

One Man's Journey to Deep Faith

"Miraculous" series- Part 02

Use the next few minutes to connect and fellowship with other members of the group by discussing the following: Can you recall an instance in your life when you discovered that a friendship or a relationship was based on perceived benefits/gifts that you brought to the other party? When the gifts were no longer possible, the relationship ended. How did this make you feel? Did reconciliation ever occur in the relationship? Why or why not?

Let's get on the same page –

We have all heard about "foxhole conversions". How do you describe such an experience? Can you give an example? Have you had such an experience and was there a long lasting result?

Today we are going to look at what the Apostle John described as "the second miraculous sign Jesus did in Galilee". It is a story of a man in desperate need (foxhole experience?) who approached Jesus begging for a miracle and found his encounter with Jesus would change his life forever.

Book: John 4:43-54

John 4:43 At the end of the two days, Jesus went on to Galilee.

John 4:44 He Himself had said that a prophet is not honored in his own hometown.

John 4:45 Yet the Galileans welcomed Him, for they had been in Jerusalem at the Passover celebration and had seen everything He did there.

John 4:46 As He traveled through Galilee, He came to Cana, where He had turned the water into wine. There was a government official in nearby Capernaum whose son was very sick.

John 4:47 When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went and begged Jesus to come to Capernaum to heal his son, who was about to die.

John 4:48 Jesus asked, "Will you never believe in Me unless you see miraculous signs and wonders?"

John 4:49 The official pleaded, "Lord, please come now before my little boy dies."

John 4:50 Then Jesus told him, "Go back home. Your son will live!" And the man believed what Jesus said and started home.

John 4:51 While the man was on his way, some of his servants met him with the news that his son was alive and well.

John 4:52 He asked them when the boy had begun to get better, and they replied, "Yesterday afternoon at one o'clock his fever suddenly disappeared!"

John 4:53 Then the father realized that that was the very time Jesus had told him, "Your son will live." And he and his entire household believed in Jesus.

John 4:54 This was the second miraculous sign Jesus did in Galilee after coming from Judea.

Let's get into the Word:

Why do you think that Jesus went back to Galilee when He believed that the local people would not truly honor, respect, nor listen to His message?

And yet verse 45 states that His "hometown" people welcomed Him. Is there an explanation for the possible inconsistencies in these two observations? What is it?

Although Capernaum was only about 20-25 miles from Cana, there was a lot of rough terrain between the two cities requiring an intensive time of travel. We find a “ruler or official” who was willing to make the long journey to meet with Jesus. Discuss the following questions:

1. Why was the fact that Jesus had returned from Galilee important to the government official? (consider the information included in verse 45)
2. How would you describe the official’s heart, emotions, concerns?
3. Specifically, what did the official expect Jesus to do about his concern?

Jesus’ response (verse 48) to the ruler’s request (like His response to His mother in the first miracle at Cana) is somewhat jarring. Who does His statement concern and what is the meaning or indictment behind the statement?

How did Jesus heal the official’s son and how is this method different from His many other miracles?

Let’s look closely at how the man’s journey in faith continues deeper and deeper:

1. What did he have to do to leave Jesus in Cana and go back home alone?
2. What do you think his inquiry into the time of his son’s recovery did for his faith? Why?
3. What kind of faith did the man have when he reached home.

Can we biblically promise miraculous healing to a person if he has enough faith? If the person isn’t healed, is it due to a lack of faith?

What are some reasons that the Lord delays answers to our prayers? Are His promises still good when a sick child or loved one dies?

Let’s get real (with self!)

This is the second sign that Jesus did in Galilee. If you had to use words to reflect what is taught about the Savior, what would you write:

