Faith of a Father

John 4:43-54

Introduction:

I. Ever Enduring Ministry – 4:43-45

A. The Progress in Samaria – 4:43 ﻿

“Now after the two days He departed from there and went to Galilee.”

He began in Samaria with one task in mind-meet the woman at the well. Her witness opened another source of souls. Their zeal opened a two-day revival with many more souls.

B. The Proverb about Judea – 4:44﻿

“For ﻿﻿Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country.”

For, γὰρ, = because

Context: When He left Samaria, He went to Galilee because, in His own country, he has no honor. What is His own country? He was born in Bethlehem, Judea. He was King, so the capital city, Jerusalem, Judea is His logical home. Later on He will quote the same proverb about Nazareth, his boyhood home.

It seems that John is saying that upon leaving Samaria, Jesus had two options, Judea or Galilee. Because of the lack of honor that He experienced in Judea, He will now go into Galilee.

C. The Approval in Galilee – 4:45﻿

“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.”

These Galileans had gone to the feasts. All Jews were expected to do so. They found a great blessing awaiting them. “Messiah suddenly appeared in His temple” Mal. 3:1

We find a similar expectation in the N.T.

Hebrews 10:25

﻿“not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another,* and ﻿﻿so much the more as you see ﻿﻿the Day approaching.”

Contrary to the people of Judea, these Galileans accepted the miracles in Jerusalem to be signs of Jesus’ Messiahship. They were happy to have Him in Galilee.

II. Ever Increasing Faith – 4:46-54

A. Crisis Faith – 4:46-49

1. The Place – 4:46a

“So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee ﻿﻿where He had turned the water into wine.”

Two miracles in Cana bracket Jesus’ early ministry in Galilee:

1. Water into wine (Chapter 2) - At the request of a Mother

2. Healing of the Nobleman’s son, (see 4:54) at the request of a Father.

2. The Person – 4:46b-54

1. His Reason – 4:46b

“And there was a certain ﻿﻿nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum.”

“nobleman” - could be a relative of the royal , Herodian family? More probably the reference is to a royal official.

Capernaum is a city near the Sea of Galilee. It is about 10-12 miles from Cana. He is a man of authority; he could have sent a servant or a man of lesser ran. He came in person. After all, it was his son.

b. His Request – 4:47

“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.”

No doubt, he had tried all of the remedies that “medicine” offered back in Capernaum. Then he heard about Jesus.

From whom? Those who had been to the feast in Jerusalem. It was by word of mouth. It is still the best form of communication - most effective and the cheapest.

c. Jesus’ Reproof – 4:48

“Then Jesus said to him, ﻿﻿“Unless you *people* see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe.”

Matthew Henry wrote: “Those whom Christ intends to honor with his *favors* he first *humbles* with his frowns.”

“People” in this verse is in italics because that word is not in the text. It is still a proper translation. It comes from the plural ending on the verbs “see” and “believe.” KJV (S.) Thou and (Pl) YE I suggest (Y’al).

Question: Why is this important here? This plural ending shows that he is talking not just to the nobleman, but to all who are there.

d. His Resolve – 4:49﻿﻿

“The nobleman said to Him, “Sir, come down before my child dies!”

He rightly believes that Jesus can heal his son, but he wrongly believes that Jesus must be there in order to do it. After all, Jesus was there at each of the other miracles. At this point he sees Jesus as just another healer.

B. Confident Faith – 4:50

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.”

The nobleman’s request was his son’s healing. A secondary request was that Jesus come with him. (He was telling Jesus how He should do it.)

Note: We are encouraged to pray, but We are not allowed to prescribe. When you ask God for something, let Him decide if and how He will get it for you. He could think of millions of ways He could do it. And he knows which of that vast number is the best one for you. Just trust Him.

C. Confirmed Faith – 4:51

1. The Revelation

“And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told *him,* saying, “Your son lives!”

That is a good first step. Modern proverb, “Don’t look a gift horse in the mouth.”

But, he was not satisfied; He wanted to know more. He probably was sure that it would be the same time.

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2. The Investigation – 4:52

“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.”

Seventh hour according to Roman time would be 7:00 in the evening.

3. The Confirmation – 4:53a

“So the father knew that *it was* at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, “Your son lives.”

With all of that evidence, he knew that it was a miracle of Jesus. Do you think that he kept it to himself? Of course not! He told everyone he met. The word got back to John and he recorded it. Now we know and rejoice with that father. What a testimony!!

D. Contagious Faith – 4:53b

1. First, He Believed

“And he himself believed,”

The immediate result of that miracle was that the nobleman believed. The purpose of the miracles was that men might believe “that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and believing might have *eternal* life through His name.” (John 20:30-31)

He believed that Jesus healed his son. That led him to believe that he was Messiah, the Son of God.

What did he receive? Eternal life. How did he receive it? By believing.

2. Then, His household believed

“and his whole household.”

Then, he told his household - wife and children. It may have been all of the servants as well. We are reminded of Acts 16:31, “So they said, ﻿﻿“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

“This again is the second sign Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.” (4:54)

Conclusion: