

**The Samaritans' focus was their EDUCATION from Jesus**

Despite cultural hatred between the 'half-breed' Samaritans and the full-blooded Jews, Jesus shows God's universal love for all people by spending two days in Sychar (John 3:16). This important lesson for the disciples showed them the power of God's word in changing people's lives. *God's word is the only miracle people need and should be the priority for everyone with ears to hear and hearts to obey* (Acts 19:9, 10; 28:30, 31; Heb. 4:12)! As Jesus fixed their theology and showed them God's love, the Samaritans didn't need, or want, anything else but God's truth. Then, as Jesus gets ready to leave, they appreciate his ministry to them. *Never take for granted the people God uses to speak God's word, because some moments and people of God never return* (John 5:35; Acts 20:36, 37)!

**The Galileans' focus was their EXPERIENCE with Jesus**

Jesus travelled north to Cana where he did his first miracle. The Galileans were happy to hear him teach but were waiting for his next 'show.' Disappointed in their reaction to his preaching, he rebukes them for their lack of faith, saying unless 'you' (Gr. is plural) see 'wonders' you'll never believe. *What God has done in the past is enough to believe in the present and have faith for the future!* One reason God doesn't do continual miracles or give intense emotional moments is it trains us to be reliant on our feelings *about* Him rather than our faith *in* Him. *God's presence in us is based on His promise to us* (Matt. 28:20; John 14:23; Heb. 13:5, 6). Most of our problems in our walk with God isn't His lack of interaction with us but our lack of intention toward Him. *You will feel closest to God when you focus on being close to God* (Is. 55:6, 7; James 4:8)!

**The official's focus was his FAITH in Jesus**

In the crowd, a Roman official begs Jesus to heal his son, who was near death, 20 miles away in Capernaum. Ironically, Jesus then honors the faith of a Gentile and heals his son without seeing him. The man leaves for home believing in Jesus' word without evidence or a sign. God can and still does miracles, but our faith isn't in the miracles being done but the Miracle-maker doing them. Regardless of what God does or doesn't do, we can trust our faithful God. *Our feelings can deceive us, but our faith will lead us!*