particularly they heard of the miracles that He had performed when He was down in Jerusalem. So He was first received with praise, but then they rejected Him. We have a foretaste of that, here in (v48) *"Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe."* In (v44) *"For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country."* I think many of you probably experience that, now it is nice to see a nice group of folks here tonight, but you see, I am an out of town speaker, right. Suppose I lived here, suppose I was a local, how many would be out tonight on a nice evening like this? I have an idea maybe not as many, or if I was to keep this seminar going for another months, you know, how many would continue to show up? You see, the Lord is saying a prophet has no honor in His own country.

I'll never forget a few years ago, I was preaching at a large Easter conference in Canada, it was well attended, the ministry was well received, and people were shaking my hand saying they really enjoyed it. So I came back home thinking that I was God's gift to the church, really pretty excited, and I walk into my first class at Emmaus Bible College, first class Monday morning. During the lecture, a student raises his hand and asked a question, he fell asleep while I gave the answer. Do you see the point? Oh, I was brought down very quickly. So that explains the Lord's statement there: ***a prophet has no honor in his own country?***

The royal official here, that we read of in (v46) was either a Jew, or a gentile – probably a Jew, and probably employee by Herod Antipas who was the ruler over the region of Galilee. The royal official was stationed in Capernaum, a town of the shores of the Sea of Galilee, and he travels about 20 miles to Cana to request healing for his son who was very sick (v47) *"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."* In (v48) *"Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe."* It sounds like a rebuke to the official, but the Lord is actually addressing the people here who were following Him just for the miracles. We know that because in the Greek language the *you* here is plural, we don't pick up in English, and that is why in most of your translations you see the *people* is in italics. You see it is not there in the original, but it is added in most of your translations because the *you* is definitely plural, so He is not rebuking the official here, He is more rebuking the people because they are following Him just for the miracles.

In (v54) where we read: *"This again is the second sign Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee."* This doesn't mean that this was Jesus second miracle, but it is the second one in Galilee, and the second sign miracle in the Gospel of John. We know that the first sign miracle in John, as well as the first miracle of Christ, was John 2 – the changing of the water into wine, but now we know from John 3 and 4, the Lord did many miracles down there in Jerusalem. For example, look at John 2:23 *"Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did."* And John 3:1, *"There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews."* Here we have the story of Nicodemus. And in (v2) He says, *"...no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."* So we know that the Lord did a number of miracles while he was down in Jerusalem, but now it comes back to the Galilee area, and we have this second sign miracle in the Gospel of John, or the second miracle done in the Galilee area. Let's move now to our doctrinal or teaching points

Doctrinal / teaching points

1. God designs dilemmas of faith to cause Christian growth.

The Lord purposely put the royal official in a dilemma of faith (v49) *"The nobleman said to Him, "Sir, come down before my child dies!" In (50) it says, "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."* Now the official is in a dilemma of faith. If he goes, he must leave the Lord, and go in complete faith based on the word of the Lord. If he stays, and insists that the Lord come, well then the son might die in the meantime. Well, the man believes the word of the Lord, and responds with a strong faith here, and notice how (v52,53) emphasize that he grew in faith. When the servants say, *"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." 53 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."*

Well he already believed, but do you see how his faith is growing, and he witnesses his whole household coming to salvation as well. God designs dilemmas of faith to cause Christian growth. Now that takes place today as well.

You know, just about every two months, Margie and I go through a dilemma of faith. As you know, I write devotions for growing Christian, six issues a year, so every two months we have to go through this process of – I write it up, and then we send it to the printer, and then we mail it out. We have been doing this for twenty-two years now. It costs about a thousand dollars per issue for the printing and the mailing. Now normally it works like this, when I start writing it the funds are not there for taking it to the printer, and mailing it out. It's normally a dilemma of faith. I know the Lord has given me this ministry, and I believe He wants me to continue to write, but the funds aren't there. Shall we wait and not step out in faith until all the funds are there, or do we take a reasonable step of faith and see God work and grow in faith. Why does God operate this way anyway? Answer: Because God designs dilemmas of faith to cause Christian growth.

2. God can heal from a distance.

In this miracle the Lord didn't lay hands on the sick boy, or even go to his bedside, He just spoke the words "your son lives." Healing by remote control, if you will. God can heal from a distance. When John wrote John 20:31, *"but these are written (including this one that we are talking about right now, the healing of the Nobleman's son) that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."* Certainly, this miracle emphasizes the deity of Christ – God can heal from a distance. God can heal from a distance today. When I was twelve years old, I had Polio, and I was in the hospital paralyzed – God healed me as an answer to pray; my prayers and the prayers of many other Christians. No one came and laid hands on me, no healers, the paralysis left over night. God can heal from a distance. Maybe you are praying for healing right now for yourself, or someone else. God doesn't always heal, you need to leave that up to the sovereign will of God, but God can heal, and God can heal from a distance. Well let's move on to our practical application

Practical applications

1. Do you need signs and wonders?

The Lord said in (v48) *"Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe."* This was a rebuke to the people. To need signs and wonders in order to believe is not pleasing to God. Do you need signs and wonders?

Now there is no doubt that God has used signs and wonders to confirm His word. There were signs and wonders in the Old Testament to confirm the word of the prophets. There were signs and wonders in the life and ministry of our Lord Jesus proving His deity. There were signs and wonders done by the apostles confirming the word of the Lord, and God is not limited today; He can use signs and wonders today. But, do you need signs and wonders? That is the point: To need or to crave signs and wonders is not pleasing to God. Do you need signs and wonders?

2. Maybe your sickness will bring others to Christ.

Do you see in (v53) the result of this boy being healed? We read there, *"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."* This would not have happened if the son had not been sick. Maybe your sickness will bring others to Christ. God allowed this boy to nearly die so that others would come to faith. You know, God may permit an accident or sickness in your life because maybe your sickness will bring others to Christ.