**The Gospel of John:**

**A Second Sign**

*John 4:46-54*

***John 4:46-54****—Therefore He came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a royal official whose son was sick at Capernaum.****47****When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and was imploring Him to come down and heal his son; for he was at the point of death.****48****So Jesus said to him, “Unless you people see signs and wonders, you simply will not believe.”****49****The royal official said to Him, “Sir, come down before my child dies.”****50****Jesus said to him, “Go; your son lives.” The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and started off.****51****As he was now going down, his slaves met him, saying that his [[i](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john+4&version=NASB1995" \l "fen-NASB1995-26208i" \o "See footnote i)]son was living.****52****So he inquired of them the hour when he began to get better. Then they said to him, “Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.”****53****So the father knew that it was at that hour in which Jesus said to him, “Your son lives”; and he himself believed and his whole household.****54****This is again a second sign that Jesus performed when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.*

**Context**

Jesus has returned again to Cana of Galilee where He earlier miraculously turned water to wine. In our text this morning, He likewise performs another miracle of healing a royal official’s son. Where true belief in Him should have been demonstrated because of His miraculous power, they simply desire to see more miracles. Jesus is viewed by the Galileans as nothing more than a miracle worker—certainly not the Messiah. Sadly, in so many situations, one can see signs and wonders, but still be caught up in unbelief.

**2 ways to respond to unbelief**

1. **Unbelief confronted**
2. This Royal official implores Jesus to come  
     
   1. He likely knew of Jesus’ power through:
   1. the prior miracle in Cana (2:1-11)
   2. the miracles in Jerusalem at the feast (2:23-25)
   3. others who witnessed them

2. He travels 16 miles

3. He likely served Herod Antipas, tetrarch of Galilee (4BC to 39AD)

4. Antipas was the son of Herod the Great

1. Urgency motivates him to act

***was imploring***—indicates that he repeatedly begged Jesus to cure his son’s disease.

1. Necessity humbles him

This man was a royal official. He is begging a carpenter’s son for help.

**James 4:6**—*But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”*

[His son] **was at the point of death**—one can understand the desperation and willingness to do whatever to save his son.

1. His understanding of Jesus was limited  
     
   1. He thought Jesus had to be present to heal.  
   2. He thought Jesus might be able to heal his son; he had no knowledge that Jesus could raise his son from the dead.
2. Jesus responds to the Galileans with a rebuke  
     
   **John 4:48**—*So Jesus said to him, “Unless you people see signs and wonders, you simply will not believe.”*

The peoples understanding of Jesus’ miracle powers was not to validate His words/works regarding salvation. They simply saw it as physical relief (for the individual) or a show (for the crowd). Jesus was clearly troubled by their wrong thinking.

1. **Unbelief conquered**
2. Jesus does not agree to go back to Capernaum
3. Jesus does heal his son—miraculously and instantaneously
4. The man believes Jesus—with no immediate confirmation
5. The man hears from his servants the good news
6. The outcome: the man believes Jesus (this time in salvation) along with all his household

**Acts 11:14**—*and he will speak words to you by which you will be saved, you and all your household.*

**Acts 16:15**—*And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us.*

**Acts 16:31-34**—*They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”****32****And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house.****33****And he took them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household.****34****And he brought them into his house and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, having believed in God with his whole household.*

**Acts 18:8**—*Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his household, and many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized.*

**Application**

* Where are you in your faith?
* Does your faith translate not only to you but also to your household?
* Do I just want Jesus to do the miracles for me and then fade into the background until He’s “useful” again to me?
* Does the evidence of my belief in Jesus translate to every aspect of my life?

**Philippians** 1:21—*For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*

* Affliction is life is common. Where do you turn when we need help and comfort?