

John's Gospel @ CF!

John 4:43-54

Sermon notes – BK

June 9, 2024

GOOD MORNING!

WELCOME to all you visiting here and online...

ANNOUNCE –

- **DISMISS KIDS/TEENS**
- **Norwegian Pot Luck TODAY!!**
 - If you forgot, I think Hagen's has some "Norwegian fried chicken" ;-)
 - Hope you choose to join us!
- **VBS is coming up!**

WALT – AFRICA...

As we go through the Gospel of John –

- **We see the ministry of Jesus unpacked as only John can**
- **The last few Sundays we have been in John, we have taken a deeper look at the ministry Jesus had in Samaria.**
 - The ministry to the woman at the well
 - The ministry through the woman at the well

Culminating with this great proclamation...

John 4:42

““It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.” ...

Jesus was staying on mission –

- **The ministry in Samaria was a powerful time**
 - Starting with **the woman at the well**
 - Growing to this **awakening of a town she lived in as she shared** about Jesus
 - **Their incomplete faith found completion in Jesus**

In all of this, we see how **Jesus teaches us something about how He sees things...**

- **Not just reaping, but sowing**
- **Not only the end RESULTS, but the PROCESS that leads to those results.**

Jesus sees the work of those who come before... the process that comes before the reaping... namely the sowing.

The sowing process is integral to the process of having a harvest in the first place!

- **Seems obvious, but we often overlook it's importance.**

LAST WEEK –

We spent time on the thought that not only are some people called to the process of sowing seeds –

I believe there are churches (like our own) who are called to sowing ministries as well.

We see it all throughout our church

- Look at **all the outreach** that is **natural to who we are**

- Quilts
- Clothing
- Food
- Counseling training
- Creating space and a place
 - For **Sundays** after service
 - For **Wednesday nights**
 - For **teens** during the week
 - For the **studies** during the week
 - **For all the other meetings that take place**

This is not easy work - Jesus Himself said,

“...Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

Some versions say *“hard work”* instead of labor...

- Being the **one who sows** is not glamorous
- Being the **one who sows** does not get the attention

But **sowing** is necessary if there is going to be any kind of harvest!

I asked last week -

Would it be OK, if OUR main role as a church was in sowing seed?

- Did any of you think on this?
- Did any of you come up with ways that you have been sowing seed and didn't even know it?

This was important for us to review a bit because I believe as we continue to go forward as a church...

In all of our areas of ministry...

- In **children's ministry** outreach like **carnival and VBS**
- In the **compassion ministries** of the **clothing closet, food, quilts, etc...**
- **Also, in the unique areas of teaching and training like what Jerrie is doing with DBT**

We need to be reminded that God is powerfully at work behind the scenes and to recognize how important this is!

PLEASE HEAR ME...

This does NOT mean we don't grow or "reap" what is sown... just that we would be faithful in being who God has called and wired us to be as those who sow!

Back to the Gospel of John!

We will see how it ties together...

The verses we ended with last week, are the verses we will pick up with today, since they act as a bridge...

The ministry of Jesus kept going forward, now with great Gospel victory in Samaria – where *NONE of this should have happened...*

John then CONTRASTS Samaria – who begged Jesus to stay longer...

...with those in His "hometown," (where people should be lining the streets) – not honoring (or believing in) Him for who He is.

READ these verses again...

John 4:43-45

43 After the two days he departed for Galilee. 44 (For Jesus himself had testified that a prophet has no honor in his own hometown.) 45 So when he came to Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him, having seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the feast. For they too had gone to the feast.

John uses these words as a backdrop to what is coming...

- John is **not worried about chronology**
- John is **telling a story** and **giving us the most paints possible** for this picture.

This was **the current climate** in Galilee re: Jesus –

- At this point, it seems **pretty clear this was BEFORE Jesus was almost pushed off a cliff.**
 - **John does not include this in his Gospel**
 - Maybe because it had **already been said**
 - Maybe **all he needed to do was to refer to it** (as he did)
- **John was filling in the blanks and telling a different angle of the same story.**
- **John tells of this second miracle Jesus does in Cana**
 - The **first** was... **water into wine**
 - **This is the second**

Let's read on in John 4...

John 4:46-54

46 So he came again to Cana in Galilee, where he had made the water wine. And at Capernaum there was an official whose son was ill. 47 When this man heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went to him and asked him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. 48 So Jesus said to him, “Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe.” 49 The official said to him, “Sir, come down before my child dies.” 50 Jesus said to him, “Go; your son will live.” The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way. 51 As he was going down, his servants met him and told him that his son was recovering. 52 So he asked them the hour when he began to get better, and they said to him, “Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.” 53 The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” And he himself believed, and all his household. 54 This was now the second sign that Jesus did when he had come from Judea to Galilee.

“...there was an official...”

- It is **not certain**, but this man was **likely on Herod’s payroll**.
- He was **probably of those who saw the miracles of Jesus in Jerusalem** (Jn. 2:23)
- He **may have even been at the wedding** where Jesus turned water into wine

Now, there was a development with his own son’s health that brought him to seek Jesus.

Jesus’ response?

48 So Jesus said to him, “Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe.”

- ***This seems kind of harsh, does it not?***
- While it was true in general, ***Could Jesus not see*** it was ***different with this guy?***

It is important to note: the word “you” here is **in the plural**

- Jesus was responding to this man...
But in a bigger sense, He was addressing the whole crowd...

What else could Jesus have been doing?

- I believe **Jesus was surfacing the faith** this man had.
- **John was highlighting this...**

Why would this be important?

Because in general, Jesus was rejected in His hometown...

Speaking to this very thing... we read -

Matthew 13:58

“...he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.”

Mark 6:1-6

He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ² And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, “Where did this man get these things?

What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? ³ Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us? And they took offense at him. ⁴ And Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household.” ⁵ And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. ⁶ And he marveled because of their unbelief.

Isn't it interesting Jesus says to the people, ***“Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe...”*** Jn. 4:48

Combining this with ***“He could do no mighty work...”***
Mk. 6:5

What is the **result?**

- A ***“conditional belief”*** in Jesus – that was **no real believing at all**
- **A limited faith and scope** of who Jesus is (limited by their own **familiarity** with Jesus)
- **No mighty works are seen** (outside of water-to-wine and this healing of the official's son)...

We do **see something different** with the Official...

The Official, ignoring the statement Jesus makes, presses in...

49 The official said to him, “Sir, come down before my child dies.”⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, “Go; your son will live.” The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way.

Last week we talked a bit about sowing.

We know that the “seed” that is sown is **not just through** us, but **in us as well**.

- These are **seeds that others have sown that WE have received**
- **Seeds that are now growing in us**

THIS is where **John gives us a first-hand look of seed growing...**

We **see a progression** of this growing even here...

- The **official asks**
 - o Jesus responds
- The **official presses in** with his ask, ***“Sir, come down before my child dies.”***
 - o Jesus says, ***“Go; your son will live.”***
- The **official BELIEVES Jesus and goes home to see...**

See the progression?

This man’s faith – his belief in Jesus – is growing...

We see it unfold...

- This man... **shows “seeds” of belief**, and he ***makes them visible***

- He believes **Jesus can heal his son**, (Seen in his request of Jesus)
- We also see the “seed” of his **belief in Jesus’ word and goes on** his way – **as if it had been done**.

This **exchange** between the official and Jesus was **for all to see**.

The **miracle** that took place – **none of them could see** at the time... it was miles away!

The official’s faith was REQUIRED...

Hebrews 11:1 (NLT)

“Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.”

We then see this seed of belief reach a whole new level...

⁵¹ As he was going down, his servants met him and told him that his son was recovering. ⁵² So he asked them the hour when he began to get better, and they said to him, “Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.” ⁵³ The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” And he himself believed, and all his household.

As the official was “going down” – to home...

- In hope the promise of Jesus would be true...
- **Would his belief in Jesus be found true?**

Is it not in these times that the enemy LOVES to cause doubt

- **You know** the promise
- **You believe** God is able AND willing!

- YET... the enemy comes in, like he did with Eve...
 - *“Did God really say...?”*
 - *“You don’t believe Jesus can heal your son without even seeing or touching him, do you?”*
 - *“You are an official – and you looked like a FOOL in front of everyone!”*

Do you hear and discern the lies?

Between the promise of God and it coming to pass, we can be weak...

Epecially if our faith is in a weak Jesus

This is the problem with *making Jesus “too much man”* and forgetting He is also ALL GOD!

That said... if our faith is in who Jesus REALLY is

- **The uniquely-conceived son of God**
- **Sinless**
- **Fully God, but became fully man**
- **Triumphant over death and the grave**
- **Ascended to Heaven**
- **Preparing a place**
- **Will return to receive His Bride...**

If you really believe He is –

- **The Alpha**
- **The Omega**
- **The Lamb of God**
- **The Resurrection and the Life**
- **The true Vine**
- **The Living Water**

- **The Bread of Life**
- **The Way the Truth and the Life**
- **The King of Kings**
- **The Lord of Lords...**

THEN YOUR FAITH in Him and BELIEF in His WORD is SOLID!!

This official was “*not there yet*” with all of this understanding, how could he be?

– BUT he WAS solid in his belief Jesus healed his son.

- **His servants (who were on their way to find the him) greet him with amazing news about his son**
- **You can only imagine what is happening to his faith in all of this!**
- **His belief in Jesus would only explode!**
- **We do not hear about this man after this, but I am guessing John gives us a clue about his ongoing growth in his belief in Jesus...**

And he himself believed, and all his household.

What a wonderful reminder...

- **The journey of believing**
- **The growing of our faith**
- **The faithfulness of Jesus to respond to the ask brought about in faith and trusting in the word of Jesus.**

John 4:54

This was now the second sign that Jesus did when he had come from Judea to Galilee.

This was no small thing.

John acknowledges this fact.

Maybe this was not as “big” of a miracle as making water into wine, but to this man, it was a MUCH bigger deal.

This was the life of his son!

The official believed without seeing... and he was not disappointed.

Are you praying for a breakthrough this morning?

PRAYER