

John 4:43-54  
‘The Power of Jesus’ Part 3

After several readings of our text, I was struck by the question, “Why does God always have to be doing something for many to believe?”. For example, do we see prayer as an opportunity to simply be in conversation with God, to be in His presence? Like sitting down across from someone to have a conversation over a cup of coffee, expecting that person to do nothing for us in return, other than listen as we listen to that person. Or do we speak with God only when we want God to do something? Do we see worship as an opportunity to simply be in the presence of God/Jesus Christ? Do we view it as an opportunity to give to God/Jesus what’s due (praise, worship) without expecting anything in return? Or do we come not to give but only to receive? God forbid the music does not meet our tastes or the word given offends us. Are we like so many in Jesus’ day looking for a God that is always bringing about the miraculous in our lives? And like so many in Jesus’ day, when God fails to produce, when God does not meet our expectations we doubt God, or worst, we walk away from the faith. Does life with God always have to be exhilarating, filled with the miraculous, for us to continue to believe? Or are we content with God/Jesus Christ? That is to say, if God does not do another thing in our lives can we say God/Jesus has done enough? I want us to consider this today as we examine our text. With this said, I want to share two observations regarding the power of Jesus Christ drawn from this miracle story.

### **First, displays of Jesus' power do not guarantee belief. V43-48**

<sup>43</sup> Now after the two days He departed from there and went to Galilee. <sup>44</sup> For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country. <sup>45</sup> So when He came to Galilee, the Galileans received Him, having seen all the things He did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they also had gone to the feast. <sup>46</sup> So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum. <sup>47</sup> When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. <sup>48</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you *people* see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe." Church, what does it take for one to believe in Jesus Christ? We like to tell ourselves that if we lived in Jesus' day and had first-hand account like these people we would have believed. No. The truth is many have had first-hand experience with God's/Jesus' power and no sooner than the next challenge they don't believe. Many have prayed to God to do something miraculous or did not pray at all and God did the miraculous and they gave God praise in the moment but soon thereafter return to their unbelief. Truthfully, we would have been like most during that time. Like them, we would have welcomed the power but not the bearer of that power. Like them, we would have been moved by the miracles but not moved to the point of repentance and faith. Like them, we would have praised him at the beginning of the week and by the end of that week we would have been shouting with the crowd, "crucify him". I hear frustration in Jesus' voice hear. I hear him saying, "how much more do I have to do for you to believe?". "Unless

you *people* see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe.” So, what does it take for one to believe in Jesus? If miracles alone cannot bring one to faith. It takes God.

**Isaiah 42:6-8** ““I, the Lord, have called you to demonstrate my righteousness. I will take you by the hand and guard you, and I will give you to my people, Israel, as a symbol of my covenant with them. And you will be a light to guide the nations. <sup>7</sup>You will open the eyes of the blind. You will free the captives from prison, releasing those who sit in dark dungeons. <sup>8</sup>“I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not give my glory to anyone else, nor share my praise with carved idols.”

**Matt 16:13-17** “<sup>13</sup> When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” <sup>14</sup> “Well,” they replied, “some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.” <sup>15</sup> Then he asked them, “But who do you say I am?” <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup> Jesus replied, “You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being.”

**Acts 13:47-48** “<sup>47</sup> For the Lord gave us this command when he said, ‘I have made you a light to the Gentiles, to bring salvation to the farthest corners of the earth.’” <sup>48</sup> When the Gentiles heard this, they were very glad and thanked the Lord for his message; and all who were chosen for eternal life became believers.”

Make no mistake about it. We may be His agents, but God is the power. Miracles are powerful when they occur but unless God opens our eyes, our ears, and our hearts their true purpose will elude us. **V53**, “<sup>53</sup> So the father knew that *it was* at the same hour

in which Jesus said to him, “Your son lives.” And he himself believed, and his whole household.” Church, displays of Jesus’ power alone do not guarantee belief. It takes God.

**Second and final thing, his physical presence or lack thereof has no bearing on the potency of his power. V49-52**

“<sup>49</sup>The nobleman said to Him, “Sir, come down before my child dies!”  
<sup>50</sup>Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your son lives.” So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way. <sup>51</sup>And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told *him*, saying, “Your son lives!” <sup>52</sup>Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better. And they said to him, “Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.”

**How close, literally, to our situations does Christ have to be to bring about a change?**

This man initially felt that Jesus’ literal presence was necessary for the healing of his son for he cries out in anguish or maybe protest, “Sir, come down before my child dies!” As a little boy I remember the old folk would say in the country, “He may not come when you want him, but He is always on time!” I say, He does not have to come at all. Jesus can just speak it if he chooses to do so. For this man, Jesus chose to do so but it was not because he was obligated.

**If God chooses not to grant our petition does not mean He is not capable or that He does not care. When it comes to His power God/Jesus, alone, chooses the who, the when, the where, the what and the how.**

The potency of Jesus’ power is not tied to his physical presence or hindered by the lack thereof.

**Psalm 115:3** “Our God is in the heavens, and he does as he wishes.”

**Daniel 4:35** “All the people of the earth are nothing compared to him. He does as he pleases among the angels of heaven and

among the people of the earth. No one can stop him or say to him, ‘What do you mean by doing these things?’”

**Mark 8:11-12** “When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had arrived, they came and started to argue with him. Testing him, they demanded that he show them a miraculous sign from heaven to prove his authority. When he heard this, he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, “Why do these people keep demanding a miraculous sign? I tell you the truth, I will not give this generation any such sign.”

**Matt 8:6-10** <sup>6</sup> “Lord, my young servant lies in bed, paralyzed and in terrible pain.” <sup>7</sup> Jesus said, “I will come and heal him.” <sup>8</sup> But the officer said, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come into my home. Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed. <sup>9</sup> I know this because I am under the authority of my superior officers, and I have authority over my soldiers. I only need to say, ‘Go,’ and they go, or ‘Come,’ and they come. And if I say to my slaves, ‘Do this,’ they do it.” <sup>10</sup> When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. Turning to those who were following him, he said, “I tell you the truth, I haven’t seen faith like this in all Israel!”

The power of Jesus. Displays of his power alone do not always result in belief and his presence or lack thereof have no bearing on its potency. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**