

The Gospel of John: That You May Believe
The Long Distance Healing
John 4:43-54 (page742)

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The **C o n t e x t** (John 4:43-46a)

- Familiarity breeds contempt (v 44; Luke 4:14-30)
- It's not w h a t Jesus can d o - it's w h o He i s!
(John 2:23-25)
- Cana is the place of Jesus' first r e c o r d e d m i r a c l e
(v 46a; John 2:11)

The **G r o w t h o f A u t h e n t i c F a i t h i s R e a l i z e d . . .**(John 4:46b-53)

- by r e c o g n i z i n g the p o w e r of Christ (vs 46b-48)
Two p r o b l e m s this kind of faith causes are:
 - He presents the n e e d before he ever presents h i m s e l f
(v 47)
 - He tells Christ h o w to h a n d l e the situation (v 47)
- by r e s p o n d i n g to the w o r d of Christ (vs 49-50)
- by b e l i e v i n g w h o Christ really is (vs 51-53)
 - Jesus is Lord over t i m e, d i s t a n c e and s i c k n e s s!

Closing thoughts on our passage:

- We are n o t to be seeking s i g n s and m i r a c l e s,
we are to seek C h r i s t.
- God can and does use a d v e r s i t y in our lives, adversity
b e y o n d our ability to fix, to bring us to H i m s e l f
and trust in Him alone as our only h o p e and
d e l i v e r a n c e.
- Jesus wants to continually g r o w our faith in Him as the
L o r d over e v e r y t h i n g!
- We are to learn that God is s o v e r e i g n and we are n o t.

Growth Group
Sermon Study Helps
John 4:43-54 (Week Ten)

(Note: This guide is to help *facilitate* discussion with your Growth Group. Use it as a *RESOURCE* for the group in discovering and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you *do not want to use* and there may be instances where the group *chooses to focus on a particular point, verse or truth*. This guide is to assist the group in growing in their relationship with Christ and the Scriptures, thus, it is not necessary to complete all of the points in the discussion guide...use this with flexibility and not as a rigid task list to get through. God's richest blessing upon you all.)

Intro:

In this week's lesson we find Jesus returning to Cana in Galilee, the scene of His first miracle, there He is met by a man in great personal desperation. That is because his son, back in Capernaum, twenty miles away, is said to be dangerously ill and near death due to a severe fever. This man is described as an official, probably in Herod's court and he likely has heard of Jesus' prior miracle in Cana and in his great anguish, he sees Jesus as his last hope. The story is a story of the growth of personal faith as Jesus takes this man to a new awareness of ***who He is*** and ***reveals Himself as the sovereign God*** whose authority and power know no limitations when it comes to deliverance and healing.

Discussion Questions

Why do you think Jesus went to His home area of Galilee even when He knew that 4:44 was true? What does that say about His character and His mission?

How many miracles did Jesus do in Samaria? How is the response of the Jews and the people in Jesus' home area different than the response of the Samaritans earlier in chapter 4?

Why is there a natural tendency to seek the miraculous signs of God rather than pursue a relationship with Him (v 45)? What is the danger in this? What response on our part would be better and more pleasing to God?

How does Jesus respond to the man's request (4:48)? Is Jesus being harsh or mean? Why did He respond in this way?

What does v 50 tell us about the faith of the official regarding Jesus' command? Did the official have a choice to make when Jesus told him to "Go"? Do you think it was hard for the official to leave without Jesus going with him? Why or why not?

Describe the *progression of the official's faith* through the story and his encounter with Jesus (v 46-47...v 49-50...v 52-53) Have you had times of growth in your own faith? How did they happen? Explain.

What are the effects of the official's faith? How does his action correspond to the Samaritan woman's action upon coming to faith? What are the effects on others of your faith?

Taking it to the streets....

How important is it for Christians to believe without seeing miracles? What can we learn from this court official about what faith looks like? (cf Dan 3:17-18; John 20:24-29)

What are some things God has told us in His word that are hard for you to believe?

How do you need to trust God this week to handle a situation you can't control or work out on your own?