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The Gospel of **Verifying** John the MESSIAH

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9- Official's Son Healed 4:43-54

Our last session Jesus traveled through Samaria and stopped at a well where He was verified as Messiah to a woman and then many individuals in the town. Jesus spent two days there before moving along north to Galilee. *Joh 4:43-44 Now after two days he departed thence, and went into Galilee. 44 For Jesus himself testified, that a prophet hath no honour in his own country.*

It is at this next stop that we will find His second of seven sign miracles recorded by John. We can see from this that there are many who follow Jesus for reasons that are totally not salvation based.

I- Reputation Based Faith:

Jesus is just beginning His public ministry but His reputation is already starting to spread. He had previously been in Jerusalem at the Passover before journeying through Samaria to Galilee. You will recall He talked with Nicodemus there. There were people gathered from all over the world at the Passover. We are told in *Joh 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.*

Some of those who were in Jerusalem were from Galilee where He now journeys.

Joh 4:45 Then when he was come into Galilee, the Galilaeans received him, having seen all the things that he did at Jerusalem at the feast: for they also went unto the feast.

These Galilaeans had seen the miracles He did at the feast or at least had heard about them. They were quick to welcome Him. Their faith was based on reputation. Merrill C. Tenney said, "Their belief was

grounded on the works that He did, not on their faith in His person." (*John the Gospel of Belief*, p 97)

This crowd was following just to see what miracles He would do next. Theirs seems to not be a saving faith but an spectator or amusement faith.

II- Need Based Faith:

Jesus comes back to the city where He performed the first sign miracle that John recorded for us in *John 2*. He returns to Cana after having performed miracles and taught in Jerusalem.

Joh 4:46ff So Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum. 47 When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judaea into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son: for he was at the point of death".

Capernaum was located about a days journey from Cana where Jesus had moved to.

Who was this man who had traveled a days journey just to get Jesus to come and heal his son? The NASB renders it "royal official."

Barnes Notes says, "One who was of the royal family, connected by birth with Herod Antipas; or one of the officers of the court, whether by birth allied to him or not. It seems that his ordinary residence was at Capernaum." This nobleman was a man who had lain aside his pride to even come.

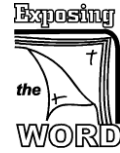
So this man of power and position lays aside his pride and travels to get the son of a carpenter to do him a favor. Why?



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Desperation is one of the reasons. His son was at the point of death.

This certainly reminds us that many times people can become deeply spiritual when they are desperate. Maybe I have been too harsh, perhaps I could better say, God uses desperate situation to draw men to Christ at times.

What kind of faith is going to develop? Will it be deep salvation faith or simply faith that Jesus could heal?

So far in John we see that God draws a variety of different stations in life to Him. In fact I submit that he draws all from young to old, from rich to poor and all others to Him. He drew the fishermen in John 1, a ruler of the Jews in John 3, a woman of Samaria in John 4 along with this nobleman. He used various means to attract them to Christ.

III- Crisis of Belief:

So what was going to be the reply and reaction of Jesus? Would he drop what He was doing and travel again for a day to heal the son of this nobleman?

Joh 4:48 Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe. 49 The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die. 50 Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way.

Tenney says, "Jesus was weary of being solicited for an exhibition of His powers, and His brusque reply was a protest against the popular feeling concern him." (p 98)

Jesus reply seems harsh and blunt toward a man who's son was dying. "Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe," he replied.

John Gill says:

"This was the cast of the Jews every where, both in Judea and Galilee; they required signs and miracles to be wrought, in confirmation of Christ's being the Messiah, and which indeed was but right; and Christ did perform them for that purpose: but their sin of unbelief lay in this, that they wanted still more and more signs; they could not be contented with what they had seen, but required more, being sluggish and backward to believe. Our Lord seems to say this chiefly for the sake of the Galilaeans, that were about him; who, though they might be acquainted with his former miracles, when among them, of turning water into wine, and had seen his wondrous works at the feast at Jerusalem, yet were very desirous of seeing more, and perhaps very pressing for this cure."

Jesus was confronting them about their slowness to believe. Jesus spoke later about the city of Capernaum from which this man was from in *Matthew 11:23-24* *And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. 24 But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.*

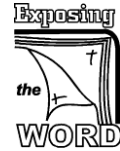
Jesus only spoke three words, "Thy son liveth." Now the monkey is back on the back of the nobleman. What would he do? Jesus had told him his son was healed. Would he exercise faith and believe that though Jesus had not traveled to the child that he would live. This was now a crisis of faith.



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Joel the minor prophet said, *“Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.” Joel 3:14*

The nobleman stood in the valley of decision. Notice his reaction. We do not have another word recorded only the faith of his actions, *“And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way.”*

Remember the hymns, *Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, Just to take him at his word.*

IV- Reward of Faith:

There is some dispute about when the nobleman left for home in Capernaum. It is a matter of which time John used, Roman with this happening late in the day or Jewish time which would put it at 1:00 in the afternoon. Regardless we have the man headed toward home and his servant headed to inform him of his sons sudden recovery.

Joh 4:51 And as he was now going down, his servants met him, and told him, saying, Thy son liveth. 52 Then enquired he of them the hour when he began to amend. And they said unto him, Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him. 53 So the father knew that it was at the same hour, in the which Jesus said unto him, Thy son liveth: and himself believed, and his whole house. 54 This is again the second miracle that Jesus did, when he was come out of Judaea into Galilee.

This nobleman faith was rewarded. He asked his servant that met him when his son

got better and when he put two and two together he realized that it was at the same time that Jesus had told him his son lives.

This man had exercised faith in Jesus but now it has come full circle into a deep and abiding faith. This verification of Messiah became real to him and to his house.

V- Things We See Verified about Messiah:

1-Omnipresence- Healed the son without going and be present. He transcends space. As part of this we also see that His word is as good as His presence with us. He is with us in the form and power of the Holy Spirit today but He is also with us by each promise found in His Word.

2- Omnipotent- This healing took power. Not just mortal human power but supernatural, all might power.

Wouldn't it be pathetic to have a god who was only as powerful as we human, or maybe not as powerful as in a lifeless idol?

One of the attributes of God that we see existing in Jesus was the omnipotent power, again verifying Him as Messiah.

3- Compassion- This shows us that Christ was not just here to put in His time and then be crucified but that God indeed does have a heart for the cries of the afflicted. *Hebrews 4:15-16 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*