

A Father's Desperate Plea

John 4:43-54

Sometimes God allows us to experience a crisis in order to move us from desperate faith toward deliberate faith. *God wants us to believe even if we cannot see the immediate results.*

John 4:43-54 closes John's account of the early ministry of Jesus (John 2-4). The section begins and ends with a miracle in Cana with two conversations between those events. Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus shows the reception he received from the Jews. The conversation with the woman at the well shows the reception the Samaritans gave him. These conversations reveal the two basic attitudes towards Jesus.

Jesus Returns to Galilee (43-45)

After two days spent ministering in Samaria, Jesus resumes the trip that he started in verse 3 (43).

While the Samaritans believed in Jesus because of his words and the testimony of the woman, the Jewish people in Judea and Galilee only believed because of Jesus' miracles (44-45).

The Second Sign: Healing the Officials' Son (46-54)

By referring to Cana (46), John is reminding his readers of the first sign (2:11) and suggesting the completion of a cycle.

The royal official probably served Herod Antipas. He was most likely wealthy, and had great power and influence. He also had a son who was ill.

The man traveled 20 miles from Capernaum to seek Jesus' aid in healing his son (47). He had exhausted all the means for healing at his disposal and came to Jesus as a last resort.

While the man believed Jesus could heal, he believed Jesus had to be present to perform a miracle. He apparently did not believe Jesus could raise the dead.

Jesus included the official with the other Jews who only believed in Jesus because of miracles (48).

Reaching the end of his rope, the man pleaded for Jesus' help (49).

While Jesus said "No" to the man's request to go to Capernaum, he said "Yes" to his request for his son's healing (50). Instead of giving the man a sign, Jesus only gave his word.

The official took Jesus at his word and left for home. However, he did not rush home. When he met his servants on the journey home, he learned that his son improved at the same hour *yesterday* that Jesus gave his promise (51-53).

The man's faith went from "crisis faith" (47) to "confident faith" (50) to "confirmed faith" (53) to "contagious faith" (53).

Passage	Event	What we learn about Jesus
2:1-11	Turning water into wine at Cana	Jesus has creative power to change the quality of things
2:13-22	First cleansing of the temple	Jesus has authority over the institutions of Judaism
3:1-21	Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus	Jesus is the authoritative teacher who came from God Jesus came to bring salvation to everyone who believes
3:22-30	John the Baptist's statements about Jesus	Jesus is the Messiah
4:1-26	Jesus' conversation with woman of Samaria	Jesus is omniscient
4:39-42	Response of the Samaritans	Jesus is the Savior of the world
4:46-54	Healing the son of the royal official	Jesus is the healer whose word can overcome distance and disease

Application

What do you believe about Jesus?

What type of faith do you have?