

WARM-UP

- Have you ever asked anyone for a big favor, and it was granted? How did you feel?
- Is there anyone you believe no matter what they say? Who is that person? How did that happen?
- Share about the most serious illness you or a family member experienced.

WORD ⁵³*The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." And he himself believed, and all his household.* ⁵⁴*This was now the second sign that Jesus did when he had come from Judea to Galilee.* **JOHN 4:53-54**

(Read also **JOHN 4:46-52.**)

After Jesus' first miracle at the wedding in Cana, news spread that He could perform miracles. When Jesus returned to Cana, it was likely that those around Jesus were watching to see if He really would, or could, do miracles. However, Jesus only granted the sign to the one who first believed it could be done, and then acted on that belief. How did this happen? Let's look at how this person's faith led to a miraculous healing.

1 | The official asked Jesus to heal his son.

⁴⁷When this man heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went to him and asked him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. . . . ⁴⁹The official said to him, "Sir, come down before my child dies." JOHN 4:47, 49

The story does not say whether or not the official was the only one who asked Jesus for something. What we do know is that at this time, the news of Jesus doing a miracle was mostly a rumor. Very few people had seen it happen. This desperate official took a chance and asked Jesus for a miracle. Jesus addressed the viewers, challenging their choice to believe only **after** seeing signs and wonders, instead of acting by faith. How did Jesus' description of the viewers contrast with the official's actions?

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2 | The official took Jesus at His word.

⁵⁰Jesus said to him, "Go; your son will live." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way. ⁵¹As he was going down, his servants met him and told him that his son was recovering. JOHN 4:50-51

None of the viewers saw the sign or miracle that Jesus did. Only the person who acted upon his faith and asked for a miracle was able to see the sign. When the official heard Jesus' words, he believed that the healing was complete and went home. Because he acted on his faith, the glory of God

was revealed to him personally. What does it mean for us to take Jesus or God at His word?

3 | The household of the official put their faith in Jesus.

⁵²So he asked them the hour when he began to get better, and they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him."

⁵³The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." And he himself believed, and all his household.

JOHN 4:52-53

Because of the miracle, God's glory was revealed to one household, and everyone in the household believed in Him. The miracle was personal to the official who received it, and it met an urgent and personal need. In the end, most importantly, God's glory was revealed and people believed in Jesus because of this. How has God built up your faith amidst challenging situations?

The second miracle Jesus performed revealed His authority over life and death. The official was most likely a Roman official, a Gentile who wasn't expecting a Savior because of prophecies. As early as His second miracle, Jesus revealed His power and grace to more than just the Jews.

APPLICATION

- Have you only ever heard about how Jesus can work miracles in your life? Would you like to know more about who He is today?
- When you feel like Jesus has spoken to you, how do you normally respond? What would a response of faith look like for you?
- Has everyone in your household experienced Christ's grace and glory? How can you share it with those in your household this week?

PRAYER

- Thank Jesus for the personal and loving way that He does miracles to meet His people's needs.
- Pray for the courage to take Jesus at His word and for the strength to obey by faith.
- Ask Jesus for the opportunity to share about His grace and glory with your household this week. Pray for the right words to say as you speak about Him.



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