

## Bibles???

### The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Please turn your bibles with me to John 4

Let's pray...

[Jhn 4:43-54 NKJV] 43 Now after the **two days** He departed from there and **went to Galilee.**

Two weeks ago, when we began our study through chapter 4 – you might remember that Jesus and His disciples were traveling from Judea in the south – to Galilee in the north.

And instead of following the Jordan River up to Galilee – Jesus took His disciples to a detour through Samaria.

We read how John 4:4 states that Jesus needed to go through Samaria – the reason that He needed to go through Samaria was that He had a divine appointment with a Samaritan woman.

Now, for the Jews of those days, they would avoid Samaria at all cost.

There was a mutual prejudice between the Jews and the Samaritans in those days – they hated each other.

They Jews viewed the Samaritans as the lowest of the lows.

And we have studied their conversation and the aftermath of their conversation over the last two weeks.

The Samaritan woman – after her encounter with Jesus Christ at the well – goes into town and tells the men her testimony

“This Jesus revealed to me what a miserable sinner I am – He has revealed to me my thirst, my emptiness, and He has offered me “living water” to quench it.

And it resulted in the men of the city to have their own personal encounter with Jesus.

John tells us that many believed –

They asked Jesus to stick around.

So Jesus sticks around for two days.

It must have been two wonderful days, two days of intense instruction from their blessed Savior whom they had just come to know.

He stayed there two days and even many more believed because of His teaching in those days.

So, now John tells us that Jesus resumes His initial purpose of going to Galilee.

Why did Jesus go to Galilee?

This is the area where He spends most of His three year ministry in.

This is the area where according to Matthew, Mark and Luke – He performs many miracles.

Why not stay in Jerusalem?

Church, the reason that Jesus went to Galilee was because He understood what the Word said about His ministry.

Turn with me to Isaiah 9

**[Isa 9:1-2 NKJV] 1 Nevertheless the gloom [will] not [be] upon her who [is] distressed, As when at first He lightly esteemed The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, And afterward more heavily oppressed [her], [By] the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, In Galilee of the Gentiles. 2 The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined.**

In Isaiah 8 – God spoke to Isaiah to warn Judah on how He was going to use the Assyrians to bring judgement upon Israel for rebelling against Him, for rejecting His prophets.

We learned this as we studied 2 Kings.

The Assyrians were going to drag the people from the region out with fishhooks through their bodies and completely destroy their cities.

These were going to be dark times for the Jews of the Northern tribe.

However, what we see here in Isaiah 9 – is God's wonderful mercy and a precious promise.

And the promise is that this land, once seemingly lightly esteemed by the LORD, will one day have a special blessing.

They were the first to suffer from the Assyrian invasions, so in God's mercy, they will be the first to see the light of the Messiah.

You see church, the Word of God not only speaks about what the Messiah was going to do – Jesus had to fulfill them.

The Word of God were His orders.

He was not only a hearer of the Word – He was a doer.

**44 For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country.**

In Samaria, we saw that the men of the city wanted Him to stick around.

He was wanted

People wanted to hear what He had to say.

When Jesus was down in the Jordan with His disciples baptizing people, we saw that the scriptures pointed out that the people were flocking to Him. He was drawing more people than John was.

So what makes Jesus going to Galilee even more amazing is that Jesus was going to a place that He knew He was going to be rejected.

Despite all the miracles He performs in Galilee – for the most part, He was rejected by the multitudes.

Luke tells us that Jesus gives His sermon in Nazareth and after delivering the sermon, the people tried to kill Him.

As I was reading and studying this portion – it reminded me how, as believers, we all need to cultivate humility.

**[1Pe 5:5 NKJV] 5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to [your] elders. Yes, all of [you] be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."**

Humility is the thing that invites God to pour out His grace on our life.

**45 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.**

I had you make a note that it appears that Jesus received a warm reception when He got to Galilee.

And I know what you are thinking – I thought you said He was rejected by those in Galilee.

He was rejected –

You see, the only reason that the people received Him in Galilee was because of what John tells us at the end of chapter 2

Turn to you left a few pages.

**[Jhn 2:23-25 NKJV] 23 Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did. 24 But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all [men], 25 and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.**

Because every Jewish male was required to go to Jerusalem to observe the Passover, there many from Galilee that the signs that Jesus performed in Jerusalem.

Therefore they were interested in having Jesus around.

You see, they received Jesus as the miracle worker – but not as their savior.

They were not interested in who He was – they were only interested in what He could do.

**46 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.**

Jesus returned to the little village of Cana where He'd performed His first miracle.

While there, an official of Herod's court who lived in Capernaum went to see Jesus.

As a nobleman, he was most likely rich, powerful, successful and popular among the people.

However, none of that really matters because sooner or later, we all experience sorrow and tragedy.

Tragedy has struck the life of the nobleman.

His son was sick, back at Capernaum.

Now, it is important to note that Capernaum is about a day's journey from Cana.

**47 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.**

The nobleman knew about Jesus.

Perhaps he had heard conversations among the men in Galilee about things that they witnessed Jesus do in Jerusalem.

Perhaps he had even been around to witness Jesus perform a miracle.

The nobleman hears that Jesus is back in Galilee –

He leaves his son back in Capernaum

And He comes to Jesus and begs Jesus to do two things –

1. He wants Jesus to come back with him to Capernaum
2. He wants Jesus to heal his son.

**48 Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you [people] see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe."**

Now, I want you to think about this verse in context –

Remember, Jesus had just come from Samaria

In Samaria, many had come to believe – the scriptures tell us that many believed in verse 41 – because of His own word.

Jesus didn't need to give them a sign for them to believe.

Here in verse 48, He is addressing the people of Galilee / the crowd who had gathered because of the reports of the miracles He'd done in Jerusalem.

They've come to see a show & are conditioning their faith on Jesus complying with their desire to witness the spectacular.

Look carefully at Jesus' words in v. 48 –

“Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe.”

“You” is plural.

The nobleman, who they all knew, came with his earnest request for the healing of his dying son – and the crowd is leaning / anticipating what will happen next.

You see, they didn't believe in Jesus

But, they came with an attitude that said, “ I don't think this Jesus is anything special but, if He does something that truly impresses me – it may be enough to change my mind”

You see, what John is doing here –

He is pointing out that the acceptance of Jesus by those in Galilee wasn't set on a solid foundation of faith.

They ought to have accepted and followed Jesus on the basis of His Word alone – like the Samaritans.

But they conditioned their acceptance on seeing miracles.

This is dangerous church

There's nothing wrong with miracles as an affirmation of the truth.

In Mark 16:17 (mark it down) Jesus said signs and miracles would follow those who preach the gospel.

Jesus, Himself, performed signs and wonders as a way to validate His message and authority.

The power of God verifies the truth of the Word.

Where this all goes wrong is when people condition their faith on seeing miracles.

When the attitude is, "Show me, then and only then will I believe," faith is moved from the Word of God to miracles.

And the danger in this is that demonic power can counterfeit the work of God.

**[Rom 10:17 NKJV] 17 So then faith [comes] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

Real faith is based on the Word of God.

Miracles & signs reinforce & confirm faith – but God's Word is faith's foundation.

Turn with me to Matt 12

Here we see another example of Jesus rebuking those who were looking for signs

**[Mat 12:38-40 NKJV] 38 Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You." 39 But He answered and said**

to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 40 "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

What Jesus is saying telling the scribes and Pharisees and us as well here is

If we are looking for signs and miracles – look no further than Jesus dying on the cross and being raised three days later.

That is the only sign we need.

You see, Jesus isn't looking for people who say, "Show me and I'll believe"

Instead, He is looking for those who say, "Because I believe, I'll see."

**49 The nobleman said to Him, "Sir, come down before my child dies!"**

I had you make a note on how the nobleman addresses Jesus here in verse 49 –

Because the Greek word that is used here for sir – is the same word that means lord or master.

So, even though the man seems to be still demanding that Jesus come to Capernaum, he does acknowledge that Jesus is "Lord", meaning, He can do whatever He wants.

**50 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.**

I see three things in the response of the nobleman.

### 1. The first thing I see is that he believed.

He believed what?

The nobleman's belief was in what Jesus said. "Go your way; your son lives."

God is looking for men and women who will trust Him.

Who believe in who He is and what He says.

**[Heb 11:6 NKJV] 6 But without faith [it is] impossible to please [Him], for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and [that] He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**

Jesus said that the son was healed –

The nobleman didn't question it and ask Jesus to come with him just in case.

### 2. The nobleman gave up his demands

What do I mean by that?

He didn't give up on his demand for his son to be healed

He gave up on the idea on how it ought to be done.

He gave up requiring Jesus to go to Capernaum.

What if God wants to answer the heart of our prayers, but just not the way we think He should?

Many times in our prayers, we include instructions on how we think best that God should answer our prayers.

I think we need to change our prayers and be willing to let God answer our prayers according to His will and not ours.

In the end, the nobleman got what he really wanted, but just not in the way he had been demanding.

### 3. The nobleman obeyed

Jesus told the nobleman to go home and he did.

The man didn't stand there wringing his hands and wondering what to do next.

He didn't beg Jesus to travel to Capernaum.

He didn't ask for proof.

He simply took Jesus at His word and departed.

Church, people will see how much we believe by how much we obey.

**[Jas 2:18 NKJV] 18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.**

Jesus' word was enough for this nobleman! And so it should be for us.

**Church,**

Faith is trusting God with our burdens, knowing that our prayers are already answered.

**[Isa 65:24 NKJV] 24 "It shall come to pass**

**That before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear.**

Faith is being persuaded that God has the power to do what He has promised  
(Romans 4:21)

It's being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see (Heb 11:1)

**51 And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told [him], saying, "Your son lives!" 52 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." 53 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.**

The first thing to keep in mind was that the nobleman believed before he got news that his son was better.

Remember, I told you earlier it was about a days journey from Cana to Capernaum.

It is 17 miles.

That means that the nobleman didn't rush home.

He was sure that his son was alive and well –

He was confident in the truth of what Jesus had said to him.

And as he was making his way home – he is met by his servants that came to meet him and tell him that his son is well.

And through their conversation – he finds out – the text tells us that “he inquired”

The Greek word for “inquire” is only used here in the New Testament and it means to ask for the purpose of confirmation - he knew already that his son was well.

And through the conversation he finds out that his son was made well at the same time that Jesus proclaimed the boy to be healed. At 1 PM

I asked you to make a note of the phrase “And he himself believed, and his whole household”

You might say –

Herb, I thought you said that the nobleman had already believed???

At first, the nobleman’s faith / his belief was in the healing of His son.

However, once the report of the healing arrived, His faith moved to the Person & identity of Jesus Himself as the Messiah.

He believed before, but now he believed more.

His faith was deepened by his personal experience of God’s power.

**54 This again [is] the second sign Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.**

Jesus did many signs in Galilee

But John, as he was inspired by the Holy Spirit, is very selective on the ones that he uses in the gospel by his name.

And John tells us the reason that he selected these sign later on at the end of the gospel when he writes that these signs were given to lead the reader to faith.

When Jesus turned the water into wine – John told us that the disciples believed

And here we see another sign that resulted in the nobleman and his family believing.

However, we must not forget that the Samaritans believed without signs – simply by hearing God's voice.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

In Matthew 8 – we have a story similar to the nobleman.

Jesus performed another miracle from a distance like He did here.

However, in that event, the centurion comes to Jesus

But instead of giving Him direction and instruction on how to heal his servant,

He says – here's the situation

And Jesus responded to that.

Whether our faith is like the nobleman or the centurion, I am so thankful that the Lord meets us where we are at.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'



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