

H. Presentation of Christ to an Official of Capernaum

Healing of the Nobleman's Son

Sign # 2 out of Seven Signs in the Gospel of John

Remember the Key Verse: John 20:30-31.

Signs are to authenticate the Identity of the Son of God.

A. The Entrance into Galilee, 4:43-45

1. Jesus entered Galilee (v.43) Note about Galilee. Galilee was heavily populated. It was also surrounded by the Samaritans, Phoenicians, and Syrians, making it an open door for world evangelization. It was one of the most fertile lands in that part of the world. This fact, plus the travelling trade, led numbers of people to settle within its borders. There were within the district over two hundred cities with a population of fifteen thousand people or more (Josephus. Quoted by William Barclay. The Gospel of Matthew, Vol.1. "The Daily Study Bible." Philadelphia, PA: The Westminster Press, 1956, p.66). There were multitudes for Jesus to reach. Preacher's Outline and Sermon Bible.
2. Jesus' rejection by the people in Judea & Jerusalem (v.44) Also in Nazareth (Luke 4:24)
3. Welcoming and receiving Jesus in Galilee (v.45). The Galileans witnessed his ministry in Jerusalem and were enthusiastic about Jesus. Later the mood and reception changed, however, and they turned against Jesus. (Chorazin, Capernaum, Bethsaida, Lu.10:13-15)

B. The Stages of Faith by the nobleman, 4:46-54 (Distinguish: Saving faith vs. temporal faith)

1 The beginning of faith, he heard about Jesus and His works. (v.46-47)

- a. He had a desperate need (v.46) And there was a certain nobleman βασιλικός, (Herodian Official ?), whose son was sick at Capernaum.
- b. He heard about Jesus (v.47a) When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judaea into Galilee,
- c. He came to Jesus (v.47b) he went to Jesus in Cana, about 20 miles from Capernaum.
- d. He begged Jesus to help (v.47c) and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son: NOTE: It is a **CRISIS** in life, which causes man to seek divine help. See Gen. 3:17 "...cursed is the ground for thy sake." Perhaps, we ought to cry out to the Lord in a PREVENTATIVE manner in our prayer? "I need your help today, while all things are NORMAL." "Many are the afflictions of the righteous." Ps.34:19. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

2 A persistent faith (v.48-49)

- a. Jesus' rebuke (v.48). Do not rely on miracles! See Jesus' comment to doubting Thomas. (John 20:29). Also "we walk by faith and not by sight." (II Cor.5:7). Many look for the dramatic and spectacular to provide proof to justify their faith. (Ps. 19:1-3; Psalm 139:14; Conception, birth of a baby, variety of birds, flowers, ETC!!!! Proof already exists all around us. "Lift up your eyes, and LOOK!"
- b. A desperate insistence (v.49) Sir, come down ere my child die. He was not deterred. Come, please! There was a defect in his thinking. Jesus did not have to travel to Capernaum. All he needed to do is exercise HIS DIVINE WILL. The Word of God is sufficient. Read, meditate, memorize the BIBLE, and TRUST in GOD!

3 A trusting, obedient, and working faith (v.50)

- a. Go your way — your need is met (v.50a) A simple divine command. The "**word**" of Christ, the "**work**" of Christ; and the "**wisdom**" of Christ.
- b. He believed and obeyed Jesus' Word (v.50b) He believed and he went his way.

4 A confirmed faith (v.51-53a)

- a. "...as he was now going" (v.51a) Joshua 3:13. "As the soles of your feet rest in the waters that the waters will separate."
- b. He received glorious news: His prayer was answered (v.51b) "Thy son liveth."
- c. He confirmed the supernatural vs. the natural (v.52) confirmation of the time of healing.
- d. He "believed" and knew that Jesus had healed his son (v.53a)

5 A witnessing faith (v.53b-54) and his whole house.

**"The Comforter Has Come."
Oh, spread the tidings 'round, wherever man is found,
Wherever human hearts and human woes abound;
Let every Christian tongue proclaim the joyful sound:
The Comforter has come!**