

Morning Worship - September 8, 2013
John 4:43-54, The Royal Official's Son

1. Introduction - Read John 4:43-54
2. 43-45 Christ _____ to his _____ from Samaria
 - a. 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.
 - i. The key phrase is, *having seen all that he had done in Jerusalem*, and in verse 48, *unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe*.
 - ii. His Jewish countrymen were fine in _____ from his miracle working capabilities...but proclaiming him "Messiah, the Savior of the Word," as the Samaritans had, would be quite another thing.
3. 46-47 _____ drives us to _____ help from Christ
 - a. 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.
 - i. So he comes to Cana, and news arrives to the ears of a very powerful and influential man...A royal official [basilikos] - directly responsible to a king - most likely, an official of the court of _____; he comes from Capernaum and goes south to Cana in Galilee to seek out Christ because his son was ill. [Also notice that we are not told whether this man is Jew or Gentile - his race and religion are not a part of this story.]
 - ii. Question - how many of us know or have known this desperation?
 - b. _____ illnesses push us to desperation, especially when those incurable illnesses affect our children. There is nothing that pulls at my heart more than seeing children suffer with incurable illnesses.
 - c. Quote - The official's great respect to our Lord Jesus, that he would come himself to wait upon him, when he might have sent a servant; and that he besought him, when, as a man in authority, some would think he might have ordered his attendance. The greatest men, when they come to God, must become _____, and—as paupers.
4. 48-50 Christ challenges us to have _____ in His
 - a. 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.
 - i. *Unless you [plural] see signs and wonders you will not believe* - well, thanks Jesus, those are encouraging words for a father who has traveled many miles to seek out your help for his dying son! That seems harsh does it not? How long would a pastor last in today's church _____ talking like that to people?
 - ii. The sentiment in the Savior's expression is his knowledge that all that moved this man and he other Galileans in their spirit was Jesus' miracles working ability: *If I did not perform miracles, you would have no interest in me, you would not believe in me*.
 - iii. Quote - They pursued Him for the benefit they could derive from Him without any sense of _____ for their sins, without any intent to bow to Him as Lord, and without any willingness to receive Him as the Savior.
 - iv. M.H. - Of his power, that he not only could heal, but could heal with so much ease, without the trouble of a visit. Here is nothing said, nothing done, nothing ordered to be done, and yet the _____ wrought: Thy son liveth. [Hebrews 4:12-13]
 - v. 51-54 His word _____ and _____
 - a. 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.
 - i. Two things would help to confirm his faith:—First, That the child's recovery was _____ and not gradual. They name the precise time to an hour: Yesterday, not about, but at the seventh hour, the fever left him; not it abated, or began to decrease, but it left him in an instant. Second, that the official put it together in his mind that it was at the _____ that Christ spoke the words, "your son will live."
 - ii. Water into wine renewed the faith of Jesus' disciples, healing the royal officer's son will bring faith to a whole household