

Title: Do You Believe In Miracles?

Text: John 4:43-54

Would you take your Bibles, and turn with me to Jhn chapter 4. The gospel of John chapter 4 beginning with verse 43.

Now, last Sunday we left off with Vs ~~42~~ and the conversation that Jesus had with the Samaritan woman. Now, I am passing over the concluding verses in that conversation because I have already shared them with you. BACK in September I shared two sermons with you on those verses. ONE dealt with the meaning and prupose of WORSHIP. The second dealt with our witness to the community. So, I want to move on to Verse 43 and look AT THE MIRACLE OF A NOBLEMEN'S SON. Dear friends, DO YOU BELIEVE IN MIRACLES?

John chapter 4 beginning with verse 43..(READ VS 43-54)

Do You Believe In Miracles? PRAYER

(7B) Beginning at Vs 43, I want to look at the miracle of ~~the~~ noblemen's son, and the effect it has on believing in the deity of Jesus Christ.

First of all, In Vs 43 to 45, we have a little section dealing with the ~~reception~~ (7C)

(1C) reception that Jesus is going to have in Galilee. The reception in Galilee we are told came after two days that were spent in Samaria. Then immidiately Jesus goes to Galilee. Now, there are a couple of things that I want to draw to your attention concerning this reception in Galilee.

(1D) Number one, the problem Jesus faced in his own country. And Jesus brings this problem up and shares it with His disciples. In Vs 44 Jesus said that "a prophet has no honor in His own country."

Yet, Vs 45 says that "the Galileans received Him having seen all the things that He did in Jerusalem at the feast, for they themselves also went to the feast."

Now, I find that a little confusing. I mean if a prophet doesn't have any honor, then why did all the Galileans receive him? Or, is it Galilee that He is talking about.

In tracing this matter of his own country, I find that it appears 6 times in God's Word. And every time with the exception of this one, it refers to the city of Nazareth. ~~And~~ I really believe there is where we find the answer. Because in the city of Nazareth, they rejected his message and accused Him of being an illegitimate son. And they threw Him out of the city and wanted nothing to do with Him. The very town where He grew up. *John Amuzing*

And so ^{I believe} Jesus ~~reminded~~ ^{reminded} them of that fact. That a prophet has no honor in His own country. He reminded them that they were going to face opposition, even in the place where Jesus grew up.

(2D) ^{However} ~~Secondly~~, in Vs 45, we ^{also} have the prospect of a tremendous Galilean ministry ^{Now Jesus} ~~Remember He had~~ left Judea so that He would not cause a division between himself and John the Baptist. And in Galilee was waiting the greatest harvest of His ministry so far. *and we will see that next Sunday*

(2C) Now, 2C on your outline, let's look at the reason for this miracle.

Why did this miracle take place? We read in Vs 46 "that Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine." "And there was a certain royal official, whose son was sick at Capernaum."

Now, ^{Jesus} ~~will~~ you think about that for a moment? I would like to put something together that is only my thoughts....O.K?...This is just my ideas. It is not God's Word....This is Harrison 1:1...

The Bible tells us that Jesus came into Cana of Galilee. And the Nobleman's son was sick over in Capernaum. Why doesn't it say that Jesus went through Cana over to Capernaum. WHY CANA? Because it reminds us of the miracle Jesus did in Cana. I think John is ^{tying} ~~tying~~ this miracle in with the mirale of changing water into wine. Because down in Vs 54, it says that this is the second miracle that Jesus did. The second sign. When was the first sign? At the marriage feast when He changed the water into wine.

Now, who is this nobleman? No one really knows. But, do you remember that when Jesus was at the marriage feast and He performed that first miracle of turning water into wine? The Bible says that a certain man was deeply moved by that miracle. And he is called a ruler of the feast? *Do You Remember That?*

Now, dear friends, there were not many rulers or noblemen living in a little town called Cana of Galilee. NO WAY... So, I just throw this out for your joy. And I wonder in my heart if this nobleman is not the same ruler at the marriage feast of Cana of Galilee? And that is why it is called the second sign. And this nobleman believe and his whole house believed.

Well, anyway, it is just something for you to think about. It is my idea. So, please, don't go around telling it to any other Preacher...O.K?

(2C) Third, notice the response of this noableman? Three things in Vs 48-50 concerning the resjponse of this nobleman.

(1D) One, Jesus talks about the cause of faith. The cause of faith when he says in Vs 48, "unless you people see signs and wonders, you simple will not believe."

Now, the man was not really getting the point at that moment. But, Jesus was saying, so many times, people want to see a miracle and then they will believe.

That is true today. Show me a miracle. Just preform a miracle : like in the Bible, then I will believe. SHOW ME. This nobleman must have been from Missouri.

(2D) The second thing that I notice about the response of this man is that his concern was simply that his child be healed. That is all he wanted.

You know, many times ^{we} you come to Christ with the same concern. ^{we} you have something in ^{our} your life that ^{we} you want settled. And ^{we} you come to Jesus and do you know what He does? He turns ^{our} your whole life upside down. ~~You never dreamed that was going to happen.~~ ^{we} You came with one little concern. Something that was standing in the way that ^{we} you wanted settled. But, all of a sudden ^{we} you learned that there is a Saviour who loves ^{us} you and can transform ^{our} your whole life. This man had one concern. His son was sick. He was dieing. And he wanted him to be healed. And Jesus answered his faith. *What Tremendous Faith*

(3D) The third thing that I notice about the response of this man is his confidence in what Jesus said. This is so beautiful.

In Vs 50 Jesus said to him, "go your way, your son lives. And the man believed the WORD that Jesus had spoken unto him."

Isn't that wonderful? He believed. I think what I would have done was..."OH,NO..Jesus! You are not getting away with that. You had better come with me. You don't expect me to ~~go~~ all the way down to Capernaum on your word, do you?" "What if my son is not healed? I will have to come all the way back and get you."

That is how human we often are. But, not this man. He believed the word that Jesus spoke. He was responseing, simpley, to word of Jesus. *Faith Response To The Word of Jesus*

(4C) Then, finally, I would like you to notice the timing and reactions of this miracle. And there are three things that I want you to see, here.

(1D) First, let me give you a definition. I will give it to you slowly so that you can write it down. WHAT IS A MIRACLE? This is not my definition. But, I think it will help you understand. WHAT IS A MIRACLE?

A miracle is a natural or super-natural event with or without human intervention that has precise timing.

Now, once again. A miracle is a natural or super-natural event with or without human intervention that has precise timing. And there is no way that it could happen except that God did it. Let me give you an example of a common everyday kind of miracle that happened in my life.

You have a financial need. A bill to be paid. And you don't know how you are going to pay it. And all of a sudden God lays it on the heart of another believer to send you, without your knowledge, the exact amount of money that you needed to pay that bill on the exact day it was due...MIRACLE... And again your faith is restored as God is able to do abundantly above all that you could ever ask or think.

Natural..even with human intervention...with precise timing. And it builds and encourages your faith.

That is the purpose of a miracle - To build and encourage your faith

And of course there are many super=natural events, without human intervention that God is doing with precise timing. I will give you an example in a moment.

(2D) Well, this is exciting because this nobleman wanted to know the time his son was healed. In Vs 51 his servants came and met him and told him that his son lived. And he inquired of them the hour when his son began to get better. "They said to him, yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him."

You see, he wanted to know the exact hour. His faith was ~~already~~ ^{really} growing. And he knew that this was the Messiah. The one who can change our lives and bring hope to the world. He had the power to heal. And he ^{so} wanted to know the precise time.

(3D) And third, notice his decision to believe.

The Bible says in Vs 53, "So the father knew that it was at that hour in which Jesus said to him, 'Your son lives', and he himself believed, and his whole household."

Isn't that wonderful? The whole family believed because of the precise timing of a miracle. And the Bible says that this is the second sign...second miracle...that Jesus did.

Let me ask you a question. DO YOU BELIEVE IN MIRACLES? Dear friends, miracles are happening all the time. *AND They happen so that your faith may be built and encouraged.*

Let me close with a simple example that can be verified by the person present this morning.

On thanksgiving day 1982 around 5:30, in the afternoon, my wife left the dinner table saying that she had an upset stomach. She went into the bedroom to rest for a little while. But, things didn't get better. She got worse. And the up set stomach turned into severe stomach pains. I put her in the car and took her to the emergency room at Paradise Community Hospital. After running some test the hospital admitted her to ICU under the care of a five person CRITICAL CARE TEAM. This term stayed with her for the next 18 hours.

The doctor in the emergency room was a Christian doctor. The only doctor that I have ever met in my life who not only treated the patient, but then offered to have prayer with the family. Let me tell you. That was a real blessing.

Two days later, after Shirley was stable, this Christian doctor shared with her the miracle that had taken place. By all medical experience Shirley should have died. She was that far gone. But, Jesus was in that emergency room. He was there with that five person CRITICAL CARE TEAM. And he healed her. We arrived at the hospital at the precise time. If she had arrived earlier, they would have diagnosed her condition as appendicitis. If she had arrived 15 minutes later she would have died. But, she arrived at the precise time when her blood count and all other condition told the doctors that it was pancreatitis. *Thus, they knew what to do.*

Now, whether this was done by natural or super-natural intervention, I am not going to discuss the details. ~~In fact, I do not know.~~ I am just here to praise the Lord that Shirley was healed. And I am here to testify to a personal Lord who has power to heal the body.

me ~~six~~ weeks later, Shirley went through a series of test and exrays. *our family* ~~her~~ ~~home~~ doctor wanted to know what was her physical condition. He compared the X-rays taken at Paradise Community Hospital with the ones he had just taken. THERE was absolutely no trace of a damaged pancreas. DEAR FRIENDS, WHEN GOD HEALS... GOD HEALS.

Do you believe in miracles? I believe in miracles. But, there is one other thing ~~you should remember~~ *I really believe*. The greatest miracle that happens in a person's life is the miracle of salvation. DO YOU KNOW WHY? Because physical healing is only temporary. In the end you are still going to die. BUT, spiritual healing....Salvation....being born again...new life in christ...IS FOR ALL ETERNITY..... *I hope you have received spiritual healing, today.*

Let us close in prayer
For that is more important than physical healing