



TRUSTING JESUS AT HIS WORD (John 4:43-54)

It is said that “seeing is believing”, but that’s not always the case. Seeing what Jesus did didn’t always lead to trusting what Jesus said. Today we discover the author’s second sign pointing to WHO Jesus is.

Welcome Home Jesus...sort of

John 4:43-45 (CSB) ⁴³ After two days he left there for Galilee. ⁴⁴ (Jesus himself had testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country.) ⁴⁵ When they entered Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him because they had seen everything he did in Jerusalem during the festival. For they also had gone to the festival.

Jesus is going back to **Galilee**, where He grew up, but Jesus notes **that a prophet has no honor in his own country**. Yet there is a strange irony in this story because John then notes that **the Galileans welcomed him**. Why? They welcomed Jesus because of what they had seen Him do **in Jerusalem during the festival** (i.e. Passover - Jn 2:13).

The response to Jesus in Galilee was different than what Jesus experienced among the Samaritans, and John is about to contrast that difference.

A Fearful Father and a Frustrated Savior

John 4:46-48 (CSB) ⁴⁶ He went again to Cana of Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. There was a certain royal official whose son was ill at Capernaum. ⁴⁷ When this man heard that Jesus had come from Judea into Galilee, he went to him and pleaded with him to come down and heal his son, since he was about to die. ⁴⁸ Jesus told him, **“Unless you people (see signs and wonders) you will not believe.”**

This **royal official** lived in **Capernaum**, near the Sea of Galilee, an 18 mile uphill journey to **Cana**. This governing official could have sent servants, but he didn’t. *He* went to ask Jesus to come heal his **son**.

Yet rather than welcoming this frightened father with a smile, Jesus’ response seems strange, **Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will not believe** (* **you** is plural - Jesus is referring to the Galileans gathered and not just this man). *Did this man do something wrong?* Why would Jesus respond to this fearful father in this way? These people treated Jesus like a circus act. They weren’t nearly as interested in listening to His **WORDS** as seeing His **WONDERS**. This is the only time that John links **signs and wonders** together. (the only use of **wonders** in John’s gospel).¹

What’s the difference in the response of the Samaritans & Galileans?

- **Samaritans:** Besides Jesus’ knowledge of the Samaritan woman, we have no record of Jesus performing any ‘signs’ or miracles in the presence of the Samaritans, yet they believed Jesus after spending a couple of days with Him (Jn 4:40-42). *They believed the WORDS Jesus SAID, without seeing the WONDERS He DID.*
- The **Galileans and others Jews** were more interested in seeing **WHAT Jesus could DO** rather than know **WHO Jesus WAS**. *Are any of us guilty of the same thing?*

Evidently, Jesus healed hundreds of people. He wasn’t against demonstrating **WHO HE WAS**. But He refused to be a circus act who played to the crowd. **THIS** is why Jesus responded this way:

“Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will not believe.”

BIG TRUTH: We trust Jesus’ words because of Who Jesus is

YOUR NOTES

¹ Gerald L. Borchert, John 1-11, vol. 25A, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 220.

The 2nd Sign

John 4:49-50 (CSB) ⁴⁹ "Sir," the official said to him, "come down before my boy dies." ⁵⁰ "Go," Jesus told him, "**your son will live.**" **The man believed what Jesus said to him** and departed. **John 4:51-54** (CSB) ⁵¹ While he was still going down, his servants met him saying that **his boy was alive.** ⁵² He asked them at what time he got better. "Yesterday at one in the afternoon the fever left him," they answered. ⁵³ The father realized this was the very hour at which Jesus had told him, "Your son will live." So **he himself believed, along with his whole household.** ⁵⁴ Now this was also **the second sign Jesus performed** after he came from Judea to Galilee.

This man's faith is to be applauded. The man simply believed that what Jesus said would happen. He didn't see Jesus do something miraculous to prove it, he simply **believed what Jesus said to him** and started the long journey home.

What are some of the things Jesus has promised that we haven't yet seen? Are YOU trusting Jesus at His word?

This man hadn't yet figured out WHO Jesus was, but he's about to put it all together.

How cool is this! This man believed what Jesus said, before He ever saw what Jesus said. The result? His whole family **believed** in Jesus! They didn't just believe in what Jesus DID, but WHO Jesus was!

We trust Jesus' words because of Who Jesus is

Both the first and **second sign** that Jesus **performed** were only seen by a few people.

1st Sign: Water to Wine - seen by servants, Jesus' mother, & Jesus' disciples. **The result?**

John 2:11 (CSB) ¹¹ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee. He revealed his glory, and **his disciples believed in him.**

2nd Sign: Sick Son Healed - seen by family. **The result?**

John 4:53-54 (CSB) ⁵³ So **he himself believed, along with his whole household.** ⁵⁴ Now this was also the second sign Jesus performed after he came from Judea to Galilee.

The Purpose of this Gospel

John 20:30-31 (CSB) ³⁰ Jesus performed many other **signs** in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But **these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God,** and that **by believing you may have life in his name.**

We trust Jesus' words because of Who Jesus is.

FEET2FAITH

Seek Jesus 1st. Get in the gospels & read the words of Jesus. Make time to pray the 1st thing each day!

* **Want to talk further?** Please contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), **Christy** (673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon! Or call our **deacons & wives:** Tom & Martha Waddail, Steve & Debbie Bass, Freddy & Joyce Howard, Jere & Darlene Burnette, Alan & Christy Androski, Willy & Melissa Gamalero.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What challenged or encouraged you from today's teaching? (Look back over your notes and share!)
2. Recall some of the miracles Jesus did. Which miracles make you wonder, "Who IS this?" Explain your answer.
3. **Read John 4:39-42 & John 4:48.** What was the difference between the belief of the Samaritans & that of the people in Cana of Galilee? Why was Jesus so frustrated with the people in Cana?
4. Share a time when Jesus didn't respond the way you wanted Him to, and you were challenged to seek His face instead of His hand (i.e. seeking Jesus' presence instead of His miracles)
5. **Read John 4:49-54 and John 20:30-31.** What was the result of the signs that John points us to?
6. Are you seeking Jesus first this past week? Whether you have or not, share 1) practical ways to seek Jesus 1st
2) distractions that keep us from seeking Jesus 1st.
7. Pray for one another this week. Consider texting or calling same sex believers to pray and share together this week.