

SUNDAY SCHOOL SPECIAL

13 June 2021

Text: John 4:46-54

Subject: Evangelism

Focus: Believing without signs and wonders

INTRODUCTION

1. Many struggles with the problem of believing in the Lord Jesus Christ
2. Common problems
 - a) Lack of knowledge
 - b) The problem of Sin
 - i) No recognition
 - ii) No repentance
 - c) Prejudices
 - d) Misgivings

THE STORY OF A NOBLEMAN IN CANA OF GALILEE

1. Cana is in Lower Galilee
2. The Lord Jesus had returned there from Judea
3. A nobleman sought the Lord Jesus to ask Him to heal his son in Capernaum
 - a) His son was at the point of death
 - b) He implored the Lord Jesus to go to Capernaum to heal him John 4:47
4. Cana was 26.5km from Capernaum

THE RESPONSE OF THE LORD JESUS

“Unless you people see signs and wonders,
you will be no means believe.” John 4:48

1. A word to the nobleman
2. A word to all who were there
 - a) “You” (Plural)

b) "You people" (translated)

John 4:48

3. What this Response does not mean

- a) It is not a response of irritation
- b) It is not a response of fatigue
- c) It is not a response of unwillingness
- d) It is certainly not a response of inability to help

4. What this Response means:

- a) Assessment
 - i) Accurate
 - ii) Astute
- b) A common problem
 - i) No belief unless
 - ii) Is this kind of "belief" good or even true?

THE RESPONSE OF THE NOBLEMAN

1. "Sir, come down before my child dies!"

John 4:49

2. What this statement means:

- a) He did not understand what the Lord Jesus was saying to him
 - i) About signs and wonders
 - ii) About believing only when there are signs and wonders
- b) All he was concerned about
 - i) The Lord Jesus must come
 - ii) His son would die otherwise

THE PLAIN WORD TO THE NOBLEMAN

1. "Go your way; your son lives"

John 4:50a

THE FAITH OF THE NOBLEMAN CONFIRMED

1. Knowledge

The father knew that it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him
“Your son lives” John 4:53a

- a) His faith in the Lord and His word was confirmed
- b) He must have been glad that he chose to believe when he did

2. Believing in the Lord

a) “He himself believed” John 4:53b

- i) A tentative faith becomes a firm one
- ii) A firm one becomes an even deeper one

b) And his whole household believed

- i) Initial faith
- ii) Genuine faith

ENCOURAGING THE SEEKING OF A GENUINE FAITH

1. There is Faith because of signs and wonders

2. There is Faith that exists without signs and wonders

3. Both are valid

4. But we are not able to do the following:

- a) Demand signs and wonders
- b) Determine them

5. The Challenge is to find a Genuine Faith that does not depend on signs and wonders

- a) God’s wisdom is to withhold the giving of signs and wonders
- b) Man’s wisdom is to understand and to build faith on God’s word

c) A faith that is not built on signs and wonders is a stronger/ deeper faith