

“THE FEVER GOES AT 7:00 PM”

(The Healing of the Nobleman’s Son)

John 4:43-54

Text: “Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way.” (John 4:50)

Introduction

(In John 4, Jesus ministers to four different people)

1. The Samaritan Woman (V. 1-30)
 - ◆ She discovers Jesus is a Jew. (V. 1-10)
 - ◆ She discovers Jesus is greater than Jacob. (V. 11-15)
 - ◆ She discovers Jesus is a prophet. (V. 16-24)
 - ◆ She discovers Jesus is the Christ. (V. 25-30)
2. The Disciples (V. 31-38)
 - ◆ Jesus instructs the men about Harvest matters.
 - ◆ Jesus instructs the men about His Father’s will.
3. The Samaritans (V. 39-42)
 - ◆ They were moved by the woman’s testimony (V.39)
 - ◆ They were moved to seek the Lord. (V. 40)
 - ◆ They were moved to trust this Jesus. (V. 41,42)
4. The Nobleman and His Son (V. 43-54)
 - ◆ The father requests Jesus to come to Capernaum. (V. 47)
 - ◆ The father believes the words of Jesus. (V. 50)
 - ◆ The father seeks the healing power of God. (V. 52)

Question: Ever hear negative news about yourself or a loved one?

Question: Ever have to deal with the reality of sickness?

Question: Ever know of someone who was in need of a touch from Jesus?

Question: Ever worried, anxious or uptight because someone you love is desperately ill?

(If so, you’re in good company)

Our Setting Before Us

Fact: The healing of the Nobleman’s son is the first recorded healing of Jesus in Scripture.

Fact: John is the only one who records this event.

Fact: Yet, we know that Jesus had already performed great miracles beforehand:

”Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, in the feast day, many believed in His name, when they saw the miracles which He did.” (John 2:23)

The Journey Into Cana

Fact: Jesus (after two days) goes into Galilee (4:43)

Fact: Two days after His visit in Samaria, Jesus now comes back to Cana where He had attended the wedding feast. (4:46)

1. Jesus may have wanted to see Nathanael who had come from Cana.
2. Jesus may have wanted to cultivate the seed he sowed in the hearts while at the wedding feast.
3. Jesus may have simply had this Nobleman in mind (and wanted to minister to him face to face).

”So Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum.” (V. 46)

“Jesus came again into Cana” means:

1. Jesus had been there before to minister.
2. This nobleman who served Herod the Tetrarch had heard about His miracle power.
3. This nobleman from Capernaum traveled 20 miles to intercede for his dying son.
 - ◆ Let’s walk with Jesus into Cana.
 - ◆ Let’s walk with the nobleman into Cana.
 - ◆ Let’s walk with the servant’s good news of answered prayer.
 - ◆ Let’s discover how a dad’s request finds Divine attention.

(Four Stages in the Miracle)

I. The Fear of Death (V. 46-49)

“The nobleman said unto Jesus, sir, come down, my child is dying.” (V. 49)

Fact: The father’s son was sick in Capernaum (V. 46)

Fact: The father journeyed 20 miles to make his request. (V. 47)

“Please come down to Capernaum.”

“Please come down to heal my son.”

“Please come down before he dies.”

Fact: This dad was desperate in his appeal:

“Besought him to come down” means:

“Kept on beseeching Jesus to travel the 20 miles”

(Jesus’ Response)

“Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.” (V. 48)

- ◆ Jesus isn’t rebuking this desperate father.
 - ◆ Jesus is revealing his grief over the spiritual condition of Judea and Galilee.
1. Jesus did not want to be regarded as the miracle worker while the message of His life was rejected.
 2. Jesus did not want to be followed just because He heals people. (He wanted to be followed and loved because of who He was and His message of eternal life.)

Question: Why did the father insist on Jesus coming down the 20 miles to Capernaum?

Answer: Two specific reasons:

1. The dad was afraid that his son was going to die!
2. The dad thought that Jesus had to go to Capernaum to answer his prayer!

In Other Words

1. Fear was filling his heart!
2. Limitations were filling his mind!

(Let's not be too hard on this dad)

Question: What's the first thing that occurs when we hear a doctor's bad report about someone we love?

Question: What is the first natural inclination (normal response) that occurs in us?

Answer: Alarm! Fear! Worry! Anxiety!

Fact: The father's fear was natural.

Fact: Your reaction may be the same.

Fact: But Jesus doesn't rebuke you.

Instead: He used the illness as an opportunity to reveal Himself to you today! He embraces those who dare to approach Him!!!

II. The Faith to Believe (V. 50)

"And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him and he went his way."

Question: What did Jesus tell the dad to do?

Answer: "Go thy way, your son will live." (V. 50)

Question: What did the father do?

Answer: "Go thy way, your son will live." (V. 50)

Fact: The father had a choice to make,

Fact: The father had a decision to choose,

Fact: The father had a tough situation:

1. "Do I stay here and refuse to leave this Jesus?"
2. "Do I believe what Jesus said and go home?"

Spiritual Gymnastics

(We all go through them)

1. This father limited the power of Christ to his local presence with him!
2. This father didn't realize that Jesus could heal just as easily from a distance as on the spot!

(It's time to sort out some things)

1. Dad wonders if Jesus really knows about his son.
2. Dad wonders if Jesus really knows how bad it is.

3. Dad wonders if Jesus really knows how much he loves his boy.
4. Dad wonders if Jesus will do what He had done for others when He was in Cana before.

(What does the father do?)
(V. 50) The man believes!
(V. 50) The man heads for home!

Question: How could you go home without Jesus? (Only one way)

- ◆ By believing that Jesus knows what I don't know.
- ◆ By believing that Jesus sees what I cannot see.
- ◆ By believing that Jesus has gone on before me.
- ◆ By believing that Jesus is not limited by what I see.

Ask: Do you have a tough request today?

Ask: Do you believe that Jesus knows more than you do?

Ask: Can you walk home today full of faith?

Ask: Can you believe this Jesus and trust your need to a loving Savior?

III. The Fever is Healed (V. 51, 52)

"They said unto him, yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." (V. 52)

Fact: As dad was going home, he ran into his servants who had come looking for him.
(V. 51)

Fact: The servants inform their boss that his son was healed yesterday at 7:00 pm (V. 52)

(Here is the awesomeness of this story)

In Verse 50, Jesus said "Go home, all will be okay."

In Verse 50, the father obeyed "and went his way".

In Verse 52, this dad doesn't meet his servants and the good news until the next day!

("Yesterday the fever left him.")

Fact: The father never would have traveled this 20 miles at nighttime.

Fact: This journey was a dangerous place with thieves and robbers.

Fact: The servants didn't even risk their lives the night the boy was healed.

What's the big deal about "Yesterday at 7:00 pm?"

(The big deal is)

1. This dad had to spend an entire night "on hold" during this crisis in Cana.
2. This dad all alone, has to get a room, shut the door and come face to face with God and death.
 - ◆ Wondering if all is well at home.
 - ◆ Wondering if his boy will live through the night.
 - ◆ Wondering if he will make it home in time?
 - ◆ Wondering if the family is in joy or in tears?

(I call it "**The Midnight Hour**")

1. Dad is stuck in Cana (feeling helpless)!
2. Dad's son is home in Capernaum!
3. Jesus is now out of sight!

(It's the "**Midnight Hour**" of crisis)
And everybody has one.

- ◆ A time when there is nothing you can do but wait.
- ◆ A time when it's you and God alone in the trenches.
- ◆ A time when no one else is around to uplift you.
- ◆ A time when all you can do is wait upon the Lord.

(Glory be to God)

**While Dad is praying in Cana,
Jesus heals by remote control in Capernaum!**

"Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." (Psalm 30:5)

"Behold he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep." (Psalm 121:4)

Oh Beloved!

Prayer still works and faith still moves mountains!

"Call unto Me and I will answer thee and show you great and mighty things which thou knowest not." (Jeremiah 33:3)

"For with God all things are possible." (Mark 10:27)

"Ask in faith, nothing wavering." (James 1:6)

"Ask and you shall receive." (Matthew 7:7)

IV. The Followers at Home (V. 53)

"...And himself believed, and his whole house." (V. 53)

Question: What's the ultimate purpose of a miracle?

#1. To witness of God's existence and power!

#2. To bring people to God himself!

Fact: When this nobleman realized that Jesus could be trusted with his son, He committed himself and his household wholeheartedly to Jesus!

Ask: What about you?

Ask: Will you trust this Jesus for the ultimate?

Ask: Will you commit yourself wholeheartedly to Jesus?

Ask: Will you believe, respond and move as the nobleman responded?

(The stages are clear)

1. Fear
2. Faith
3. Following!

AMEN!
Bill Kirk