

The Gospel of John

4:43-54

Welcome back to this week's study in the book of John.

Last week we finished off with the woman at the well and how she had went and told others about Jesus. Jesus stayed there for two days and was a witness to them of God and His word.

We also saw the effects of Jesus being there for two days.

✠ **John 4:41-42** *And many more believed because of His own word. Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."*

Why would it take two days for them to believe?

Simply put, they had to see for themselves that this was really the Messiah, and not just another fable or passing fad.

Jesus was a witness with His lifestyle and the people saw this, which caused them to believe, because He walked his talk.

It's easy to speak in Christian-ease (if that's a word), meaning that you can speak about Jesus and God and the bible, but unless you practice what you say, then your words are useless.

Sure it's easy when things are going good to put on your Christian hat, but what about when things are going not so good or down right bad? Do you change or do you still glorify the Lord? Do others see Jesus in your life when trials come your way (and the will)?

There are probably more people watching you then you think. They know what you say about Jesus and the bible, but they are looking to see if there really is something different in you. After all, they see the world and all it has to offer, but they are searching for something better, and that something is Jesus. Think about your lifestyle over the last few weeks. If you asked someone to go to church, would they really want to go because they see something different in you, or do they say no because you are just like the world or even a hypocrite speaking about the bible but living like the world?

Sometimes the words here in these studies are hard to take and even cause me to examine my own life. I am not a perfect man and I sin just like you. I still struggle with things and don't always show the light of Jesus in my life. But you know what? That's no reason to give up. Satan would love to have you just throw in the towel and he wants you to think that you are worthless and a no good Christian. Yes, we all sin and fall short of the glory

of God. But Thanks be to Jesus Christ who is faithful and just to forgive us for ALL our sins. All we need to do is ask, and turn around and follow Him once again full heartedly. Jesus loves you so much that He died for ALL your sins, not just the ones you committed before you accepted Him as Lord and Savior, but also the ones you committed after that. The ones you committed today and the ones you will commit tomorrow. Don't let satan beat you up thinking you are no good. If Jesus knows you were worth dying for, then you are not worthless at all, but rather you are loved beyond what you could ever imagine!

So Jesus leaves after two days and He left a lasting impression upon these people.

It reminds me of when I was a backslider for a few years. I still remember when I returned to church and what my pastor had said to me. It was, "*When I saw you walk in the door I rejoiced and thanked the Lord, because I have been praying for you these last few years.*"

That has left an impression upon my heart that I will never forget.

But even though my pastor had been praying for me and was concerned for me, how much more the Lord wanted me to return and how much rejoicing in heaven happened when I did return.

✠ **Luke 15:10** *"Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."*

Maybe you have walked away from the Lord for whatever reason. Jesus has left an impression upon your heart that you may have forgotten about or you have tried to ignore, and that is the fact that He loves you and died for your sins. Why not return and be a part of Luke 15:10 just like I was. You will never be sorry that you did!

✠ **John 4:43-45** *Now after the two days He departed from there and went to Galilee. For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country. So when He came to Galilee, the Galileans received Him, having seen all the things He did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they also had gone to the feast.*

When you read this you may think that Jesus is contradicting His statement of "***that a prophet has no honor in his own country.***" But if you read the rest of verse 45 we read that they received Him because of the things He did, but no mention of believing because of His words.

Remember that a prophet will proclaim God's word. But they were so interested in the signs and wonders that they never heard Jesus' words, which were more important, than signs and wonders.

Remember what Jesus spoke about the last days?

† **Matt 24:24-25** *For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand.*

The world today is so set up for the antichrist; people everywhere are seeking signs and wonders. They see visions of Jesus in ads for spaghetti, crying statues of Mary, the shroud of Turin. People will go to big events with signs and wonders being seen, miraculous healings, people running around acting crazy, looking for gold dust to appear on them, seeking financial gain.

So many choices people have to go and see all these so-called signs and wonders. But by seeking these things, it blinds them from the truth of God's word.

Think about that shiny new car you have wanted. Maybe it can go from 0 – 60 in 2 seconds, has a sound system that would crack the windows, the color and look makes heads turn every time you would drive down the street. It has a security system that puts someone in jail just for touching it. The seats are made from 100% real imitation leather. The instrument panel looks like your computer screen at home. All these fancy doodads that blind you to the truth of it getting 5 miles to the gallon, your insurance costs more than the car payments of \$600.00 a month. You get the idea, but the truth is we need to stop seeking signs wonders and start seeking the Lord and His word! If you read God's word, the signs come after belief, not before.

† **Mark 16:17-18** *And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.*

Jesus speaks of this in the next verses in John.

✠ **John 4:46-48** *So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe."*

The scriptures are sure to make it clear that this was where Jesus had turned water into wine. That's why Jesus said, *"Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe."*

Once again this man came to Jesus, not because of the words He spoke but because he may have been there when Jesus turned the water into wine, or had heard about it. Either way this man knew of Jesus and His reputation for doing miracles.

✠ **John 4:49** *The nobleman said to Him, "Sir, come down before my child dies!"*

If you have children, then you may know what this man is going through at this moment. I remember when my little baby girl had her first cold with a fever of over 101 and how I would go into her room at night when she was sleeping and cry out to God to heal her.

When the people we love are hurting all we can think about is that we want them better, at any cost. For this man to leave his child behind to go seek Jesus was an act of faith, after all I wouldn't leave my child behind to go find a so-called faith healer.

I also believe that Jesus was not directing His statement to this man of ***"Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe."***

But rather to the crowd who had gathered to see what Jesus would do or even follow Him to Capernaum to see if He would perform another miracle.

They were probably shocked when Jesus said:

✎ **John 4:50** *Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your son lives."*

"Where are the signs and wonders", these people were probably thinking. "Give us a show Jesus, after all that's why we are here."

This man may have gone to see a miracle, but when he got there he met Jesus face to face; and by doing so he took his eyes off of the miracles and focused on what Jesus was saying.

✎ **John 4:51-54** *So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way. And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told him, saying, "Your son lives!" Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better. And they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." So the father knew that it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, ***"Your son lives."*** And he himself believed, and his whole household. This again is the second sign Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.*

Once again notice it says that the man believed the word of Jesus. What was that word?

✎ ***"Go your way; your son lives."***

It was one very short sentence, but enough to cause this man to believe in His word. Jesus didn't say any abracadabra's, no magic formula, no show of shaking or grunting or acting weird, no jumping around like a wild man. No just a calm ***"Go your way; your son lives."***

Also notice that the man believed Jesus before he saw the miracle.

Looking at the time frame, it was about a four-hour journey for this man to even get to Jesus and the same to return home.

But we notice that the servants met the man the next day. That means that the man did not return home right away, because he believed the words of Jesus. Because of his belief he was able to go home and tell them of what Jesus did and when he did it.

The servants would testify to the time when his son was healed, and all the people that were there could testify of when Jesus said his son was healed.

The times matched up perfectly, and the results were “*And he himself believed, and his whole household.*”

There is another place in the book of Matthew where a man had a son who was demon possessed. This man went to Jesus to heal his son and the end of the conversation was:

† **Mark 9:23-24** *Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"*

This man believed, but doubted how much he believed. He cries out to Jesus to increase his faith. Why would he do this if he believed? If you read the story (and I would encourage you to) we read that the disciples had tried to cast out this demon but to no effect. So if Jesus’ disciples couldn’t do it, this could have caused this man not to believe, as he should.

God knows your heart and how much faith you have and don’t have. Don’t be afraid to be like this man and tell the Lord that you have faith, but that you need your faith increased in a way that only He can do.

Maybe you or someone you love is sick.

Maybe you are in financial need.

Maybe you doubt your salvation.

Maybe others have prayed for you or this person, but to no avail.

No matter what the problem may be; remember that God is bigger than any problem you may have.

Sometimes it takes preparation on your part as you bring your request to the Lord.

† **Mark 9:28-29** *And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."*

Which man (or woman) will you be like, the one who believes God and His word so you no longer worry? Or the man who doubted his faith or even that Jesus could really do it?

Next week we start chapter 5, and if you will notice Jesus is now in Jerusalem and it is around 16 months later.

May God richly bless you and may you share those blessing with those in need!