



HEALING THE OFFICIAL'S SON

Believe – Part 3

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Jesus himself had pointed out that a prophet has no honor in his own country. When he arrived in Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him. They had seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, for they also had been there. John 4.44-45

1. GRACE TO AN ENEMY

Basilikos – which means “little king” or “of or belonging to the king.”

“Grief is a black camel that kneels at every tent.” – Arab Proverb



2. THE DESPERATION OF A DAD

...there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death. John 4.46-47

Faith almost always begins in a crisis

"Faith begins where our power ends." – George Mueller

...and begged him to come and heal his son.... John 4.47b

"Unless you people see signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe." John 4.48

Sir, come down before my child dies. John 4.49

God is God and we're not.

"Faith is confidence in God's faithfulness to me in an uncertain world, on an uncharted course, through an unknown future."



3. GENUINE FAITH EMERGES

"Go," Jesus replied, "your son will live." The man took Jesus at his word and departed. John 4.50

The man took Jesus at his word... John 4.50b

Faith is taking Jesus at His word.

"Sign-faith" is always inferior to "word-faith."

The test is not our reaction to signs and wonders. The real test is our reaction to what Jesus says.

So, faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. Romans 10.17(NASB)

While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, "Yesterday, at one in the afternoon, the fever left him." Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." So, he and his whole household believed. John 4.51-53

Faith in His Miracles

Faith in His Word

Faith in Jesus Himself



4. OLD TESTAMENT PARALLELS

- ❑ Jesus brings light and life.

And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper room into the house, and gave him to his mother. And Elijah said, "See, your son lives!" 1 Kings 17.23 (NKJV)

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 11.25-26

- ❑ Jesus brings grace and truth.

The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. John 1.17

God said, "I [will] multiply my signs and wonders in the land of Egypt." Exodus 7.3

...the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on the throne. Exodus 12.29

The God whose laws we have broken, and whose judgment we deserve, sent his Son into the world not so that we who are in the prime of life should die, but that we, who are on the brink of death, should live!

God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. John 3:17

Moses gave us the Law, but Jesus, the Anointed One, unveils truth wrapped in tender mercy. John 1:17 (The Passion Translation)

Discussion Questions:

1. In the healing of the official's son, we discover two things about the man. First that he is part of an administration that has been aligned against Jesus and second, when his need was desperate, he sought Jesus for help. What can you learn about how to treat an enemy from Jesus' example? Can you relate to his feelings of desperation? Have you ever been desperate? What was that like? How did you pray? What were your expectations of God?

2. Without a doubt, a significant takeaway from this miracle is clarification around the question of faith. The Galilean Jews welcomed Jesus but we discover really quickly that their need for Jesus was quite utilitarian. They wanted Jesus for what He could do for them, not for Who He is. The Official with the sick son begins in a similar place - desperation for Jesus to do something for his son. But unlike the others, his faith progresses. The first indication of a new level of faith is when he leaves based on the promise Jesus made (which is really where all genuine faith begins - faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God). Why is "word faith" superior to "sign faith"? If we want greater faith, we need a more thorough knowledge of God and His promises. What promises (what word) helps you the most to more fully trust in God? Describe a time when you saw no evidence of God working in your life but you were steadied by His promises.

3. Real faith is contagious. The Samaritan woman led the townsfolk to Christ and the Official's faith caused his entire household to follow in his footsteps. A recent study found that the single greatest cause of atheism among youth today is when they see inauthentic and incongruent behavior in their Christian parents. So, in the same way that authentic faith is contagious and draws others, inauthentic faith actually pushes people away from God. Have you ever met or known a Christian whose relationship with God impacted you tremendously? Describe what that quality was and why it was so compelling?

4. The Old Testament parallels with the story of Elijah and Moses are at the heart of why this miracle is called a sign. Together they make the case that Jesus is greater than the prophets (Elijah) and the law (Moses). Describe what you learned in this part of the message.

For Further Study (optional):

Look at the long conversations in John chapter 3 (Nicodemus) and John 4 (the Woman at the Well). Whenever a writer places two similar narratives back-to-back, it is to challenge us as a reader to compare and contrast both stories. Take some time on your own or as a group to read through both accounts. What is similar in both stories? What is different? What lessons can you draw from your observations?

