The Gospel of John
**4.3—GROWING FAITH – JOHN 4:43-54**

**LET’S GET RIGHT INTO OUR TEXT FOR TODAY**

**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.

**INTRODUCTION**

**We have just concluded our BFAM conference which was dedicated to *encouraging and empowering each attendee to be a Great Commission believer, bringing the light to their families and communities which is Jesus and His word.* We also are ending our study in John chapter 4 today and John chapter 4 has a similar focus to the BFAM Conference. The Samaritan woman at the well whom most would say had a number of personal and social handicaps that could have excluded her from evangelizing anyone, nonetheless, the city of Sychar. But through the words and ministry of Jesus she left her water-pot at the well she frequented and before the Great Commission became the Great Commission she shared her testimony about her encounter saying:**

**John 4:29 (ESV) 29“Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?”**

 **And**

**“Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, ‘He told me all that I ever did.’ ” John 4:39 (ESV)**

**“And many more believed because of his word. 42They said to the woman, ‘It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.’ ”John 4:41-42 (ESV)**

**Note that not the Jews but the Samaritans are identifying Jesus as not just the Messiah or the Christ but the “Savior of the world.”**

**Chapter 4 of the Gospel of John ends with Jesus leading someone on the opposite end of the social spectrum, one of Herod’s officials a man wealthy enough to have servants, and to not only believe himself but to multiply his believing by leading his household to believe as well as it says in:**

**John 4:53 (ESV) 53 … And he himself believed, and all his household.**

**Let’s see what we can learn from the official’s encounter with Jesus.**

**V43-45** **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.

Before we get to the official, we read of Jesus hometown Nazareth where Jesus testified that a prophet has no honor in his own hometown.

Luke 4 records Jesus visiting Nazareth his home town which is in Galilee. There He read from Isaiah 61:1-2 (as recorded in Luke 4:17-21) and said “no prophet is acceptable in his hometown (Luke 4:24 ESV). The things he said so angered his home town that they led him to a hill to throw Him over a cliff (Luke 4:29) but Jesus’ time had not yet come. But as we can see Galileans from other cities having seen the signs Jesus did when he was in Jerusalem (John 2:23) welcomed him to Galilee (John 4:43) at least at this point in Jesus ministry.

**Philippians 3:13 (ESV)** **13**Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: **forgetting what lies behind** and straining forward to what lies ahead,

They **could not forget Mary’s little boy** and maybe how he was left behind at 12 and embrace John the Baptist witness …

**John 1:29 (ESV)** **29**… “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

And therefore

**Mark 6:5–6 (ESV)** **5**And he **could do no mighty work there**, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. **6**And he marveled because of their **unbelief**. And he went about among the villages teaching.

**V46** **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**.

**Capernaum** is about 20-25 mile north east of Cana about an 8-hour trip by foot

**Official in the ESV is Nobleman in the NKJV and in the** Greek is basilikos, i.e., “king’s man”, an officer of state (John 4:49) generally in the service of Herod Antipas. Some think he is **Chuza of Luke 8:3, Herod’s steward**, whose wife was one of the women who “ministered unto the Lord of their substance” (Luke 8:3).

His son was not just sick or ill but he had a fever and was at the point of death. If you were a father, what would you do (He probably tried the physicians) and what would you expect?

Testimony at 4 years of age

Though he was probably on the other end of the social spectrum from the woman at the well in Samaria, this well of official still had problems.

**Job 5:7 (ESV)** but man is born to trouble as the sparks fly upward.

**V47** **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.

He heard that Jesus had come. Since Jesus up to this point had done a miracle in Cana and signs plural in Jerusalem and Judea which probably included healings, the official probably heard Jesus healed people or was a miracle worker.

John 2:23 (ESV) **23**Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, **many believed in his name when they saw the signs** that he was doing. (John 3:2)

John 3:2 (ESV) **2**This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for **no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him**.”

**V48** **48**So Jesus said to him, “Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe.”

What is not obvious in English is that the you is plural

What is wrong with signs

1 Corinthians 1:22–23 (ESV) **22**For **Jews demand signs** and Greeks seek wisdom, **23**but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,

These were not **accompanying signs** but **signs that needed to precede belief**.

Mark 16:16–18 (ESV) **16**Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. **17**And **these signs will accompany those who believe**: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; **18**they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

Jesus is referring to Gideon signs (signs that proceed belief) Judges 6:36-40, 7:9-15

Judges 6:36–7:1 (ESV) **36**Then Gideon said to God, “**If you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said, 37behold, I am laying a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If there is dew on the fleece alone, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said.**” **38**And it was so. When he rose early next morning and squeezed the fleece, he wrung enough dew from the fleece to fill a bowl with water. **39**Then Gideon said to God, “Let not your anger burn against me; let me speak just once more. Please let me test just once more with the fleece. **Please let it be dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground let there be dew.”** **40**And God did so that night; and it was dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground there was dew.

Is Jesus upset or irritated that it takes observable things to get his people to believe

John 20:30–31 (ESV) **30**Now **Jesus did many other signs** in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; **31**but these are written so **that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God**, and that by believing you may have **life** in his name.

John 2:18–19 (ESV) **18**So the Jews said to him, “What sign do you show us for doing these things?” **19**Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

The signs and wonders were to get people to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God and that the word the Lord speaks will accomplish what it purposes with or without corroborating signs.

2 Corinthians 5:7 (ESV) **7**for we walk by faith, not by sight.

Romans 10:17 (ESV) **17**So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

The official believed the Jesus from what he heard of him could heal his son but Jesus wants to grow his faith to saving faith.

**V49** **49**The official said to him, “Sir, **come down** before my child dies.”

***3813***. **παιδίον** **paidion**; dim. of *3816; a young child*:—boy’s(1), Child(10), child(21), child’s(2), children(17), children’s(1).[[1]](#footnote-1)

**The father had already determined the cure without consulting the Maker.**

**The father told Jesus what he should do rather than asking Jesus**

**V50a** **50**Jesus said to him, “**Go; your son will live**.” …

The official was given an **instruction** (Go without me) and a **promise** (your son will live)

But now comes the test – when your thought is different than Jesus’ word?

**Argue** my position, follow my **logic,** try to improve upon what God said, **play what if** …

Or compare my situations to others:

that is not what Jesus will do for **Jairus daughter** but it is what Jesus will do with the **Centurion’s servant** and the **Syrophonecian** woman’s daughter.

You need to know what God is telling you to do.

**V50a&b** **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.

The official had believed what he had heard from others about Jesus

Now he gets a chance to believe the word Jesus spoke to him

He did not just believe, **he believed the word Jesus spoke to him** and **evidenced it** by doing what Jesus told him to do

**V51-53** **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**.

The Greek word translated Recovering in the ESV is a translation of the Greek word zao (G2198) which in the **NKJV is rendered lives, in the NASB and NIV is was living, and NLT is alive and well**.

“Go, your son will live” - If Jesus says a thing, it is not a case of “It *may* be true”; it is a case of “**It *must* be true**.”[[2]](#footnote-2)

What does “And he himself believed” mean since he already believed the reports about Jesus miracle working power. I believed **he did not just believe the word Jesus spoke he believed in Jesus** maybe not fully understanding but he believed that Jesus is Lord.

The father did not just believe but he brought his whole household into believing

**Cornelius:** **Acts 10:23–24 (ESV)** **23**So he invited them in to be his guests. The next day he rose and went away with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him. **24**And on the following day they entered Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends.

**Philippian Jailer**: **Acts 16:30–34 (ESV)** **30**Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” **31**And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” **32**And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. **33**And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. **34**Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.

**V54 54**This was now the second sign that Jesus did when he had come from Judea to Galilee.

1. Thomas, R. L. (1998). [*New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : updated edition*](https://ref.ly/logosres/nasbdict?ref=GreekStrongs.3813). Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Barclay, W. (Ed.). (1975). [*The Gospel of John*](https://ref.ly/logosres/bcomjhn1?ref=Page.p+175&off=1960&ctx=+of+a+drowning+man.+~If+Jesus+says+a+thin) (Vol. 1, p. 175). Philadelphia, PA: The Westminster John Knox Press. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)