



Jesus Heals a Nobleman's Son

Story Elements

- **Text:** John 4:43-54
- **Setting:** circa AD 27 in Cana, Galilee
- **Characters:** God, Jesus, and a nobleman
- **Plot:** Jesus heals the deathly ill son of a government official
- **Key word(s):** "_____ " – This is the key word because the story demonstrates faith and belief can differ.
- **Climax:** *John 4:49* *The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die.* This is the climax of the story because we see the nobleman's desperation and his confidence that Jesus was the key to his son's recovery. It also marks the turning point in the nobleman's imperfect belief to saving faith.

No Honor at Home

1. (vv 43-46) Having spent two days in _____, Jesus and his disciples returned to Cana in Galilee — the same place where Jesus had performed his first public miracle.
 - (a) The Galileans welcomed Jesus because many had seen his miracles at Jerusalem.
 - (b) We read that Jesus testified *that a prophet hath no honour in his own country* — this explains why Jesus returned to Cana, and not _____.

APPLICATION➔ Matthew Henry notes: "Joseph, when he began to be a prophet, was most hated by his brethren; David was disdained by his brother (1 Sa. 17:28); Jeremiah was maligned by the men of Anathoth (Jer. 11:21), Paul by his countrymen the Jews; and Christ's near kinsmen spoke most slightly of him, ch. 7:5. Men's pride and envy make them scorn to be instructed by those who once were their school-fellows and play-fellows."¹

- (c) Mark's gospel mentions that Jesus makes this return to Galilee after _____ had been put into prison. (Mark 1:14-15)

No Belief Without a Sign

2. (v 47) A _____ official, upon hearing of Jesus arrival in Galilee, leaves Capernaum and seeks out Jesus in Cana so that he would come and heal his sick son.
3. (v 48) Jesus began to deepen the man's imperfect faith by saying, *Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not _____*.
 - (a) By using the second person plural (ye), Jesus purposefully lumped the man in with the majority of Jewish people who were only interested in what Jesus could do and not interested in who He was.

APPLICATION➔ The Savior was not reproofing the man for a complete lack of belief (because seeking out Christ and asking him to come to his house and heal his son was an expression of belief, albeit imperfect). Alfred Edersheim explains: "What the Saviour reproofed was not the request for a miracle, which was necessary, but the urgent plea that He should come down to Capernaum for that purpose, which the father afterwards so earnestly repeated. **That request argued ignorance of the real character of the Christ, as if He were either merely a Rabbi endowed with special power,** or else a miracle-monger. What He intended to teach this man

¹ Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 1940.

was, that He, Who had life in Himself, could restore life at a distance as easily as by His Presence; by the word of his Power as readily as by personal application.”²

4. (vv 49-50) The nobleman's insistence for Jesus' personal presence provoked the Savior to lead the man to higher ground in his faith. Instead of relenting to go to his house, the Savior gave his _____: *Go thy way; thy son liveth.*
- (a) Immediately we see the nobleman went from imperfect belief to strong faith: ***And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way.***

APPLICATION➔ Matthew Henry points out: “Though Christ did not gratify him so far as to go down with him, he is satisfied with the method Christ took, and reckons he has gained his point. **How quickly, how easily, is that which is lacking in our faith perfected by the word and power of Christ.** Now he *sees no sign or wonder*, and yet *believes* the wonder done.”³

5. (vv 51-53) The man's faith goes from "strength to strength" when he is met by servants on his return trip.
 - (a) The servants bring the good news that his son has been healed.
 - (b) When the details are related, it is understood that the child was healed exactly when Jesus gave his _____.
 - (c) Not only did the man believe, but *his whole* _____. "He *had* believed before this, first very imperfectly; then with assured confidence of Christ's word; but now with a faith crowned by 'sight.' And the wave rolled from the head to the members of his household. 'To-day is salvation come to this *house*' (Lu 19:9); and no mean house this!"⁴

APPLICATION➡ As we see these first fruits of Christ's earthly ministry, we begin to understand that the Savior is expert at taking a person and leading them to deeper, stronger, saving faith. Whether with a rebuke to a Nicodemus, a heart-revealing statement to the woman at the well, or a rough answer to a nobleman, the Savior knows how to get his quarry in his pursuit of souls.

[illegible]

Answer Key: Key word(s): “believe” • 1. Samaria; b) Nazareth; c) John the Baptist • 2. government • 3. believe • 4. word • 5. b) word; c) house

² Alfred Edersheim, *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, <https://ccel.org/ccel/edersheim/lifetimes/lifetimes.viii.ix.html>. (Emphasis mine)

³ Henry, 1941.

⁴ Robert Jamieson, A. R. Fausset, and David Brown, *Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*, vol. 2 (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997), 135.