

The Second Sign – Healing of a Nobleman’s Son

Signs

Semeion say-mi'-on from Semaino see-mah'-ee -no - to signify a legal term used in evidence or a scientific term used in a proof

2nd sign John 4:46-54 - Healing a nobleman's son

Healing a Nobleman's Son

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 miraculous signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe." **49** The royal official said, "Sir, come down before my child dies."

50 Jesus replied, "You may go. 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, "The fever left him yesterday at the seventh hour."

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 all his household believed.

54 This was the second miraculous sign that Jesus performed, having come from Judea to Galilee.

(John 4:46-54)

The man here was a Nobleman - literally "A king's man" (from the court of King Herod), not a peasant or fisherman. He evidently was a powerful man. Even at this early time, Herod was no fan of Jesus, since Jesus had just caused so much trouble with the money changers at the temple at Jerusalem.

Capernaum was at least 20 miles distance from Cana. Regardless of whether he walked or rode, this was a significant distance for the man to travel. Also, he addressed Jesus as "Sir" (Lord was not an option at first meeting). This tells us that even though the man had legal authority, he was submitting to Jesus. Evidently he was serious in his request for help and belief that Jesus could help him. He may have seen Jesus as his last hope, so he humbled himself, swallowed his pride and acted, without regard to what others (fellow Jews and those in Herod's court) might say. He was in need and neither situation nor convention stopped him from seeking out Jesus' help.

It is interesting to see how this man responded to Jesus' rebuke in front of others. What Jesus said was almost unbelievable...

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

Evidently the man would not be put off, because he replied:

"Sir, come down before my child dies."

The words he used indicate "My Little Boy". The man was in great anguish and pain.

50 Jesus replied, "You may go. Your son will live."

Although the man's son was miles away, Jesus knew that by speaking the words, the man's son would be healed. Distance is no barrier for the power of Christ.

There is no way of knowing whether Jesus was testing the faith of the Nobleman. However the man's response showed great faith.

The man took Jesus at his word and departed.

Once again, strong faith is exhibited. How many of us would have asked for confirmation? Remember what Jesus said to Thomas John (20:29) "blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Did the man go with joy, or doubt and worry? The scripture doesn't say, I would doubt and you might doubt, too, and I think he may have worried, also, but he went.

Is Faith worrying, or is Faith Going?

Because, regardless of worry, the nobleman went.

Faith is not what you feel. It is what you do.

And then he met his servants on his way home. What an exciting encounter! The servants met this man with the glorious news, "Your son is living" -- the very same words Jesus had used to the father. Immediately he checked the hour when it happened. When it dawned on him that at the precise moment when Jesus had said to him, "Go; your son lives," the fever suddenly left the boy and he began to mend, there broke upon him a new realization, not of what Jesus could do, but of who he was, that he had authority over all illness, that he was not limited by distance or time, that he had power in areas beyond the knowledge and reach of men.

When the man understood that, "he believed, and all his household with him." This is the same word for belief that was used of him before, but now it is used at a much higher level -- a trust that God was at work and would work out this matter in ways that he could not anticipate.

For many years, Tom Landry, the coach of the Dallas Cowboys was on the board of Trustees of Dallas Theological Seminary. The chairman of that board once said that he had heard Coach Landry say something that he will never forget. Landry said, "The job of a coach is to make men do what they don't want to do, in order to achieve what they really want." That is what Jesus did in this miracle and what he does for us. He puts us through circumstances we do not want to go through; he makes us face things we do not like to face, in order to achieve what we have wanted with all our hearts all along. To do so requires the strengthening of faith.

The Sign of the Second Miracle:

- The Glory and Power of God and of His Son are not limited by physical presence or closeness.
- As a result of the nobleman's testimony, his whole household believed. His own faith was strengthened and the event is great affirmation of the power of Jesus. We too, should tell others of the things Christ does for us in our lives.
- As a result of the first miracle, Jesus' Disciples believed. In this case, The Nobleman and his whole household believed.
- Faith is action. It may be about other things, but faith's encouragement: is one thing this miracle is all about.
- The miracle teaches us that we need to be encouraged in our faith, and ready to trust the Lord for the circumstances in which we find ourselves each day. We need to remember that he is responsive, but not always in the way we ask. We need to realize that it is because he sees more clearly than we do.