

Contagious Faith – John 4:46-54

"Let me tell you a modern parallel to help us see ourselves in this text"

"Imagine Bob, a successful professional with a comfortable life and a quiet, background faith.

- He felt in control, until one Monday morning, his world shattered: his wife, Sarah, was in a severe car accident, critical and with an uncertain prognosis.
 - All his self-reliance crumbled. In the hospital hallways, his polite prayers became raw, desperate cries,
 - 'God, why is this happening? Where are you?'
- As Sarah fought for her life, Bob had nowhere else to turn. He clung to Scripture and prayed with an intensity he'd never known, finding God's comfort and unwavering presence amidst the fear. Through Sarah's long recovery, **Bob's once passive faith became active, resilient, and deeply personal.** This transformed faith radiated outwards; his colleagues, children, nurses, and doctors witnessed his unshakeable hope, prompting them to ask about the source of his strength: Jesus Christ. His crisis had blossomed into a vibrant, contagious faith."

We can find similarities between our story and the one that unfolds in our passage today...

- Just like Bob, the nobleman faced a sudden, desperate crisis—his son lay dying. His faith, too, was about to be tested and transformed. As we turn to John 4:46-54, we'll see how his personal emergency illustrates a powerful progression of faith: how a desperate plea can ignite a deeper trust in Jesus, leading to a faith so profound it becomes contagious to his entire household."

John 4:46 - 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. ⁴⁷ 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. ⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you *people* see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe."

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

John 4:50 ⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your son lives." So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way. ⁵¹ And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told *him*, saying, "Your son lives!"

John 4:52 ⁵² 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." ⁵³ 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.

John 4:54 ⁵⁴ This again *is* the second sign Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.

This man began with ...

CRISIS FAITH – John 4:46–47

Out of Nowhere came this tragic situation – Notice the anguish... John describes it this way... "(the noblemen) ... went and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death.

- **The Tense of this Greek verb suggests repeated or persistent asking**
- **The official is not merely making a polite request. No, he is Pleading with Jesus**
- *"The nobleman didn't come to Jesus because he'd read about him in the news. He came because his son was dying. Crisis faith isn't chosen—it's forced. It's what happens when every other door closes and you find yourself standing at the only one left. And here's what's important: Jesus didn't turn him away. The Gospels show us repeatedly that Jesus welcomes the desperate. He meets people in their worst moments, not their best ones."*

Sometimes, out of nowhere, life hits us – Life comes at you fast.

- Crises can strike unexpectedly, but they can serve as divine appointments to draw people to the Lord. Such "out of nowhere" crises often strip away self-reliance, revealing our deep need for Christ. ([More research – Crisis](#))
 - **Sudden Illness or Health Crisis:**
 - **Unexpected Loss or Grief:**
 - **Financial Ruin or Job Loss:**
 - **Betrayal or Relational Breakdown:**
 - **Personal Failure or Moral Compromise:**

- It is in these times of Trouble or Trial that people look for a source of strength and stability
- Psalms 107:28-29** - Then they cry out to the Lord in their trouble, And He brings them out of their distresses. ²⁹ He calms the storm, So that its waves are still.

"But here's where the story takes an unexpected turn. Jesus doesn't immediately grant what the man is asking for. Instead, he challenges the very foundation of the man's request."

The man comes to Jesus begging him to come down (travel 40 miles)

John 4:48 - ⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you *people* see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe."

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

John 4:50 ⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your son lives." So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way.

From Crises Faith ...

COURAGEOUS FAITH – John 4:48–50

"When Jesus says, 'Unless you see signs and wonders, you will not believe,' he's not being **harsh**—he's being **honest**.

- He's diagnosing a condition many of us share: **We want visible proof – After all seeing is believing – We are often skeptical of claims without any visible proof**
- But then, in verse 50, something extraordinary happens.

John 4:50 ⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your son lives." So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way.

- **He believes Jesus' word and goes on his way**—without waiting to see the healing, without demanding Jesus come to his house, without any proof whatsoever."

Biblical Definition of Belief: The Greek word for "believe" (**pistis**)

- means more than intellectual agreement. It signifies **to trust completely in, to rely upon, and to commit oneself fully to Jesus Christ.**
- It's about active, personal dependence, not just acknowledging facts.

What would we do – As I thought about this, I wondered...

- I'd probably asked Jesus, You got this? You sure? You don't have to do anything else.
- Wait and See – Is that what this guy did...

John 4:50 ⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your son lives." **So the man believed the word** that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way.

"Notice the Greek word John uses here:

- the man 'believed the word'—or more precisely, he believed the Logos, the same word John uses in chapter 1 to describe Jesus himself: 'In the beginning was the Word [Logos], and the Word was God.'
- When this official believes Jesus' word, he's not just believing a claim. He's believing Jesus. His trust has shifted from 'Show me proof' to 'I trust you.'"

I want you to notice progression – Courageous Faith Progresses

1. **Initial faith-demand** (v. 47): The official requests Jesus' *physical presence* as the condition for believing in the healing
2. **Jesus' counter-demand** (v. 48): "Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe"—a rebuke of externalized, sight-dependent faith
3. **Pivot to word-faith** (v. 50): The official "believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way"—*before any visible evidence*
4. **Confirmation through sign** (v. 51–53): Servants verify the healing occurred at the exact hour Jesus spoke; the sign *confirms* rather than *generates* the faith

Here is the Theological significance: "This sequence beautifully illustrates the **deepening journey of faith.**"

- The **lowest** tier is faith that demands **immediate, visible, tangible** proof (characteristic of the crowds; cf. John 2:23–25, "many believed in his name when they saw the signs he did; but Jesus would not entrust himself to them").
- A **higher** tier is faith that trusts the *word* despite the absence of immediate verification.
- The **highest** tier (implied but not yet realized in this passage) is faith that requires no sign at all. Jesus said in John 20:29 - Jesus said to him, "...Blessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed."

The official's movement from tier one to tier two (v. 48→v. 50) represents **spiritual maturation.**

He is learning to ground faith not in sensory experience but in *trust in Jesus' word as an expression of divine authority*.

Courageous Faith is Found in the Person of Jesus

"When we read in John's Gospel that the nobleman 'believed the word (λόγος) that Jesus spoke to him' (John 4:50), there's something incredibly deep happening beneath the surface.

- You see, the Bible tells us in John 1:1-3 that Jesus Himself is the 'Word'—the *Logos* in Greek. ***This 'Word' isn't just something Jesus said; it is who Jesus is.*** He is God's ultimate expression, the divine blueprint, the very essence of God made visible. 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... Through him all things were made.'
- So, when the nobleman believed Jesus' word, he wasn't just believing a helpful piece of advice or a promise from a human. He was placing his trust, his entire hope, in Jesus Himself—the living Word of God. His faith wasn't merely in a message; it was in the divine Messenger.
- Here's the powerful truth this reveals: To believe in Jesus is to trust His words as absolutely, inherently authoritative. Unlike a human leader or prophet, who might need to prove their claims with evidence, Jesus' words don't need external validation to be true. They are true because *He is God*. His word carries the weight and power of God's own voice. The miracle—the healing of his son—followed not to *make* Jesus' word true, but to *confirm* the divine truth and power already present in what He said.
- This understanding is vital. It guards us against thinking of Jesus as just a super-healer or a magician whose power depends on doing tricks. No, His power isn't found *just* in His miracles; His power is inherent in His very word. When Jesus speaks, God speaks, and things happen. His words are not just information; they are divine action, because He is the living Word of God (Hebrews 4:12)."

Belief in the Person and Work of Jesus is absolutely necessary for both Salvation and Sanctification.

- The first message Jesus preached – **Mark 1:15** - "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."
- "Jesus' mission extended beyond merely curing physical sicknesses; His ultimate purpose was to heal the deeper, spiritual brokenness of sin that separates us from God."
- Friend, have you ever repented of sin, fully trusting in the person and work of Jesus, and called upon his name for salvation.

Biblical belief moves beyond simply knowing *about* Jesus to personally *trusting in Him with your whole life*.

1. **Trusting in Jesus Alone:** Relying completely on Jesus Christ to save you from your sins and give you eternal life, understanding you can't save yourself (Ephesians 2:8-9).
2. **Receiving Him as Lord and Savior:** Welcoming Jesus into your life as the one who has authority over you (Lord) and the one who rescued you from sin's power (Savior) (Romans 10:9-10).

3. **Turning from Sin:** Choosing to turn away from your own way and toward God, recognizing that sin separates you from Him (Acts 3:19).
4. **Committing to Follow Him:** Deciding to live your life according to His teachings, surrendering your will to His (Matthew 16:24).

"Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for your sins and rose again to give you eternal life. When you believe in Him and turn from sin, you receive forgiveness and new life."

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

A Faith in Crisis leads to a Courageous Faith, but then becomes CONFIRMED FAITH – John 4:51–54

John 4:51 ⁵¹And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told *him*, saying, "Your son lives!"

John 4:52 ⁵²Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better. And they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." ⁵³So 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.

John 4:54 ⁵⁴This again *is* the second sign Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.

Blank Live - CONFIRMED FAITH

"The servants meet him on the road with the news: 'Your son lives!'

- *And notice what the official does—he doesn't just **celebrate**. He **investigates**.*
- *Verse 52 says he 'inquired of them the hour when he got better.' He's checking the precision.*
- *And when he confirms that the healing happened at the exact hour Jesus spoke the word, the text says, 'So the father knew... And he himself believed, and his whole household.'"*

Don't Miss This: *the sign did not create his faith.*

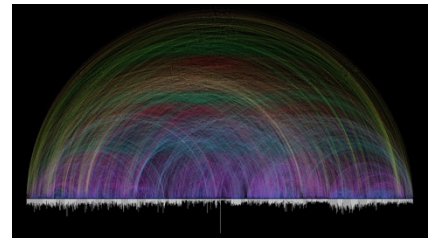
- *It confirmed it. His faith was already there in verse 50 when he believed the word.*
- *The miracle that follows is not the ground of his faith—it's the seal on it. And that's a game-changer for how we think about faith today."*

Romans 10:17 - So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- *' Not by seeing. By hearing. By receiving what God has said and trusting it, even when verification hasn't arrived yet. That's the biblical pattern."*

2 Peter 1:16-21 - For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ¹⁷ For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." ¹⁸ And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

2 Peter 1:19 – 21 - ¹⁹ And so we have the ***prophetic word confirmed***, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; ²⁰ knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, ²¹ for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.



The Baptist Faith and Message: DOCTRINE OF SCRIPTURE:

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy.

- Every Cross Reference – 63,779 times the Bible Refers – One man is a Master Piece
 - Written by 40 different men over a period 1,500 years, in 3 Language (Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic on Three Continents – Europe, Asia & Africa
 - All with on Central Story – Redemptions of Mankind in the person of Jesus
- Gospel Project – 3 Year Journey Through Scripture connecting all of Scripture – Every story points to Jesus
- Full Alignment – While you are this room, our children are hearing the same story, You will have a ton of Family Resources so that you can have conversation about what they are learning and what you have learned.

A Faith in Crisis leads to a Courageous Faith, becomes CONFIRMED FAITH

The Contagious Faith (v. 53b – "and his whole household")

John 4:53 ⁵³ 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.***

The nobleman's faith didn't stay private. It moved outward. His experience of God's faithfulness became the catalyst for his entire household to believe. That's contagious faith.

- Not manipulative, not coercive—but visible, lived, and persuasive. His faith changed how his home operated, and his household saw it and believed."

Application: "Here's the implication:

- Your faith is not a private consumer choice. When you believe Jesus, it changes the atmosphere of your home, your workplace, your community. People are watching to see if what you believe actually changes how you live. And when it does, faith becomes contagious."
 - We Model for children the transforming power of the Gospel.
 - "When you've lost your temper, tell your kids, 'Dad was wrong. I asked Jesus to forgive me. I'm sorry.' That's contagious faith.
- God has called Parents to the Primary Disciple Makers!
 - Deuteronomy 6 – Love the Lord Your God ... Teach these things to your children.
 - When men Love and Lead Well, everybody flourishes – Joby Martin

- Men, how can we be Alpha Males at work, on the ball field, but are passive when it comes to faith – We can talk for days about football, baseball, hunting and fishing but the room gets silent when someone starts talking about Jesus.
- **Parents say, We raised them in Church = We must Raise them in Christ**
 - Our Next Gen Ministries – Family Ministry designed to equip you to raise your children to know and love Jesus – relentlessly pursue His Design
 - **Like Home Depot – You can do it; We can help**
- Our Attitude must shift from:
 - **From:** "My faith is mine alone; my spiritual decisions shouldn't affect my family's religious practice"
 - **To:** "My faith shapes my household; my conversion has implications for how we live together"

Parental Conversion (even Father's) does not guarantee Household Conversion

- **"A parent's conversion creates a spiritual heritage, but every individual must still make their own personal commitment of faith to Christ for salvation."**
- **But we see a Biblical Pattern: Cornelious: Philippian Jailor, Lydia (Acts)**

Examples of what this looks like

- **A parent's conversion means:** praying with children at meals, speaking of Jesus naturally in family life, prioritizing church attendance, modeling repentance
- **A spouse's conversion means:** different entertainment choices (avoiding morally compromising media), reallocation of finances (tithing, generosity), different approaches to conflict (reconciliation rather than resentment)
- **An adult child's conversion means:** inviting parents to church, living out faith visibly, being willing to discuss spiritual matters respectfully
- **A professional's conversion means:** integrity at work, generosity in business dealings, refusal to participate in unethical practices—affecting the workplace "household"

The deeper attitude: Faith is not a private consumer choice but a public identity that reshapes communities.

If time permits – My Grandad build a legacy that reshaped multiple communities and thousands have come to faith because He believed in Jesus!

Next Steps:

Not Sure about your salvation – If Jesus hasn't changed you, He has not saved you.

- We would love to have a conversation with you. Answer any questions you may have.
- Help you take that step of faith – We will have an invitation, where we would invite you to walk to the front, we share with you how you can be saved.

Make Your Faith Public –

- Baptism or Church Membership
- We exist bring Hope and Renewal to every person and every place by equipping people to relentlessly pursue God's Design.

For those of you who know the Lord – *Where is Your Faith*

- ***Is it in Crisis? Is it Courageous***
 - *Jesus is speaking a word to you. It might be about your healing, your finances, your marriage, your calling, your fears. He's already said it. The question isn't whether you'll see the sign—someday you might.*
 - *The real question is: Will you believe his word now and go on your way? Will you walk forward, trusting not in proof but in him? Because that's the faith that changes everything—first in you, then in everyone around you."*
- ***Is it Contagious – Dads, Are you leading Spiritually***