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A Father's Faith

John 4:43-54
June 18, 2017

I. The Challenging Truth about a Prophet in His Own Hometown (vv. 43-45)

- A. The saving _____ of the Samaritans (v. 43)
- B. The general _____ of the Jews (v. 44)
- C. The superficial _____ of the Galileans (v. 45)

II. The Earnest Request from a Desperate Father (vv. 46-50a)

- A. Similarities and differences between the two _____ at Cana (v. 46)
- B. Comparisons and contrasts between this _____ and the centurion (v. 47)

- C. The _____ have afflictions as well as the poor
- D. The _____ face terminal illness as well as the old
- E. Jesus offers the rebuke as well as the _____ (vv. 48-50a)

III. The Developing Faith of a Changed Father (vv. 50b-54)

- A. The father believes that his son will _____ (v. 50b)
- B. The father believes in the _____ of God (vv. 51-53c)
- C. The father influences his family to _____ faith (v. 53d)
- D. This father's faith influences our _____ today (v. 54)

TAKE HOME

- Affliction is one of God's _____
- Jesus' Word is just as good as His _____
- A father's faith is a father's _____

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a Small Group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please call the church office at (661) 259-2913.

1. Read John 4:43-45. What is going on in this transition? Do the Galileans welcome Jesus or not? To what capacity? How could this be similar to John 2:23-25?

2. Look again at John 4:44. Now read Matt. 11:20-24. How do these two passages connect? (Note - Chorazin and Bethsaida were close to Jesus’ ministry headquarters in Capernaum). What about Luke 4:23-30?

3. Read John 4:46. What are some of the similarities and differences between the two miracles done in Cana?

4. Read John 4:47. What are some comparisons and contrasts between this official and the centurion in Matt. 8:5-13?

5. Read John 4:48-50a. What was the rebuke? What was the remedy? How is Jesus patient with you even if you don’t always come to Him in a perfect way?

6. Read John 4:50b-53. How does this father’s faith grow throughout this story? How does that give you hope as a father?

7. What are some of the biggest ways you can influence your children as their father? What are some things you want to do better as a father?

8. Read the take home points. Which one encourages you or challenges you the most? Why?

“Affliction is one of God’s medicines. By it He often teaches lessons which would be learned in no other way. By it He often draws souls away from sin and the world, which would otherwise have perished everlastingly. Health is a great blessing, but sanctified disease is a greater. Prosperity and worldly comfort, are what all naturally desire; but losses and crosses are far better for us, if they lead us to Christ.”

- J.C. Ryle, *Expository Thoughts on the Gospels*