

Believe His Word and Receive Your Blessings!**John 4:43-54**

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I. BIBLICAL CONTEXT AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1. Mark 6:1-6. **“Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son, and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?”** (v. 3).
2. Luke 4:14-30. “I tell you the truth, no prophet is accepted in his hometown” (v. 24).
 - a) **“Isn’t this Joseph’s son? ‘They asked.’”** (v. 22).
 - b) “All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. They got up, drove Him out of town, and took Him to the bow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw Him down the cliff. But He walked right through the crowd and went His way” (vv. 28-30).

Those who were closest to Jesus couldn’t believe what their own eyes have seen and their own ears have heard! When Jesus began to preach, teach and perform miracles, the people among whom He was born and grew up into adulthood couldn’t believe Him. Indeed, they were all amazed by His teaching! ***Yet, they didn’t believe the Truth He proclaimed!*** In fact, they were *enraged* by what they heard Him say! Indeed, they were all amazed by the miraculous power He possessed! By the miracles He performed. ***Yet, they couldn’t believe that God could use the boy who grew up in their town to do His Will! They had a hard time accepting Jesus as the Messiah!*** They said, **“Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Are not his sisters here with us?”** As we examine Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, we realize that His parents, brothers and sisters didn’t follow Jesus as the disciples did! Only after Jesus was Resurrected from the dead did His mother Mary and his siblings become part of the new believers (Acts 1:12-14).

Let us for a moment consider if we can relate to some aspects of these revelations in connection with our own Christian experience among our own family members.

1. Were your parents, siblings and friends excited by your conversion? Is everyone in your family or extended family inspired by your love for Christ?

2. Do your sisters, brothers, cousins or friends enthusiastically accept your invitation to come and visit your church?
3. What is the reaction of your siblings, cousins, uncles, aunties and friends when you start talking about Jesus?
4. If you are a parent, do you find it easy to lead your children to Christ?
5. If you are married, do you find it easy to persuade your spouse to come to church with you?

II. THE LESSON: John 4:43-54

*God sent His Son to radically transform the world; not to conform to it. **The Gospel of Jesus Christ is about radical transformation!** From regression to progression! From Sinfulness to Holiness! From being enslaved by evil to being free in Christ! From life in the darkness to life in the light! From the Carnal to the Spiritual! From Eternal Death to Eternal Life! **The Gospel of Jesus Christ is radically transformational! That is why people who are comfortable in their sinfulness resist the transformation!***

Let us now examine the verses.

1. **vv. 43-45:** Though the Galileans Welcomed Jesus, they didn't Believe in Him.

Even though the Galileans welcomed their home boy, they didn't accept His radical message of Truth. As a matter of fact, as we learned in Luke chapter 4, when Jesus preached the Truth, they responded violently against Him! Keep in mind Jesus was preaching to the Jews; not strangers! They would have been okay with Jesus if He had remained a carpenter! *Just because people invite you into their homes doesn't mean they will necessarily accept your message.* They may entertain you and chat with you about the weather, politics and the like. But as soon as you start talking about Jesus, they will let you know that you have overstayed your welcome! *Sometimes, hearing the Truth hurts! **Even church people can reject the Truth!** The Word of God has a way of exposing things we are trying to hide! **Even church people have a tendency to hold on to old wounds rather than surrender them to Christ and be healed!** People have a tendency of being comfortable with their old habits which are holding them down! *But the Word of God has come to expose them so that we can be liberated! **Even some church people reject the Truth so that they can continue to****

wallow in their old habits! Rather than accept the Word of Truth, they are comfortable with their old habits which are killing them slowly! Just because people are in the church doesn't mean they necessarily believe the radically transformative Word of Christ! ***Even though the Galileans welcomed Jesus, they didn't believe in Him!***

2. **vv. 46-48: The Outsider Sought Jesus while His own Rejected Him.**

In these verses, the Bible focuses on a man who is identified as “the royal official.” As you know, during the time of Jesus the Jews were under the rule of the Roman Empire. The word **royal** identifies the man as a Roman citizen who happens to have a royal blood. In addition, the word **official** lets us know that he is a man of authority. Another piece of information of great importance is that this “royal official” didn't reside in Nazareth; he lived in **Capernaum**. We know this because the Bible indicates that his son was in Capernaum and the man was begging Jesus to go with him there. Therefore, we can safely infer/conclude from this that the “royal official” came to Jesus because he believed that He could save his child. What we shouldn't miss here is the fact that:

- a) the Roman whose religion is idol worship *came down* to see Jesus. The “royal official” did what was not conventional in those days. He took a big risk by going to Jesus.
- b) the Roman official *travelled all the way* from Capernaum to meet Jesus. He put some *effort* which demonstrates his *inner conviction*.
- c) the Roman official with royal blood *humbled himself* before Jesus. In those days, people including the Jews humbled themselves before “royal officials.” ***This man humbled himself before Jesus!*** The Bible says in verse 47 that “he went to and **begged** Him to come and heal his son, who was close to death.”

On the other hand, the Jews from His hometown *rejected* Jesus!

3. **vv. 49-54: Because the Man Took Jesus at His Word, His Household got Saved!**

In verse 50, Jesus told the man to go home and that his son will live. And the Bible says that **“the man took Jesus at His word and departed.”** While the “royal official” was on his way to Capernaum, God affirmed and confirmed his faith! Because “the man took Jesus at His word,” the blessed him in several ways to strengthen his faith.

- a) **Verse 51:** Those who put their faith in Jesus learn that people get healed at His Word! Because the man took Jesus at His word, he learn that the Lord is a Healer! Jesus *affirmed* the man by letting him receive the Good News that his son lives even before he got home! Hallelujah! Those who believe in Jesus get saved!
- b) **Verse 52-53 (a):** When the man enquired exactly at what time his son got healed, they told the man that **“the fever left his son yesterday at the seventh hour.”** The man learned *it happened at the same time Jesus told him that “his son will live.”* The man learned that his son got healed at the same hour Jesus told him that his son shall live and not die! **In the process, his entire household learned that a miracles has happened! They learned that Jesus doesn’t need to leave Nazareth to heal the child in Capernaum!**
- c) **Verses 53(b)-54: Because the Man Believed, Salvation came into His Household.** As a Roman citizen and part of the royal family, the man had status and material resources at his disposal. Neither his royal status nor his material resources could save his son from the illness. Because the man sought Jesus, Salvation came into his household! Because the man believed, his son was healed! Because the man humbled himself before Jesus, **his entire household got saved!**

Today’s lesson *encourages us* to take Jesus at His Word! Sometimes, when the Word of Truth is preached to us, it may sting! But, if we accept and believe The Word, it will heal us! **We must accept Jesus at His Word! Believe His Word and Receive Your Blessings!**

III. CONCLUSION/APPLICATION

1. Did God affirm and confirm your faith?
2. Did you experience healing just because you believed in The Word?
3. Hold on to your faith! Accept Jesus at His Word!
4. Trust God and He will use you to bring Salvation to those closest to you!
5. Believe in His Word and Receive Your Blessings!