



Summary

In John 4:43-54, we're challenged to examine the nature of our faith. The story of the nobleman whose son was healed by Jesus from a distance serves as a profound lesson in believing without seeing. We're reminded that true faith isn't based on miracles or signs, but on trusting Jesus' words. Just as the nobleman had to believe and act on Jesus' command without immediate proof, we too are called to trust in Christ's promises even when circumstances seem dire. This passage invites us to reflect on times when we've demanded 'proof' from God, and encourages us to instead cultivate a faith that stands firm on God's word alone. It's a call to move beyond a faith based on what Jesus can do for us, to a deeper trust in who Jesus is.





Points

Title: Faith Beyond Signs: Believing in Jesus' Word

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores the encounter between Jesus and a nobleman whose son was ill, highlighting the importance of faith based on Jesus' word rather than miraculous signs. It emphasizes the transformative power of believing in Christ without requiring physical proof, and how obedience to Jesus' commands leads to spiritual revelation and salvation.

Key Points:

- Jesus challenges the nobleman and others to believe without seeing signs and wonders
- True faith is based on who Jesus is, not just what He can do for us
- Obedience to Jesus' commands is crucial for experiencing His power and truth
- The nobleman's journey from desperate plea to genuine faith illustrates spiritual growth
- Jesus' knowledge and power are not limited by human constraints or expectations
- The command to be born again is essential for entering the kingdom of God

Scripture Reference:

- John 4:43-54 (primary)
- Matthew 4:12, Matthew 14:1-12, John 3:3-7, Exodus 33:18-23, John 5:39-40

Stories:

- The nobleman from Capernaum seeking healing for his son
- John the Baptist's doubts while in prison
- Moses' encounter with God on Mount Sinai
- Possible connection to Joanna, wife of Chuza (Herod's steward) in Luke 8:3



Scripture

Here are the scripture references mentioned or alluded to in the sermon, listed in standard notation:

1. John 4:43-54 (Main passage being discussed)
2. John 2:23
3. Matthew 4:12
4. Matthew 14:1-12
5. Matthew 11:11
6. John 3:3-7
7. Exodus 33:18-23
8. Exodus 34:1-9
9. John 5:39-40
10. Matthew 11:2-6
11. Ephesians 2:2
12. John 1:1-5
13. Luke 8:1-3

Additional themes and relevant verses suggested:

1. Faith without seeing - Hebrews 11:1
2. Jesus as the Word made flesh - John 1:14
3. God's unchanging nature - Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8
4. Boldness in prayer - Hebrews 4:16
5. God knowing our needs before we ask - Matthew 6:8
6. Obedience to God's commands - John 14:15
7. Salvation through faith in Christ - Ephesians 2:8-9
8. The importance of being born again - 1 Peter 1:23
9. Jesus' authority over sickness and death - Matthew 8:8-13



Quotes

Jesus didn't go through Samaria because it was the shortest route to Galilee. He went through Samaria because it was the shortest route to the human heart.

There comes a time in every life when no matter how much power or wealth or ability you possess, it is not enough to overcome death or a health condition which leads to death, as in the case of the nobleman's son.

Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe.

It is never our faith in what Jesus can do for us. It is our faith in who Jesus is.

Jesus only answers the commands of his father. He doesn't follow after the commands of men.

All politics is local, but the work of Christ is not bound by location or even by what we think Jesus must know from us.

And he himself believed and his whole household. Now, and only now, his faith in Jesus was not based in what Jesus did, but in what Jesus said.

You must be born again to enter the kingdom of heaven. And just as the certain nobleman was obedient to Jesus' command, and was blessed with life in the process, the life of his son. If you choose to follow Jesus' command, you will likewise be blessed in the process of obeying his command.



Discussion Questions

How does the contrast between Jesus' interactions with the Samaritan woman and the nobleman reveal different aspects of His character and approach to ministry?

In what ways might we, like the nobleman, sometimes try to 'command' Jesus rather than trusting His wisdom and timing?

How does Jesus' statement 'Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe' challenge our own faith and reliance on tangible proof?

What can we learn from the nobleman's journey from desperate pleading to genuine belief about the process of developing faith?

How might John the Baptist's doubts while in prison resonate with times of uncertainty in our own spiritual lives?

In what ways does Jesus' long-distance healing of the nobleman's son demonstrate His divine nature and power?

How does the concept of being 'born again' as emphasized by Jesus challenge our understanding of salvation and spiritual transformation?

What insights can we gain from Jesus' focus on His words rather than His physical presence in healing the nobleman's son?

How might the potential connection between this nobleman and Joanna (wife of Chuza, Herod's steward) in Luke 8 illustrate the far-reaching impact of Jesus' ministry?

In what ways does this passage challenge us to examine the basis of our own faith - is it rooted in what Jesus does for us or in who He is?



Small Group Guide: Faith in Jesus' Words

Opening Prayer

Key Takeaways:

1. True faith is based on who Jesus is, not just what He can do for us.
2. Obedience to Jesus' commands leads to deeper faith and understanding.
3. Jesus' command to be born again is not a suggestion, but a necessity for eternal life.
4. God's nature is unchanging - He is merciful, gracious, and forgiving.

Discussion Questions:

1. The nobleman in the story came to Jesus out of desperation. Have you ever approached God in a similar way? What was the outcome?
2. Jesus told the nobleman, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe." How does this challenge our own faith? Do we sometimes rely too much on visible "proof" rather than trusting God's word?
3. The sermon mentions that many people may go to hell with "good religious intentions." How can we ensure our faith is truly in Jesus, not just in religious practices or traditions?
4. Discuss the difference between the nobleman's initial belief (verse 50) and his deeper belief after his son was healed (verse 53). How does this relate to our own faith journeys?
5. The sermon emphasizes Jesus' command to be "born again." What does this mean to you personally? How would you explain it to someone unfamiliar with Christianity?
6. How does understanding God's unchanging nature (as described in Exodus 33) impact our faith and daily lives?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, identify an area where you've been demanding God to act in a certain way. Practice surrendering it to Him and trusting His wisdom.
2. Choose a command of Jesus from the Gospels and focus on obeying it this week. Reflect on how obedience impacts your faith.
3. Share your testimony of being "born again" with someone in your life who may not understand what it means.



4. Spend time meditating on God's character as described in Exodus 34:6-7. How can you reflect these attributes in your interactions with others?

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for His unchanging nature and the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. Ask for help in deepening your faith and living out His commands in your daily life.





Daily Devotional

Day 1: The Power of Believing Without Seeing

Reading: John 4:43-54

Devotional: Jesus' interaction with the nobleman teaches us about the nature of true faith. The nobleman initially sought a visible miracle, but Jesus challenged him to believe based on His word alone. How often do we demand signs from God before we'll trust Him? Today, reflect on areas in your life where you struggle to trust God without tangible proof. Remember that faith is "confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1). Ask God to strengthen your faith and help you trust His promises, even when circumstances seem dire.

Day 2: God's Unchanging Nature

Reading: Exodus 33:18-23, 34:5-7

Devotional: Moses' encounter with God reveals His unchanging character - merciful, gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in love. In a world of constant change, God's immutability offers us a firm foundation. Consider how God's unchanging nature impacts your daily life. When facing challenges, remember that the same God who revealed Himself to Moses is with you today. How might embracing God's constancy change your perspective on current struggles? Take time to praise God for His enduring faithfulness and love.

Day 3: The Living Word

Reading: John 5:39-40, Matthew 11:2-6

Devotional: Jesus challenged the religious leaders of His day to look beyond mere knowledge of Scripture to see Him as the living Word. John the Baptist, despite his earlier conviction, faced doubts when his expectations weren't met. How often do we miss Jesus in our religious activities or doubt Him when life doesn't unfold as we expect? Today, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal Jesus afresh through Scripture. As you read, look for Him in every passage, and allow His living presence to transform your understanding and deepen your relationship with Him.

Day 4: Faith in Times of Crisis

Reading: Matthew 14:1-13

Devotional: The account of John the Baptist's death reminds us that following Jesus doesn't guarantee an easy life. Even in the face of injustice and personal loss, Jesus continued His mission. When facing your own crises or disappointments, how do you respond? Do you question God's goodness or cling more tightly to Him? Reflect on a current challenge in your life. How might viewing it through the lens of Jesus' unwavering commitment to His Father's will change your perspective? Ask God for the strength to remain faithful, even in difficult times.



Day 5: Obedience that Leads to Blessing

Reading: Luke 8:1-3, John 20:30-31

Devotional: The nobleman's story doesn't end with his son's healing. We see hints that his entire household came to faith, and possibly even his wife became a supporter of Jesus' ministry. This reminds us that our obedience to Christ can have far-reaching effects we may not immediately see. Consider an area where God is calling you to step out in obedience. What fears or doubts are holding you back? Remember that, like the nobleman, your act of faith might not only bless you but could impact your family and community. Ask God for courage to follow where He leads, trusting that He works beyond what we can see or imagine.

