

Walking with Jesus
Part 5
“The Power of Honor”

John 4

43 After the two days he left for Galilee. 44 (Now Jesus himself had pointed out that a prophet has no honor in his own country.) 45 When he arrived in Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him. They had seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, for they also had been there. 46 Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. 47 When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death. 48 “Unless you people see signs and wonders,” Jesus told him, “you will never believe.” 49 The royal official said, “Sir, come down before my child dies.” 50 “Go,” Jesus replied, “your son will live.” The man took Jesus at his word and departed. 51 While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. 52 When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, “Yesterday, at one in the afternoon, the fever left him.” 53 Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” So he and his whole household believed. 54 This was the second sign Jesus performed after coming from Judea to Galilee.

Vs. 43

After the two days he left for Galilee.

- Jesus and His Disciples were just in Samaria for two days.
- This was probably a surprising visit for the Disciples
- The result of following Jesus there was Amazing.

Vs. 41,42

41 And because of his words many more became believers.

42 They said to the woman, “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.”

Vs. 44

(Now Jesus himself had pointed out that **a prophet has no honor in his own country.**)

This verse of scripture is interesting to me for more than one reason.

- It is recorded in all 4 Gospels (*Synoptic Gospels & John's Gospel*)
- John only mentions it briefly... John's Gospel is a power Gospel. John recorded the miracles of Jesus for the purpose of showing the reader that Jesus is the Son of God.
- The other Gospels followed a more traditional writing styles.
- Luke's Gospel records more details...

Luke 4

16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read,

— — —

22 All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. **"Isn't this Joseph's son?"** they asked.

Matthew 13 - *Records they said this:*

55 *"Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? 56 Aren't all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?"*

57 *And they took offense at him.*

But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own town and in his own home."

23 Jesus said to them, "Surely you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself!' And you will tell me, 'Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.'"

24 "Truly I tell you," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown. 25 I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. 26 Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon (*Lebanon*). 27 And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian."

28 All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this.
29 They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. 30 But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

- One minute they are amazed...
- The next minute they are offended and trying to kill him...
- Jesus dealt sternly with dishonor...

Honor: Value, Price, Precious

The Religious devalued Jesus and he was stern with them...

The people of Nazareth devalued Jesus and he said there, "A Prophet is not without honor except in his own hometown."

- There is such a thing as a *false* familiarity with Jesus; a dangerous feeling that we know all about Him. Such a dangerous feeling leads to a lack of **honor** towards Jesus.

Note: The Disciples were probably shocked; They most likely expected that to happen in Samaria, not in Jesus' Hometown...

We live in a day when dishonor is rampant. There is dishonor towards civil authority. There is dishonor towards high ranking officials. There is dishonor towards God. There are mockers of God. There are people who talk about God as if he were a man. They will not receive anything from him, only judgement, unless they repent.

Mark 6 - *Same Account*

5 He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. 6 He was amazed at their lack of faith.

Where Revival breaks out Jesus is exalted...

Where Jesus is exalted Revival breaks out...

Vs. 45

When he arrived in Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him.

- Jesus did the majority of his ministry in the Galilee among the least likely people...
- Where Jesus was welcomed is where he did the most miracles...

Vs. 46-47

46 Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. 47 When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death.

There was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum.

The man with a sick son was a Royal Official...

Some believe he was probably an officer Herod Antipas...

He travelled 20 miles...

Because he was an official he probably came on horseback...

He made great effort to get to Jesus when he got word Jesus was in the area...

I love this:

The man could have sent someone in his place but he didn't...

He did his own bidding with Jesus...

It says he implored or begged Jesus to come and heal his son...

He was desperate and believed Jesus was the answer...

Vs. 48-50

48 "Unless you people see signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe."

49 The royal official said, "Sir, come down before my child dies."

50 "Go," Jesus replied, "your son will live."

The man took Jesus at his word and departed.

Signs and wonders are part of the Gospel.

Jesus said in Mark 16

“these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.”

Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 1:5

“our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power...”

- Jesus encountered many who were interested only in His miracles.
- **Matthew 16:4** “A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign”
- Jesus rebuked those who depended on signs and wonders *before* they would believe.

49 The royal official said, “Sir, come down before my child dies.”

50 “Go,” Jesus replied, “your son will live.” The man took Jesus at his word and departed.

Oh that we would have faith and believe Jesus before we see signs and wonders.

John 20:29

Jesus said to Thomas; “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Vs. 50

The man took Jesus at his word and departed.

- Isn't this something!
- He took Jesus at his word...
- He HONORED Jesus and his Word...
- He believed and then he went...
- He asked Jesus to go with him, Jesus didn't do it, He could have gotten offended Jesus (like the people in Nazareth), but he didn't.
- It may not have been what he wanted or expected....

- **There is a lesson in this:** God may not always do things the way you want him to. Don't get hung up in that... Just take him at his word and obey...
- The Royal Official got a Word from Jesus and then he Acted on it...

Vs. 51-53

51 **While he was still on the way**, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. 52 When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, "Yesterday, at one in the afternoon, the fever left him."

53 Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." So he and his whole household believed.

While he was on his way... Something happened...

He was probably worried...

He might have been a little disappointed...

Only to find out at he exact time when Jesus said it, it happened...

Vs. 54

This was the second sign Jesus performed after coming from Judea to Galilee.

This was in Cana. The first was at the best party ever – a wedding party. The second was connected with the worst tragedy ever – the illness and near death of a child. *Jesus is real in both aspects.*

- The first sign persuaded His disciples.
- The second sign persuaded a Jewish nobleman and his household.
- The Samaritans believed without a sign.