

The Nobleman's Son Healed

Introduction

1. We learn many spiritual lessons concerning Jesus through His miracles and incidents that He is involved with.
We learn:
 - A. The kind of Savior Jesus is.
 - B. How He deals with the souls of men for their own good.
 - C. The blessings He brings to those He prepares to receive.
2. These lessons are brought before us in this narrative, so simple and so natural in itself, yet deep in its significance!
John 4:43-54

Verses 43-44

1. Jesus leaves Judea because of opposition to His word by the Pharisees (chapter 4).
 - A. The proverb of verse 44 attests to this fact.

Matthew 13:57 So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house."

- 1) Judea was His home.
- 2) He was born in Bethlehem.
- 3) It was the seat of Jewish worship and government.

- B. John's gospel shows how readily foreigners accepted Jesus, while His own countrymen "his own people" did not.**

John 1:11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

John 5:43 I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.

John 12:37 But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him,

Verse 45

1. Like the foreigners, these Galileans received Him.
2. It seems that the further He went from Jerusalem ---- the warmer the reception. Why?
 - A. Did the Judeans see the same things Jesus did as did the Galileans?
 - B. Yet, they were not ready to accept His miracles.

Augustine:

Faith is to believe what we do not see; and the reward of this faith is to see what we believe.

- C. However, we will also see that even some of the Galilean's faith falls under question as the story unfolds.

Verses 46-47

1. He returns to the place of His first miracle (John 2:1-11), Cana.
 - A. See CHART – Cana
2. Some had hearts prepared and ready to receive His message (they were witnesses or perhaps knew of His first miracle).
3. He was there long enough for the Nobleman to get word of His location and make the trip to find Him.
 - A. **NOBLEMAN:** “An officer of a King.” He may have been serving in the court of Herod Antipas.”
4. It is important to note that neither “riches” or “office” lifted him **above affliction**. We must always seek Jesus to obtain true happiness.
 - A. In humbleness, having obedient faith.
5. He was no doubt reluctant to leave his son – but he knew there was no other hope left but Jesus.
6. It was this Nobleman’s expectation that Jesus **MUST** make the trip to Capernaum.
 - A. “Come down and heal his son.”

Verse 48

1. **SIGNS:** Deeper truth than what meets the eye.
2. **WONDERS:** Draws attention to the physical side of His miracles.
3. **Knowing this man's true heart, He makes this statement: "unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe."**
 - A. These words were not for the Nobleman only but for those who stood by ("you people").

NOTE: The **Galileans** in general deserved reproof for their lack of faith as He spoke of their cities (Matthew 11:20-24). Jesus wanted men to believe in Him because of His **self-evidencing character and words** (John 10:38; 14:11; 15:22-24; 20:29). But the people required to have their faith strengthened **by the performing of miracles**.

4. The man most likely would NOT have had time for Jesus had it not been for his son's sickness.
 - A. Verse 47 – "when he had heard."
5. Things happen today to get us to focus or re-focus on God.
6. **Immediate problem:** His son is at the point of death and there's some 15 miles to be covered (Cana - Capernaum) before any help can be administered (**so he thinks**).
7. He had some faith. But his faith was one that believed on outward signs (**THE MIRACLES**).
 - A. **"Fledging Faith"** - Based on testimony of others, i.e. faith built on the teaching by parents, class teachers.
 - B. **"Satisfying faith"** - Based on personal investigation, firmly grounded in the word of God and Christ.

Verses 49-51

1. Jesus was the one option this Nobleman had.
 - A. He no doubt had heard that Jesus could perform miracles. Maybe there was some hope for his son.
 - B. There was a difference between this Nobleman's faith and the faith of the Centurion in Matthew 8:5-10. **"SPEAK A WORD."**
 - C. He felt the presence of Jesus was required to perform the miracle. He also regarded the Lord's power only to the living.
2. Jesus announced with certainty **"Go your way; your son lives."**
 - A. Jesus shows the Nobleman His divine power by showing him that his words take effect without regard to distance: The Bible has been delivered to ALL for ALL time!
3. The Nobleman gained confidence, believed Christ's words and immediately turned toward home.

Verses 52-53

1. It is now the second day since Jesus pronounced that the boy was healed.
2. Growth is evident in the faith of the Nobleman. He first believed in the power of Jesus' presence and then the power of Jesus' word.
3. The boy was healed at the exact moment in time that the command by Jesus was given.

NOTE: Jesus commands baptism of us today (Mark 16:16). At what moment in time are our sins forgiven? **At the very moment one is immersed!**

Some Traits of the Nobleman

1. He did not let position, pride, or effort (3,500 foot climb) prevent him from coming to seek Christ's aid.
2. He stood the test of his faith.
3. He became a witness for the Lord!

Application of the Lesson

1. Faith in Christ arises in the soul and He should be the one we desire.
 - A. When a sickness comes upon our own child, then – a life of selfishness, pursuit of pleasure, and indifference to spiritualness suddenly becomes secondary.
2. A need for a helper now becomes priority one. Faith is planted and then is grown when one turns to Jesus.
3. We need to have faith by knowing Jesus can provide and not giving up.
4. A weak faith is a faith that is rebuked!
 - A. **Don't limit what we think Christ can do.**
5. A Sincere faith is rewarded.
 - A. **The Nobleman had a growing faith. His faith was rewarded by the healing of his son.**
6. A Sincere faith is contagious!
 - A. **As it spread in the Nobleman's family so it will in ours when it is truly exhibited.**

We can gain faith today through Study, Attendance, and Participation

