

Theme: Jesus is the Sovereign Lord over all Who calls us to embrace Him in humble faith for Who He is, not for what we want Him to do for us.

I. Intro - The Dave Roevers Story

- A. Riverboat gunner in Vietnam; grenade explosion
- B. Horrible burns; tried suicide; sure Brenda would leave
- C. Watched another man's wife drop ring on bed & leave
- D. Brenda kissed him & said "I love you, welcome home"
- E. Today: why do people follow Jesus?
- F. Who is Jesus? What is real faith? How do we really welcome Jesus?

II. The Sign: Healing the Royal Official's Son

- A. Jesus leaves Samaria and goes home to Galilee
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 Festival, for they also had been there. John 4:43–45
 - 1. Jesus had stopped in Samaria - revival broke out!
 - 2. He did no signs in Samaria, but many believed
They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world." John 4:42
 - 3. This is the contrast with his home country Galilee
 - 4. In line with the prologue - John 1:10-11

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. John 1:10–11

- 5. The Galilean's welcome Him??
 - a. They had seen and approved of His actions in Jerusalem, especially cleansing the Temple
 - b. As we will see, this is a limited 'welcome'

B. A royal official comes to Him in Cana

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. John 4:46–47

- 1. Jesus is back in Cana - site of the first sign
- 2. A royal official hears about Jesus and comes to Him
- 3. His son is sick and he asks Jesus to come heal him
- 4. He is a powerful man, so there is humility in coming to Jesus and asking for healing

C. A shocking word and response

"Unless you people see signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe." ⁴⁹ The royal official said, "Sir, come down before my child dies." ⁵⁰ "Go," Jesus replied, "your son will live." The man took Jesus at his word and departed. John 4:48–50

- 1. Jesus' shocking reply about the people of Galilee
- 2. We will come back to why Jesus says this

3. The royal official's humble reply and request
4. Jesus' word of power - Go, your son lives!
5. Jesus declares He is so powerful distance is of no concern
6. Jesus does not say the son will get better - He says he lives NOW. This is a word of healing.
7. The royal official responds in simple faith and goes

D. The sign verified

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, "Yesterday, at one in the afternoon, the fever left him." 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 his whole household believed. John 4:51-53

1. The servants meet him - the boy lives!
2. He verifies it was exactly when Jesus spoke
3. This healing shows Jesus is the Sovereign King
Whose powerful Word creates, sustains, heals, and gives life.

III. The Reality: The Sovereign King

A. Jesus is the Sovereign King - not our attendant

(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 Festival, for they also had been there... ⁴⁸ "Unless you people see signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe." John 4:44-45, 48

1. Jesus said the Galilean's would not honor Him
2. This saying is in every single Gospel
3. Something was wrong with the Galilean's 'welcome'
4. The Samaritan's had received Jesus as Savior of all - based on His word, rather than miraculous signs
5. The Galilean's received Him for what He did rather than Who He was and what He said
6. This was why Jesus gave the strong rebuke in v48
7. Jesus constantly warns against sign-seeking faith
A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah."
Jesus then left them and went away. Matthew 16:4
 - a. Jesus proclaims this many times (Matthew 12:38-39; Luke 11:16)
 - b. This was why Jesus did not entrust Himself to the people in Jerusalem who had 'faith' only because of the signs He did.
 - c. The same thing happens in John 3, John 6, John 8
8. The problems with this kind of 'welcome' and 'faith'
 - a. This type of 'faith' treats Jesus not as the Sovereign King but as a Divine attendant Who exists to meet my needs and desires
Do you ever wonder just what God requires?
You think He's just an errand boy to satisfy your wandering desires.
When you gonna wake up, when you gonna wake up
When you gonna wake up and strengthen the things that remain ? (Bob Dylan)

b. This type of 'faith' only follows Jesus if He does what I want. If he does not meet my expectations, then I will no longer follow Him.

c. This type of 'faith' sits in judgment of Jesus and His Word. Rather than humbly submitting to Jesus and His Word, it tries to determine what is acceptable.

He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum. ⁶⁰ On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?" ⁶⁶ From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. John 6:59–60, 66

d. This type of 'faith' can be deceived into following those who do miracles, even if they are false prophets.

For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. Matthew 24:24

e. Ultimately, this type of 'faith' will follow whoever will meet its wandering desires.

B. The royal official: A picture of humble faith

1. The royal official is a picture of humility

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.

⁴⁸ "Unless you people see signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe." ⁴⁹ The royal official said, "Sir, come down before my child dies." John 4:47–49

- a. He shows humility in coming to Jesus - a royal official seeking out an itinerant rabbi
- b. He is not offended at Jesus' strong rebuke but humbly continues to seek Jesus for the healing.
- c. In this, He is like Mary and like the Canaanite woman.

d. Jesus is looking for those who are humble enough to realize their utter helplessness and need for Him.

e. Jesus is looking for those who will humbly receive His Word, even when it seems offensive and hard to understand.

2. The royal official is a picture of faith

"Go," Jesus replied, "your son will live." **The man took Jesus at his word and departed...** 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 his whole household believed.** John 4:50, 53

a. The man had nothing to go on but the bare word of Jesus, but that was enough for him.

b. Unlike those who refused to believe when Jesus no longer provided what they wanted and departed from following Him, this man departs because Jesus' Word alone is enough!

c. Paradoxically, because he is humble enough to simply embrace Jesus' Word in faith, He receives a miracle, and his whole family comes to faith.

d. Jesus is seeking those who will embrace His bare Word with faith, staking everything on Him.

IV. Applying the Word

A. How do I respond to Jesus?

1. Our pragmatic culture values what 'works' for us over what is true
2. This is why the prosperity Gospel has taken such deep root - my faith can get me my best life now!
3. We all crave health, wealth, success, acceptance
4. Do I want Jesus - or just what He can provide?

5. Does my 'welcome' of Jesus depend on Him giving me those things? What if He no longer gave them to me?
6. How do I respond if believing Jesus' Word costs rather than pays?
7. Consider the persecuted church - Jesus is their Sovereign Lord, not their Divine Bellhop!
8. Can I say with Job - 'though He slays me, yet will I trust Him!'?
9. Let the Spirit search your heart and reshape your desires

B. The Table of the King

1. We are invited to the Table of the King
2. Here we come to confess things that have eclipsed Him in our hearts
3. Here we come to feast, recognizing that He is more than enough!
4. Here we come to say "Give Me Jesus!"

The Sovereign King

John 4:43-54
 March 24, 2019
 Communion
 1 Timothy 1:17

Teaching keywords: Christology; Deity of Christ; Lent; miraculous gifts and signs; Sovereignty of God; Lordship; healing; faith; humility and pride

May you be blessed and cling in faith to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, to Whom be honor and glory for ever and ever. and God's people say 'Amen!' 1 Timothy 1:17

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⁵⁴ This was the second sign Jesus performed after coming from Judea to Galilee. John 4:43–54 NIV2011