

John 4:46-54

46 So he came again to Cana in Galilee, where he had made the water wine. And at Capernaum there was an official whose son was ill.

46 Who was this man? He may have been Chuza (Luke 8:3). It would explain his wife's support of Jesus. It might also be a factor in Herod's curiosity about Jesus (Luke 23:8). He came from Capernaum perhaps having heard news of Jesus' miracles and return from Jerusalem.

47 When this man heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went to him and asked him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death.

47 This man was desperate. Jesus was his only hope. He traveled the 18 miles to ask to humbly plead with a carpenter from Nazareth to heal his son. Some situations in life are not helped by fame or wealth. We can only plead with God to have mercy like this man did. The best things in life are freely given by God: love, peace, health, joy etc. He went to the right man for help!

48 So Jesus said to him, "Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe."

48 Jesus' responses are often surprising. Perhaps the man came to Jesus because nothing else worked. Sometimes we say, "I guess the only thing we can do is pray." It is as if that is where we turn when we have no hope. We should start with prayer because we believe. How many signs have you seen? How many will it take before you believe and turn to Jesus first?

49 The official said to him, "Sir, come down before my child dies."

49 The official just pours out his heart, "Please come before he dies!" Jesus' first answer seemed a bit cold considering the boy was on his death bed, but Jesus wanted to save not just the son, but the man's whole household. If the official believed, the whole family could come to faith. That is what Jesus is getting at. Sometimes His answers appear to be cold, but it is because He wants more for us than what we are asking!

50 Jesus said to him, "Go; your son will live." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way.

50 Jesus basically said it was done. Now go! He was stretching the faith of the official who asked Jesus to come. But he took Jesus at His word and started to return in faith. That is how we should take the promises in the word of God that came from Jesus' lips. He said it. I believe it. I will act on it!

51 As he was going down, his servants met him and told him that his son was recovering. 52 So he asked them the hour when he began to get better, and they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." 53 The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." And he himself believed, and all his household.

51-53 See what happens when you take Jesus at His word! However, he had to ask when the healing took place to rid himself of all doubt. Jesus' word not only resulted in what He declared, but even more. The whole household did come to faith in Jesus! The boy was healed the moment that Jesus spoke the word. Who did the prophets say speaks and it comes to pass? Isaiah 55:11 tells us God's Word always accomplishes the purposes for which it is sent. In creation God spoke and things came into being. These accounts of Jesus healing by just speaking are evidence that He is God in the flesh.

54 This was now the second sign that Jesus did when he had come from Judea to Galilee.

54 This was Jesus' second sign. Both the first and second were done in Cana. It was a sign because He merely spoke and it was so. Time and space are not boundaries to the One who made them. Both follow a pattern. There is a desperate need, a mild rebuke, a command, followed by a miracle.

Consider the steps of faith that were taken. Someone stepped out in faith and told the ruler about Jesus. He stepped out in faith and traveled all the way to Cana. He believed the word of Jesus and headed home. Then in faith he let his household know about the Messiah and they believed.

Questions:

How humbling was it for the official to come to Jesus?

Why was Jesus' response more gracious than it appeared?

Why should we go to God first?

How did the official express faith? What finally convinced him?

Why was this the second sign?

How many signs do you need to place your faith in Jesus?