

Signs of the Messiah: Taking Him at His Word

(John 4:43-54)

Going Home (v. 43-45)

- Traveling back to Galilee from Judea, Jesus went through Samaria (4:1-42)
 - Where He was revealed and accepted as Messiah by many there, based on His words not signs (John 4:41-42)
- Arriving in Galilee, Jesus is welcomed
 - Though John warns of a prophet's acceptance in his home country
- His reputation had grown due to the signs He had performed in Jerusalem, which some of them had witnessed

The Sign (v. 18-22)

- Jesus returns to Cana, the site of His first sign
- He is approached by a royal official
 - Someone who probably worked for Herod Antipas
 - But his concern is deeply personal
- The official had traveled over 16 miles from Capernaum seeking out Jesus
- There is no indication that the official sees Jesus as anything other than a miracle worker
 - But his son is dying, so his need is desperate
- Jesus' words are not just to the official but to the Galileans at large
 - They need signs to put their faith in Him, not just as a miracle worker, but as Messiah
- Despite the rebuke, Jesus assures the man that his son is healed
- The official "took Jesus at his word"
 - He has seen no evidential sign, yet he trusts Jesus based on what He has said
 - Like the Samaritans (John 20:29)

Signs → Faith (v. 51-54)

- As the official travels home, he is informed of his son's restoration, at the very moment that Jesus declared it to be so
- This leads to the man and his whole household put their faith in Jesus
- John points out that was Jesus' second Galilean sign

Faith without Signs

- Jesus points out the need for signs as a lack of faith
 - Yet, repeatedly says that signs can lead to faith (John 10:38; 14:11)
- The focus here is taking Jesus at His word
- The goal is to trust Jesus as Lord & Savior
 - If we need signs, He will use them
 - But signs cannot insure faith

So What?

- Are we taking Jesus at His word, trusting Him to be who He claims to be?

Meditation Verse: *John 20:29*