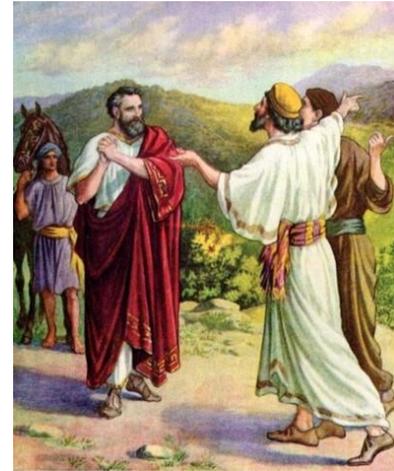


Healing R royalty from a Distance

Week 24:
John 4:43-54,
Matt 4:17 §42-44



John 4:43-45

43 After the two days He went forth from there into Galilee.

Jesus and His disciples had been in Sychar, Samaria

44 For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country. 45 So when He came to Galilee, the Galileans received Him, having seen all the things that He did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they themselves also went to the feast.

Jerusalem was the “big stage” in Israel. Jesus changed water to wine in Cana, Galilee, and revealed who He was (John 2:11), but it was not until He flipped some tables and did His thing in Jerusalem that some from His own region began to recognize Him.

How do we ignore the more daily things that Jesus does in our lives and only recognize Him when He steps up on the “big stage”?

Matt 4:17

17 From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

For next time §45, 46 Luke 4:16-31, Matt. 4:13-16

Compare this with Matthew 3:2 where John preaches the same message. Parallel passages to this are Mark 1:14-15, and Luke 4:14-15. We will refer back to this later as Jesus talks about “preaching the Kingdom”. What does this mean? Has the message changed today? Why?

John 4:46-54

46 Therefore He came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a royal official whose son was sick at Capernaum. 47 When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and was imploring Him to come down and heal his son; for he was at the point of death.

This “royal official” had apparently heard about Jesus’ activities in Jerusalem...and somehow believed He had healing abilities. It’s about 20 miles from Capernaum to Cana. Do you think Jesus can still do this?

48 So Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you simply will not believe." 49 The royal official said to Him, "Sir, come down before my child dies." 50 Jesus said to him, " Go; your son lives." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and started off.

(v48) This would imply that the man was Jewish – Every reference to the need for signs in Scripture is directed to the Jews. This would also explain his assumption about Jesus’ ability to heal because this was prophesied about the Messiah. (Malachi 4:2)

51 As he was now going down, his slaves met him, saying that his son was living. 52 So he inquired of them the hour when he began to get better. Then they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." 53 So the father knew that it was at that hour in which Jesus

said to him, "Your son lives"; and he himself believed and his whole household.

Timing matters! Consider the factors around this man’s faith:

- He had heard of Jesus
- His traditions told him some things about Him
- He had a situation he couldn’t fix
- He travelled 40 miles round trip to ask
- Jesus didn’t “pander” to his faith by running to Capernaum, but spoke and built upon his faith
- The timing proved that the healing came from the request of the official, and the answer of Jesus

Are there examples in your life where the timing of something proved the hand of God at work? TELL PEOPLE about this!

54 This is again, a second sign that Jesus performed, when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.

Notice the punctuation above – some translations make this sound like this was the second miracle Jesus did “since” returning from Judea, but what John refers to here is the turning water to wine at the wedding in John 2:1-11

This reinforces the idea that the official believed in Jesus initially not because of a “sign” but by His message in Jerusalem.

What does John 6:44, 45 say about the way people come to Jesus? How did the Spirit of God “draw” you? How often are you ready to tell this story?