

SERMON-BASED STUDY: JESUS HEALS AN OFFICIAL'S SON

John 4:43-54, ESV – ⁴³ After the two days he departed for Galilee. ⁴⁴ (For Jesus himself had testified that a prophet has no honor in his own hometown.) ⁴⁵ So when he came to Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him, having seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the feast. For they too had gone to the feast.

⁴⁶ So he came again to Cana in Galilee, where he had made the water wine. And at Capernaum there was an official whose son was ill. ⁴⁷ When this man heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went to him and asked him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. ⁴⁸ So Jesus said to him, "Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe." ⁴⁹ The official said to him, "Sir, come down before my child dies." ⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, "Go; your son will live." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way. ⁵¹ As he was going down, his servants met him and told him that his son was recovering. ⁵² So he asked them the hour when he began to get better, and they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." ⁵³ The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." And he himself believed, and all his household. ⁵⁴ This was now the second sign that Jesus did when he had come from Judea to Galilee.

Notes:

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- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 This week we see Jesus perform another miracle. Why did Jesus perform miracles?

2 What do we know about this official from Capernaum? Why does he go to Jesus with his problem? What lessons can we learn from the official?

3 How important was belief for the official? How important is it for Christians to believe in God without always seeing miracles?

DIGGING DEEPER

A ***Luke 5:1-11, ESV** – On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, ² and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³ Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. ⁴ And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." ⁵ And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." ⁶ And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. ⁷ They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." ⁹ For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, ¹⁰ and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." ¹¹ And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.*

4 Looking at the passage above, how does Simon's obedience lead to belief in Jesus?

5 How is Simon's interaction with Jesus similar to the official from Capernaum in John 4:43-54? What lessons can we learn from their experiences?

6 What does Simon's proclamation in verse 8 say about his understanding of who Jesus is? Why is this important for those who follow Jesus?

B **Mark 1:14-15, ESV** – ¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

1 Corinthians 15:3-11, ESV – ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

7 Looking at the passages above, why is belief such an important part of being a follower of Jesus?

8 In Mark 1:14-15, not only does Jesus call people to believe, He also calls people to repent. How are these two things connected?

9 Using the passages above, summarize the key points of the “gospel of God.”

TAKING IT HOME

Everything Jesus did, including miracles, was to point people to God. His call was to believe He was the Son of God, repent of sin, and follow Him. Part of following Him is to share the gospel message with others. How are you doing with believing and obediently following Jesus? How are you doing proclaiming the gospel of God to others? Share with your group or accountability partner what God has been showing you. Pray for one another as you seek to believe, follow and share with others. Pray for those who God is directing you to share the gospel with.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Isaiah 43:10

Mark 16:15-16

John 3:16-21

Acts 16:25-33

Hebrews 11:1, 6