



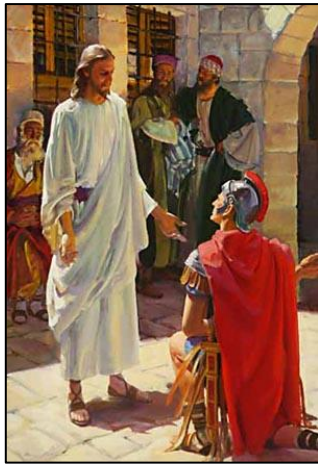
EXALTING JESUS IN JOHN'S GOSPEL

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PART 4: ARE WE REALLY SAVED BY FAITH?

JESUS AND THE ROYAL OFFICIAL (JOHN 4:46-54)



"Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. ⁴⁷ When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death. ⁴⁸ "Unless you people see signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe." ⁴⁹ The royal official said, "Sir, come down before my child dies." ⁵⁰ "Go," Jesus replied, "your son will live." The man took Jesus at his word and departed. ⁵¹ While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. ⁵² When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, "Yesterday, at one in the afternoon, the fever left him." ⁵³ Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." So he and his whole household believed. ⁵⁴ This was the second sign Jesus performed after coming from Judea to Galilee. (Jn. 4:46-5:1 NIV)

THE SETTING

Jesus left Jerusalem to avoid a conflict with the Pharisees. The time was not yet right for a confrontation, so He planned to return to Galilee. Instead of avoiding Samaria, as most Jews would, Jesus followed the will of God and passed through the town on Sychar (John 4:4). As a result, He was able to preach the gospel to a Samaritan woman (John 4:7-26), who brought many others to meet Christ (John 4:39).

John 4:46-54 now records the second of Jesus' seven miracles in the gospel of John. The primary point of this miracle is the importance of biblical "faith," which is really "trust." Jesus suggests that some people won't believe—won't actually "trust" in Christ—without seeing some miraculous event.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was the attitude of the royal official when he came to Jesus about his dying son (4:47)?
2. In what were the Galileans placing their faith (4:48)?
3. The royal official begged Jesus to go to Capernaum to heal his son (vv. 47, 49). Instead, Jesus simply told him that his son was healed (v. 50). Do you think the court official was confused by this? What kind of faith did he have before he heard that his son was healed?
4. When did the official believe in Jesus himself, not his miracles (vv. 52-53)?

THE TYPES OF FAITH

C_____ faith. The court official came to Jesus, knowing he could heal (v. 47). Faith that is based only on knowledge is not enough.

C_____ faith. The people wanted to see signs and miracles (v. 48). Faith that is based on sensationalism is not enough.

C_____ faith. The court official finally believed the object of faith (vv. 51-53a).

C_____ faith. His whole household also believed (v. 53b)

FOUR THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT FAITH

- I am to remember that I cannot please God if my faith is based on _____ instead of Him (Heb. 11:6).
- I am to remember that my faith comes from _____ who is also the perfecter of my faith (Heb. 12:2a; Philip. 1:6).
- I am to remember that my faith is a _____, I cannot earn it. (Eph. 2:8-9)
- I am to be _____ about this faith because it is given to me by God (Rom. 12:3)

THE BOTTOM LINE

Saving faith must be based on Jesus Christ who is the _____ of our faith.

Faith in anything else is futile!