

THE CONFIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN

John 4:43-54

Introduction:

1. The Setting

A) Jesus leaves Samaria on His journey to Galilee (John 4:43)

> An incredible response to Jesus and His teaching in Samaria

B) John attributes an interesting statement to Jesus in this “transitional text”

> A prophet has no honor in his own country (John 4:44)

In fulfillment of John 1:11

> Who is Jesus referring to when He says, “His own country?”

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It would seem to be Judea, in sharp contrast to the Galilean response to Jesus (John 4:45)

Further insight into this distinction (John 7:1)

> But there is another potential understanding of what Jesus meant when

What is the distinguishing mark or characteristic of a prophet?

Why were the Samaritans excited to meet Jesus?

Why are the Galileans excited about? (John 4:45a)

The miracles that Jesus did (John 4:45, 46, 48)

The misleading nature of this kind of acceptance and belief (John 6:41-42)

2. The Story

A) There is a nobleman in Galilee who is aware of his need for Jesus

> His faith in Jesus is directly tied to his need – his son is very sick (John 4:46d)

> His hope – Jesus will come to Capernaum and heal his son (John 4:47a)

> His desperation – the life of his son is at stake (John 4:47b, 49)

B) Jesus' response to this man seems to lack compassion and is even a bit confusing. Why?

> There is a foundational problem with the Galilean's view toward Jesus

The signs and wonders are the foundation for and the focus of their belief (John 4:48)

This attitude toward Jesus has already been identified as problematic

It was a problem when Jesus performed "signs" in Jerusalem (John 2:23-25)

It will be a problem when Jesus performs another miracle in Galilee
(John 6:26-27, 60-66)

So what is the purpose of the miracles? (John 6:25-29)

C) Jesus' response reveals the heart of compassion and brings clarity to the issue

> Believe in Jesus before you see the miracle (John 4:50a)

Believe that Jesus had the power and authority to heal from a distance (Luke 7:1-10)

Believe Jesus' word – that his son was healed even though he could not verify it.

D) The Nobleman's response to Jesus and His word indicates a change in his heart

> He believed Jesus' words – evidenced by his actions (John 4:50b)

> He found that his faith in Jesus was well founded (John 4:51)

> The miracle of his son's healing verified the word and authority of Jesus (John 4:52-53a)

3. The Significance

A) The nobleman and his whole household believed (John 4:53a)

> How does this nobleman's "belief" differ from his previous belief? (John 14:8-11)

> What does it mean that his whole household believed? 16:30-34)

This understanding would fit in perfectly with John's purpose (John 20:31)

B) The nobleman had believed that the most important thing that Jesus could do was heal his son

> What Jesus came to do has far greater significance and impact (John 3:16-17)

> The nobleman's belief about Jesus had grown and in growing changed its focus