

**GOSPEL OF JOHN  
A STORY OF FAITH  
JOHN 4:43-54**

**Introduction**

Here we find **the story of one man's faith. Each of us that are saved this morning have at least one story of faith.** In order to be saved, God requires us to exercise faith in what the Lord Jesus Christ has done for us!

While our stories may be different in many ways leading up to our placing our faith in Christ, nevertheless **our story of salvation is a story of faith!**

*Romans 5:1 - "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"*

*Hebrews 11:6 - "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."*

But even after we come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, **we are called from that point forward to live our lives by faith!**

We must also realize that **there are going to be times when our faith is going to be put to the test.**

*James 1:2-4 - "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; [3] Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. [4] But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."*

**So what is faith? Faith is the underlying confidence in God that 1) He has done all He said He has, 2) is all He said He is, and 3) will do all He said He will.**

This morning as we continue our series through the Gospel Of John, we find the next event in Christ's life which immediately followed Jesus' meeting with the Samaritan Woman at the Well.

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This is the story of a nobleman with a sick son who was near the point of death. Like so many Bible Stories, **it is a story of faith.** And like so many stories recorded in Scripture, **this story challenges us all to greater faith.**

Most of us this morning could probably share some story about something that is going on in our lives right now that is requiring faith and dependance upon the Lord.

We or maybe someone near and dear to us may have some need that only God can help with. It might be a physical need or it might be a spiritual need in our lives or in the life of someone close to us that we are having to take to the Lord. It might be something else!

Whatever your need is this morning, I think this story can be a help. Let's look at our text and the matter of this nobleman's faith and how it can help us!

**I. WE SEE HIS FAITH TESTED! (Vs. 46-50a)**

*Vs. 46* – Jesus returns to Cana in Galilee, the same place where He had recently turned water into wine.

Jesus is about to have an encounter with this man who is called a "nobleman". The term "nobleman" suggests that he was some sort of government official.

He could have been a member of the court of King Herod...we're not told. But, it appears that the man was probably a man of means. He had servants, and if he was working for Herod it was probably a profitable position that he had!

But this nobleman had a problem! He had a very sick son!

Even those who may be rich and famous or otherwise influential are not exempt from having problems?

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They get problems just as much as we do!  
*Job 5:7—“Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward.”*

*Job 14:1—“Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. “*

The Son of this nobleman was in Capernaum, which was between 20-25 miles away.

**Vs. 47** – When the nobleman heard that Jesus was that close by, **he came to Jesus**. Notice he didn’t send a servant. He came personally.

When we have problems it is always nice to have people praying for us. I know that I appreciate it when others tell me that they are praying for some need that I have.

But let’s remember this. If we want God’s help, we can and should come to Him personally. If we know Jesus as our Savior, we can come to Him anytime, anyplace, and anywhere! (*James 4:8*)  
*Psalms 55:22 - “Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.”*

*Philippians 4:6-7 - “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. [7] And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”*

*Hebrews 4:15-16—“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”*

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When the nobleman came to Jesus, it says here in **verse 47** that “*he besought him that he would come down, and heal his son: for he was at the point of death.*” Look at what Jesus told him in **vs. 48**.

Have you ever noticed that sometimes when we have problems, things get worse before they get better?

It is the like the man who was having problems, and a friend said, “*Cheer up, things could be worse!*” So he cheered up, and sure enough, things got worse!

Sometimes God allows our faith to be tested even more!  
Such was the case with the nobleman. Things immediately got worse.

**Vs. 48** – This statement could easily have come across as somewhat of a blow to the nobleman. What Jesus says may even seem cruel to some.

And notice that Jesus made his response not just to the nobleman but to all that were gathered around.

The Jews were constantly looking for “**signs**” or proofs from Jesus before they would believe on Him. They wanted to see Him physically perform a miracle.

The nobleman wanted Jesus to go physically with him to Capernaum and heal his son. That would have been a sign.

Jesus was saying to the crowd and to the nobleman, “*I want you to believe on me, even if I don’t give you a sign.*”

We can get like that sometimes. The moment we pray about a problem, we look for **signs** that God is actually going to answer the prayer.

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So one moment we are “*up*”, because we see a sign, and the next moment we are “*down*” because we don’t see a sign that God is answering our prayers. **We need to believe that God will answer no matter what the signs.**

The nobleman, though, was persistent! He did not let up! Look at vs **49**. This was a desperate situation in this man’s life! It was his child’s life that was at stake!

Jesus says in *Matthew 7:7-8*–“*Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: [8] For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.*”

Those words in *Matthew 7:7* actually mean “*Keep on asking, keep on seeking, keep on knocking.*” We should be persistent in our prayers to the Lord too!

Remember that on another occasion there was a centurion, a Roman soldier, who approached Jesus about the healing of his servant. He didn’t need a sign.

He said in *Matthew 8:8-9*– “*...Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. [9] For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.*”

Jesus was impressed with the faith of the centurion and ***Matthew 8:10*** says, “*When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.*”

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And of course, the centurion’s servant was healed.

*Matthew 8:13* - “*And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.*”

**We shouldn’t look for signs when we pray. We should just trust that Jesus will answer our prayer! His answer may not be what we want, but he will answer!**

Now back to this nobleman.

**Vs. 49** – It didn’t matter what Jesus said, he realized that Jesus was his only hope. But at this point he still thought Jesus needed to come heal his son in person. “*Sir, Come down ere my child die.*”

Jesus then tests his faith a little further. (***Vs 50a***)

The nobleman obviously believed Jesus could help his son if he were to come to him, but now he is asked to believe that Jesus could make his son whole without ever even seeing him!

*WE SEE HIS FAITH TESTED*

**II. WE SEE HIS FAITH TRUSTING! (Vs. 50)**

Jesus now shows what he means about believing without a sign. **Jesus simply gave His word.**

Jesus said, “*Go thy way way; thy son liveth.*” Jesus had healed the boy without going to Capernaum.

In response, the nobleman’s lay aside all of his asking Jesus to come to Capernaum, and **he simply took Jesus at His Word.**

**This man simply trusted the Word of Jesus.** Can you do that? **That is what faith is. It trusts that what God says He will do, He will do!**

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**Trusting faith is often what is missing in our prayers. We leave out the believing that God will answer. God does not answer faithless prayers!**

*Mark 11:24 - "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."*

We sing the song "Trusting Jesus" written by E. Page and Ira D. Sankey, (*Hymn #232* in our *All American Church Hymnal*) that says:

*Simply trusting every day,  
Trusting through a stormy way;  
Even when my faith is small,  
Trusting Jesus, that is all.*

*Brightly doth His Spirit shine  
Into this poor heart of mine;  
While he leads I cannot fall;  
Trusting Jesus; that is all*

*Singing if my way is clear,  
Praying if the path be drear;  
If in danger for Him call;  
Trusting Jesus, that is all.*

*Trusting Him while life shall last,  
Trusting Him till earth be past;  
Till within the jasper wall:  
Trusting Jesus, that is all.*

*Trusting as the moments fly,  
Trusting as the days go by;  
Trusting Him whate'er befall,  
Trusting Jesus, that is all.*

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**Can you trust Jesus to do what He says He will do for you?**

*WE SEE HIS FAITH TESTED*

*WE SEE HIS FAITH TRUSTING*

**III. WE SEE HIS FAITH TRIUMPHANT! (Vs. 52-53)**

**When our faith is in the Lord and we trust what God says in His Word, there is always victory!**

Sometimes the victory may be a positive answer to our prayers. We know God sometimes chooses to help us solve our problems.

Sometimes God puts us in His waiting room and we have to wait for the answer. Those times are additional tests of our faith!

And then there are the times when we will not see the answer we want, but even then God will give us the grace to triumph through the difficult times. **(2 Corinthians 12:7-10)**

*Romans 5:3-5- "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; [4] And patience, experience; and experience, hope: [5] And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."*

In our story the Nobleman experiences triumphant faith.

**Vs. 51** – The Nobleman's servants actually started out to find their master with the good news! The son had been healed! The fever was gone!

I'm sure the Nobleman was overjoyed, but I don't think that he was surprised! After all, he was trusting Jesus at His word!

**Vs. 52** – The Nobleman was curious. When did the boy start to heal? The time was stated.

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*Vs. 53* – The boy was healed at the same hour as Jesus had said “*Thy son liveth*”.

Jesus healed a boy 25 miles away without going to see him.  
He simply spoke the Word, and the boy was healed.

The result was that the Nobleman and his household believed. They believed in Jesus as the Messiah. **The man’s faith led to more faith.**

This should be our pattern as well. **We trust God for a solution to our problem. God solves our problem for us. This should lead us to trust God all the more the next time a problem arises.**

So let your faith build. When you are confronted with a problem, think of those times when God has answered your prayers previously and delivered you. **Build on your past faith by trusting him for a solution this time.**

Let us learn from this story of faith.

**Conclusion**

God’s Word says that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Have you believed that? Have you come to Him for that Spiritual life that we all so desperately need? If not, come today and we’ll show you how you can have His eternal life!

Believer, how is your faith in God and His Word? I’ve heard it said that a **faith that cannot be tested is a faith that cannot be trusted.**

**Are you going through some times right now where your faith in God’s Word is being tested? Have faith in God! He is true to His Word!**