

The Gospel of John: At His Word

John 4:43-54

A Prophet without Honor (v. 43-46a)

- After 2 days with the Samaritan people, Jesus & His disciples continue on their journey to Galilee
- Jesus claimed a prophet was without honor in his hometown (*patris*)
 - In the Synoptics, this comment is used to explain the rejection Jesus encounters by those who know Him & His family (Mt 13:57; Mk 6:4; Lk 4:24)
 - Here, it is used to juxtapose the reception He received from the Samaritans compared to the skepticism He experienced from the Jews
 - The 'welcome' He receives in Galilee is not as Messiah but as a wonderworker to be tested and used

Looking for a Sign? (v. 46b-48)

- A nobleman working for King Herod Antipas travels from Capernaum* to Cana when he hears Jesus has returned to the region
 - 25-mile journey each way
 - He had likely heard of Jesus' wonder-working in Jerusalem (v. 45)
 - He begs Jesus to travel to Capernaum to heal his son who is dying
- Jesus' response is not to the man alone but to the Galileans as a whole
 - Already, John has shown that the Jews are overly interested in signs (2:23-25)
 - Jesus is seeing what the man's motives are

A Father's Love (v. 50b-54)

- The official begs a second time
 - He is not interested in evidence
 - He is worried about his son
- Jesus tells him to go home because his son has been healed
- The man 'takes Jesus at His word'
 - He believes what Jesus says without some outward sign
- On the way home, the official meets one of his servants who informs him that his son has recovered
 - The moment of his recovery coincides with when Jesus declared his healing, showing that it is no coincidence
 - This results in the official & his whole family putting their faith in Jesus
- John provides an *inclusio* for this section of Jesus' ministry
 - This is the 2nd miracle in Cana (the 1st was the water to wine)
 - Both result in people putting their faith in Jesus (2:11)
 - Neither sign was public
 - But both were powerful for those who witnessed them

So What?

- Do we take Jesus at His word, trusting what He says?
- Or what 'proof' will be enough to put our faith in Him?

Meditation Verse: John 20:29

Next Week's Scripture: John 5