

13. Jesus Healed the Son of a Nobleman

In our last topic, we saw that we want to show our physical and spiritual children how to recognize a spiritual harvest field. We also saw that we want to help them become reproducing Christians that can be used by the Lord both to sow and to reap in the spiritual harvest field where the Lord places them. They will become effective in the spiritual harvest field as they learn to share the Word of God with grace so that the truth of the Word of God can be used by the Lord to draw others to Christ. In our topic today, we will see that Jesus healed the son of a nobleman.

We saw three topics ago that Jesus was on His way from Judea to Galilee but had to go through Samaria. In the last three topics, we have seen why Jesus had to go through Samaria. Now, as we come to John 4:43-45, we read what happened when Jesus arrived in Galilee. Those verses say, “Now after the two days He departed from there and went to Galilee. For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country. So when He came to Galilee, the Galileans received Him, having seen all the things He did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they also had gone to the feast.” Jesus returned to Galilee but did not make His headquarters in His hometown of Nazareth.

Luke 4:14-16 says, “Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read.” Jesus preached in various towns and villages when He came into Galilee. People throughout the region were talking about Him because of His public ministry and His cleansing of the temple in Jerusalem. We see that Jesus was received in many cities of Galilee. However, when Jesus said the Scripture that He read was fulfilled that day, the people of His hometown turned against Jesus. Luke 4:28-29 says, “So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff.” We see the people of His hometown of Nazareth tried to kill Him.

Jesus had said to the people of Nazareth in Luke 4:2, “Then He said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own country.’” The people in the town of Nazareth had watched Jesus as He had grown from a boy to a man. At least some of the people of Nazareth had probably heard about Jesus staying behind in Jerusalem at the age of twelve and talking with the teachers in the temple. They had even had the opportunity to observe Jesus for a number of years after He became an adult. They regularly heard Him read from the Word of God in the services of the synagogue. However, they refused to believe Him and instead were ready to kill Him when He pointed out their lack of belief. This is an example of the fact that many people will not accept a person as an adult when they have observed that person from childhood.

While Jesus was in Cana of Galilee, a nobleman from the city of Capernaum came to Cana to get Jesus to come and heal his dying son. John 4:46-49 says, “So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and

implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. Then Jesus said to him, ‘Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe.’ The nobleman said to Him, ‘Sir, come down before my child dies!’” Cana was nearly twenty miles from Capernaum so this man had walked quite a distance to get Jesus to come and heal his son. The word “nobleman” means *a royal official*. He was probably given this title because he worked for King Herod Antipas who ruled Galilee for the Romans for over forty years, including the entire time that Jesus was on the earth.

A nobleman heard that Jesus had returned from Judea to Galilee. This nobleman came to Jesus and implored Him to come and heal his son. The word translated “implored” means *to request or to beg*. This man was desperate because of his concern for his dying son. This man had heard about the miracles that Jesus had done and so he begged Jesus to come and heal his son. Parents who love their children will do anything to try and help their child if they think that the child is dying. As a result, the nobleman had traveled that long distance and continued to beg Jesus to come and heal his son. He was desperate because he knew that his child was at the point of death.

Jesus answered at first, “Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe.” Signs and wonders do not always mean that something is done by God. In 2 Thessalonians 2:8-9, it says, “And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders.” Here, we see that the lawless one (antichrist) will deceive the world by doing signs and wonders. He will do these signs and wonders through the power of Satan. Jesus said that people refuse to believe unless they see signs and wonders. Those who believe because they see signs and wonders will often have a false belief because they believe what they see instead of coming to God through repentance and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus wants to help people learn to come to Him in true faith. Romans 10:17 says, “So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” This nobleman again begged Jesus, “Sir, come down before my child dies!” Jesus knew that this man was having a hard time believing. As a result, Jesus gave this nobleman an opportunity to demonstrate true faith. John 4:50-54 says, “Jesus said to him, ‘Go your way; your son lives.’ So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way. And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told *him*, saying, ‘Your son lives!’ Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better. And they said to him, ‘Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.’ So the father knew that it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, ‘Your son lives.’ And he himself believed, and his whole household. This again is the second sign Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.” Jesus just told the man that he could go home because his son would live.

The faith of the man can be seen by what he did. We see that the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken to him. He immediately stopped pleading with Jesus to come to the city of Capernaum and heal his son. Instead, he turned and began the walk back to Capernaum. Several hours passed as he walked toward Capernaum. Then, he saw some of his servants walking toward him on the road. The servants were excited as they met the nobleman and spoke to him. They told Him,

“Your son lives.”

The nobleman immediately asked when his son started to get better. The servants answered, “Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.” The nobleman realized that his son had been healed at the very hour that Jesus had told him that his son would live. The boy had been ready to die. He was now alive and well. That miracle had happened at the very hour that Jesus had spoken the word. The father had made the choice to believe the word of Jesus and Jesus had healed his son at that very moment.

We also see another very important lesson in these verses. The choice of this man had an impact on his entire household. In that day, the household included the family, any servants or slaves, and anyone else living with the family in that house. In Acts 16:31, we read, “So they said, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.’” Then, Acts 16:34 says, “Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.” We also see several other illustrations in the book of Acts where entire households became Christians at the same time. From this, we see that many times when the head of a household becomes a Christian it will lead the entire household to follow his example. This shows us the importance of learning to work with the Lord by clearly sharing the message of salvation with the heads of households.

We also see that this is the second sign which Jesus did when He came out of Judea into Galilee. We saw in an earlier topic that the miracles that are recorded in the book of John are actually signs to the Jews of the fact that Jesus is the Christ. John 20:30-31 says, “And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.” John did not focus on the number of miracles that Jesus did. Matthew, Mark and Luke had been written quite a number of years before the book of John and they all included more miracles.

Since those three books and others were being widely circulated among the Christians, John was led to write about those miracles that are signs that showed that Jesus is the Christ. The purpose of the book of John is to show that Jesus is the Son of God. The same is true about each of the things that are written in the book of John. John shows that Jesus said many times that He is the Son of God. He quoted Scriptures from the Old Testament to show Jesus is the Son of God. John will give us a real picture of the fact that Jesus is God as we look at the prayer that Jesus prayed to the Father in the Garden the night before He was crucified. We want to equip our physical and spiritual children to show others that Jesus is the Son of God. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children learn to explain this clearly.