

JESUS AND THE DESPERATE DAD
Miracle Worker Series
JOHN 4:43-54
S-1676

Last week Glenn and I began a series entitled *The Miracle Worker*. John included eight faith-building miracle signs in his gospel. His goal, and ours, is to strengthen the faith of those who already believe and to help those who are struggling with doubts to reach the point where they are able to surrender in faith their lives to Him.

•SLIDE #: John 20:30-31: *Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*
John hopes to point the way for us to enjoy the abundant life of Christ through believing in His name

STORY: Man out driving his new Mercedes convertible. Top down, enjoying the scenery as he cruised briskly around the mountain highway. Wondered how impressive he looked in his new car. Imagined all else were envious of him.

Approaching a curve, driver coming, stuck his hand out window and waved to Mercedes. As they passed the man in the other care yelled, "Pig! Pig!"

How rude thought Mercedes man; he is just jealous—driving that old dilapidated car of his. He just wishes he had a car like mine—but he doesn't have to call me a pig.

He rounded the curve to find the biggest pig he ever saw standing right in middle of his lane. Moments later he had no Mercedes.

Signs must be properly communicated and understood or they aren't worth very much.

•SLIDE #: John's first selected sign was changing the water to wine at the marriage feast in Cana.

•SLIDE #: The Second Sign Is The Healing Of The Royal Official's Son In Cana.

•SLIDE #: John 4:43-45: After the two days he left for Galilee. 44(Now Jesus himself had pointed out that a prophet has no honor in his own country.) 45 When he arrived in Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him. They had seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, for they also had been there.

Over a year since His last sign miracle in Cana where He turned the water into wine. Been to Jerusalem for the Passover and back.

Christ presents Himself as the Son of God, and of course, that will meet face to face with unbelief. It's not as easy as going around saying, "I am the Son of God," and having everyone automatically believe. It's not that easy.

Prophet with out honor.

Put preachers on pedestals.

Preach a great sermon. My kids don't put me on a pedestal. They don't care if I preach a good sermon or not.

Here is a secret: My wife does not put me on a pedestal.

Preached on Sunday am. Feeling good, counseled on way home—helped people

Came home: Where have you been: What took you so long! Brie crying, dinner burning. Bronwyn

just messed her pants! Here you change it.
I thought, Yes, a prophet is without honor in his own country.

•SLIDE #: John 4:46-47: 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.

•SLIDE #: Cinderella Man: depression times Watered-down milk.; boxer to make money. Injured. Shift work. Makes comeback.
Radio interview: What are you fighting for?" "Milk."

The man who came to Jesus at Cana was a royal official. The word βασιλικος, is related to the word for king. He was from Capernaum, where King Herod had his palace. In fact, we know that he was the manager of King Herod's person estate.

His son (ύιος) was sick with a fever (v.52).
He was at the point of death. Describe boy getting sick!

No penicillin: Grover Cleveland's son rubbing blister playing tennis. Three days later died of infection.

The man had some means, for he had servants. He was rich with great influence. Yet neither his rank nor riches were able to exempt him from the common sorrows of mankind.

The rich have their troubles as well as the poor.

No doubt he had tried every remedy which money could produce. But money is not almighty. Many invest it with an imaginary value that it is far from possessing.

He couldn't buy healing. There are many things money can't buy.

Money can buy a lovely king size bed - but it can't buy sleep... Buy beautiful three story mansion on four acres of land; but it can't buy a home... Buy companionship all over the world; but it can't buy you one close friend... books; but not brains... buy crucifix, but not a Savior... buy a church building; but can't even purchase a down payment on Heaven... buy medicine, but fails to guarantee health!

4:47 - verb means, "He was begging Jesus over and over again."

If it weren't for a dying son he would never have bothered with Jesus. There was little or no sense of spiritual need in the man's heart. He went to Jesus as a desperate attempt to save his son's life.

But, I guess he had at least a little faith. He walked 20 miles from Capernaum to Cana.

Sorrow came to his house, and it was God's angel in disguise.

You may be in trouble this day. If so, I pray that affliction may be the black horse upon which mercy shall ride to your door.

•SLIDE #: John 4:48: "Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe."

Harold Bermel was driving through Amish country in Pennsylvania when passed an Amish couple driving a horse and buggy.

Son's curiosity was stirred: "Why do they use horses instead of automobiles.

I explained that the Amish did not believe in automobiles.

After a few moments, grandson asked, "But, can't they see them?"

Jesus delivered a rebuke. Seems rather harsh, but, not in terms of Christ's purpose.

Nobleman interested in getting son healed. Jesus is more interested in finding people of faith. The life He has to give is eternal.

The boy is going to die again.

•SLIDE #: Luke 18:8: However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

•SLIDE #: John 4:49-50: 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.

The father was obviously irritated by what seemed to him an unnecessary discussion of the niceties of faith. His boy was dying and he needed help.

On his first plea he had used the word "son"; now he used the diminutive word παιδιον, "my little child", my dear one. Perhaps the picture of a little child would better touch the heart Jesus.

Glimpse of reality tucked in here.

Most of us have in mind a full life for our children. We never plan or think of the loss of our children. Go to cemetery. Look over the graves... Look at dates of birth and death. You'll be amazed at how many die before reaching adulthood.

First grave ever dug on earth was not dug for a Father. It was dug for a son.

The young die, and they die often. There is no guarantee. James: "Life is a vapor." This boy was just about to become a puff of smoke and this father was pleading for his life.

Funerals - people chosen by God to lose their children.

Jessie

Buck and Jessie Mae Craven - "take me home from party."

Bill and Valerie Chapman - Buddy's heart problems.

David and Barbara Nicholson - rode tricycle in to pool

Ruth and Earl Moore - Tina with cancer at 16

Danny and Carol Willingham - Sarah

Hector and Dawn Martin - Pablo Tebaqui

Jon and Rene Heiden - Adam, "My head hurts."

"Go your way, your son will live."

While Christ was talking, His power was 20 miles away touching that boy

It was about twenty miles from Cana to Capernaum. The father could have arrived home the same day. 20 miles /3 mph be home in 7 hours. Miracle occurred at 1:00 p.m. Could have been home by 8:00 p.m. but he spent the night in Cana.

His confidence in the Lord, however, seems to have been so secure that he did not hurry. Perhaps he was tired and hungry. Perhaps he stopped for rest and refreshment. There was no need for breakneck speed. All was well.

It is the next day.

•SLIDE #: John 4:51-53: 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.

Dad compared notes with his servants. "When did he start to get better?" he said.

"It was yesterday at the seventh hour", they said – at one o'clock in the afternoon, the precise hour in which Jesus had said to him, "Thy son lives."

There is a higher faith now than before. Progression of faith.

•SLIDE #: First, in verse 47, he believed if Jesus could get there he could heal the lad. Believed the miracle.

Second, in verse 50, he believed the word of Jesus.

And now, in verse 53, he believes in Jesus. And his whole house believed with him.

This is the final step of full faith.

•SLIDE #: John 4:54 This was the second miraculous sign that Jesus performed, having come from Judea to Galilee.

•SLIDE #: WHY DID JOHN CHOOSE THIS MIRACLE AS A SIGN FOR BELIEF?

•SLIDE #: 1. This Miracle Is A Companion To The First Sign. Jesus Is Surely The Savior For All Times.

The story begins by telling us that "Jesus came again into Cana, of Galilee, where he made the water wine (John 4:46). It ends with the remark, "This is again the second miracle that Jesus did, when he was come out of Judea into Galilee" (v. 54).

Quite clearly, this is John's way of telling us that we are to put the two miracles – that of changing water into wine and that of healing the nobleman's son – side by side. In other words, we are to compare them.

•SLIDE #: Both miracles contain an initial rebuke to the one who requested it. In the first case it was to Mary. Jesus' mother (2:4). In the second it was to the nobleman (4:48).

In each case Jesus performed the miracle at a distance, doing nothing but speaking a word (2:7, 8; 4:50).

Next, the servants possessed unique knowledge of what happened (2:9; 4:51).

Finally, each account concludes with a statement that certain persons who knew of the miracle believed. This, in the earlier story we are told that "his disciples believed on him" (2:11), while in the second narrative we are told that the father "believed and his whole house" (4:53).

•SLIDE #: Yet the significant point of the comparison is not in the similarities, but in their one great difference. Wedding of joy, festivity, and happiness.

Deathbed of sorrow.

In comparing the two we are clearly to see that life is as filled with the one as the other and that Jesus is more than equal to either occasion.

If we invite Him into our times of happiness, He will increase our joy. If we call on Him in our times of sorrow, anxiety, or bereavement, He can bring consolation, comfort, and a joy that is not of this world.”

•SLIDE #: 2. John Intended To Emphasize That Believing Is Seeing—Not Vice-Versa

The world even has it in a proverb, which says, “Seeing is believing.”

The teaching of Jesus was that in spiritual things, the order is reversed and that believing is seeing, for it is only as one believes in Jesus that he sees spiritual things happening.

John Bisagno describes a time when his daughter, Melody Jan, age five, asked for a doll house. He promptly nodded and promised to build her one, then went back to reading his book.s

Soon he glanced out the window and saw her arms filled with dishes, toys and dolls making trip after trip until she had a great pile of playthings in the yard. He asked his wife what Melody Jan was doing.

“Oh, you promised to build her a doll house, and she believes you. She is just getting ready for it.”

“Felt like I was hit with an atom bomb. Immediately built her a doll house. Why? Because I wanted to? She deserved it? No, I gave her my word and she believed it.”

•SLIDE #: 3. True Faith Increases Incrementally Toward Faith In His Person.

Sister Serafina was on a mission to the Apache Indians. She was so excited that she drove past the last gas station without noticing that her gas gauge was on “empty.” She ran out of gas about a mile down the road and had to walk back to the station. The attendant told her that he would like to help her but he had no container to hold the gas.

“Can’t you find anything at all?”

He agreed to search through an old shed out back to see if he could find something that might suffice. “It is not the best,” he said, “but I found an old bed pan that just might do the trick.

She carried the bed pan full of gasoline back to her car being careful not to spill an ounce.

A truck driver pulled along side the car as the nun was emptying the bed pan into her tank.

He rolled down his window and yelled, “I wish I had you faith, Sister.”

Apostles themselves exclaim, “Lord, increase our faith” (Luke 17:5).

There Are At Least Four Different Levels Of Faith And Belief.

•SLIDE #: 1. Some Unbelief Will Not Believe Anything, Anytime, Anyway.

These are the Jews in Jerusalem. They said no to all of it. They concluded that what Christ did He did by the power of Satan.

A man was walking along the beach when he came upon a man and his dog playing in the surf.

“Watch this!” the dog owner said. He tossed a piece of driftwood far out into the sea and the dog immediately ran on top of the water, fetched the wood and brought it back.

The beach walker shook his head in disbelief. The dog owner repeated the procedure twice.

Finally, the dog owner asked, “Well, what did you think of that!”

The man thought a moment and said, “Your dog can’t swim, can he?”

•SLIDE #: 2. Some Faith Rests in Miracles.

This is bottom rung of unbelief.

Some demand to see the works of Christ before they will believe. They won't believe until they see God do a magic trick!

Jesus to Thomas: "You saw and believed, but blessed are they who have not seen and yet believe."

•SLIDE #: 3. Some Faith Matures To Respond To The Words of Christ.

Some people want to hear what He has to say.

This is illustrated with the woman at the well. John 4:17. She said that because he told her all she ever did. That was convincing. 4:29: "I am Messiah," and she believed Him. His words were convincing.

4:41-42 - "Many more Samaritans believed because of His own words.

•SLIDE #: 4. Great Faith Needs Only The Beauty Of Christ's Person.

Some see Christ in all of His beauty and that brings them to salvation.

See this illustrated in John 1:29f. John the Baptist believed in Christ before Christ ever spoke a word or did a miracle. The glow of His personhood convinced John.

The person of Christ is magnetic. Walked up to disciples and said, "Follow me." They dropped nets and followed. Why did they follow? Someone else could have said, "Follow me," and they wouldn't have followed. Why did they drop all? He hadn't done any miracles yet. Why? It was the dynamic of his person.

For some people who can see Christ in all of His glory, that's enough.

Wouldn't you like to move to the faith level of simply loving the Person of Christ?

Was it the beautiful pure person of Jesus Christ? See Him on cross?

Was it His words? Did you have to hear Him speak and talk about Heaven and Hell and Living Water and Bread that would satisfy? Did you hear Him talk about forgiveness and guilt? Did you read about all those promises and abundant life and eternal life and is that what convinced you to come to Christ?

Let's not make this too hard.

A twelve-year-old became a Christian. Later, one of his friends asked him about his experience.

"Did you see a vision? Did you hear God speak?"

The youngster answered, "No," to all those questions.

"Well how did you know you were saved?"

The boy searched for an answer and finally said, "It's like when you catch a fish, you can't see the fish, or hear the fish; you just feel him tugging on your line. I just felt Jesus tugging on my heart."

Testimony: I came to Christ because I did not want to go to Hell. Low motive.

I serve Him now because I love Him.

It doesn't matter what your motive is, just come.

•SLIDE #: Luke 8:1-3: After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another,

proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, 2 and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; 3 Joanna the wife of Cuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.

By the way, in Luke 8:1-3 we discover that the desperate dad was named Chuza and that as a token of their appreciation, he and his wife, Joanna, gave money in support of Jesus and His ministry. Joanna heard the angles the morning of the resurrection of Christ.