

HEALING THE NOBLEMAN'S SON

— Part 2 —

John 4

In the early days of our Lord's ministry, Jesus returned to Cana in Galilee – *i.e.* the place where He had performed His first miracle by turning water into wine. And it was also there that He performed His second miracle (*cf.* **verse 54**) – *i.e.* healing the nobleman's son.

As we began looking at this miracle last time, we saw ...

1. The circumstances.
 - a. The place – *i.e.* Cana and Capernaum.
 - b. The problem.
 - i. The extent of it – *i.e.* it was critical – the boy was about to die.
 - ii. The experiencing of it – *i.e.* the father and the son were affected.
 - iii. The effect of it – *i.e.* he realized his own insufficiency.
 - c. The plea – *i.e.* it was persistent and urgent.
2. The rebuke.

While this man is to be commended because he came to Jesus Christ, we saw that he did not come because he had a God-honoring faith that Jesus could really meet his need. Rather, he came out of desperation – *i.e.* Jesus was his last hope.

Therefore, Jesus rebuked him – notice ...

- a. The substance of it – *i.e.* it was “*ye will not believe*” (*cf.* **verse 48**).
- b. The consequence of it – *i.e.* there was a change of attitude.
- c. The failure of it – *i.e.* he believed the power/ability of Jesus was ...
 - i. Limited by distance.

However, had this man remembered the Scriptures, he would have known the power of God is NEVER limited by distance – in fact, the psalmist said in ...

Psalms 107:20 “He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.”

- ii. Limited by death.

He believed the common saying, “*As long as there is life, there is hope.*” But the fact is, with Jesus Christ, there is ALWAYS hope, regardless of the physical circumstances.

Now that is where we stopped last time – but let’s continue by noticing ...

III. The miracle.

We find three main points here that I would like for us to consider:

- A. The word spoken.

As we study the Bible, we see time after time the power of God’s Word. For example, at the beginning of the creation, we find in ...

Genesis 1:3 “And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.”

In fact, if you study it out, every thing that God made during the creation was made by the power of His Word – that is why the Apostle Paul wrote in ...

Hebrews 11:3 “Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”

1. In fact, the only exception – *i.e.* the only time God got His hands dirty – was when He created mankind.
2. The Bible says in ...

Genesis 2:7 “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life ...”

But – except for mankind – every that God created was created by the power of His Word.

When we consider this truth, it is even more amazing that, for most people, God’s Word is NOT enough – *i.e.* most people are like Naaman the leper. The Bible says that when Naaman came to the prophet in ...

2 Kings 5:10-11 “... [that] Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean. But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I

thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper.”

In other words, Naaman wanted some kind of show, worthy of his high position, to accompany his healing – but his choice was clear:

1. He could believe/obey God’s Word and be healed; or, ...
2. He could refuse to believe the Word of God and die in his leprosy.

Now Jesus gave that same choice to this nobleman in ...

Verse 50 “Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth ...”

And there are two things that we find here:

1. There was a command – *i.e.* go thy way.

As we have noted before in the previous miracles that we have studied, when Christ is about to bestow a miraculous blessing, He often times will give a command.

Charles Spurgeon was right when he noted, *“The command is to us the vehicle of the blessing.”*

2. There was a promise – *i.e.* thy son liveth.

In other words, that which was threatening to end his son’s life was no longer a problem – *i.e.* he had been immediately healed by the mighty power of God.

B. The word believed.

Verse 50 “... And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way.”

It should be noted here that our faith in the Word of God always result in our full and complete obedience to the Word of God. Therefore, trusting that what Jesus said to him was true, this nobleman ...

1. Turned around all by himself toward Capernaum.
2. Began to make his way back to his home.

NOTE: When this nobleman came to Jesus, he had planned it all out how Jesus would heal his son – *i.e.* Jesus would travel with him to Capernaum and there would be a great crowd who would physically witness the miracle.

1. But Jesus had a BETTER plan. Think about it ... if Jesus had followed the plan of the nobleman, it would have delayed the healing – *i.e.* the father's plan would have actually caused his son to suffer longer!
2. Far too often, a parent's lack of faith – *i.e.* an unwillingness to submit to the plan of God – can actually cause undue/unnecessary suffering for their children.

How much better it would be for everyone concerned, if we would learn to submit our way to the plan of God!

3. The gracious plan of Jesus was that the nobleman's son would be healed and his terrible suffering ended immediately! As one preacher said so very well, "*God's ways are ALWAYS the best ways for us.*"

Now this miracle took place at 1 PM – *cf.* **verse 52** – therefore, it was not possible for him to get back to Capernaum that day; he had to stop somewhere along the way and spend the night.

1. Now as a parent, I can only imagine that the nobleman most certainly tossed and turned all night long!
2. I am sure that Satan kept nagging him with questions of doubt:
 - a. "*Do you really think Jesus did what He promised?*"
 - b. "*Do you really think your son is still living?*"
3. Therefore, as the sun began to rise in the east, this man was up and preparing to get to his home as quickly as possible!

And it is was at this point that he saw ...

C. The word fulfilled.

1. The report of the servants.

Verse 51 “**And as he was now going down, his servants met him, and told him, saying, Thy son liveth.**”

Certainly, when he first recognized the men approaching him as being some of his own servants, he immediately imagined the worse – *i.e.* he just knew that they were coming to tell him that his son was dead.

We can only imagine the great joy that filled his heart – and the praises of God that crossed his lips – when he heard the news that his son was alive and well.

But have you ever received news that was so good that you had a hard time believing it was really true? Sure! So how did this nobleman know that his servants were telling him the truth?

2. The proof of the servants.

a. By their number.

Deuteronomy 19:15 “... at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.”

Verse 51 “... his servants met him, and told him ...”

It was not just one servant who brought the news – rather, it was “*servants*” (*i.e.* plural). Therefore, the nobleman knew that the testimony he heard was true!

b. By their relation.

Verse 51 “... his servants met him, and told him ...”

Notice, these were “*his servants*” – *i.e.* these were men from his own house. These were men ...

- i. Who he knew personally.
- ii. Who knew his son’s condition intimately.

And because of that relationship, he had confidence that their report would be a true report.

c. By their facts.

Even when we operate in faith, our faith is generally weak and so imperfect. Jesus had told the nobleman his son was healed (*cf.* **verse 50**) – *i.e.* it was immediate.

But because his faith was not all it should have been, the nobleman asked a question he already knew the answer to.

Verse 52 “Then enquired he of them the hour when he began to amend. And they said unto him, Yesterday at the seventh hour (*i.e.* 1 PM) the fever left him.”

There were two great fact that his servants declared to him:

- i. What had happened.

The nobleman asked what time his son started to “*amend*” – *i.e.* to get better/recover – but they replied that the fever had been instantly gone.

- ii. When it happened – *i.e.* at precisely 1 PM!

Verse 53 “So the father knew that it was at the same hour, in the which Jesus said unto him, Thy son liveth ...”

IV. The outcome.

Verse 53 “... himself believed, and his whole house.”

- A. His personal faith.

His faith in Jesus Christ had matured – *i.e.* his confidence in the person and the power of the Lord Jesus had grown deeper and fuller.

By the way, everything that our God allows to come into our lives is for this same purpose – *i.e.* it is designed so that our faith in Him might grow stronger.

- B. His family’s faith.

As the nobleman told his family about his meeting with the Lord Jesus – *i.e.* what Jesus had said and done – his whole family came to believe on the Lord Jesus.

This is very important – we need to be faithfully sharing with our families the things that God is doing in our lives. You need to let them know how our own faith has grown so that they might be brought to faith in our Savior.

Conclusion

May God help us to learn and apply the lessons we learn from this miracle:

1. That God’s Word has the power to meet our every need.
2. That God’s way is always better than our own way.
3. That God’s promises are always faithful and true.

As we see the reality of our God’s power/greatness, may our faith grow – and may we be faithful witnesses to other tell others of our Savior!