



Community Bible Church
Sermon Discussion Questions: Mar 10, 2024
Pastor Ed Newton

Title: Believing is Seeing

Text: John 4:46-54

Target: Walking by faith is more than eyesight, it's the combination of hindsight and foresight.

- I. **A Father's Desperation:** "So he came again to Cana in Galilee, where he had made the water wine. And at **Capernaum** there was an **official** whose son was ill." (Vs. 46)
 - A. **No Matter the Distance:** "at Capernaum"
 - B. **No Matter the Title:** "an official"
 - C. **No Matter the Perception:** "When this man heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went to him and **asked (Begged, Implored)** him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death." (Vs. 47)

Question #1: How did the desperation of the official's situation expose his true beliefs? How do you believe desperation, or moments of intense need, refines, reveals, and refocuses our lives? What encouragement would you give to someone experiencing desperation and difficulty?

- II. **A Healer's Hesitation:** "So Jesus said to him, "**Unless** you see signs and wonders you will not believe." (Vs. 48)
 - A. **Basis for Believing:** "Signs and Wonders"
 1. **Testing God:** Is our belief in Jesus based upon His performance or His presence?
 2. **Trusting God:** If you didn't get what you wanted, would you still follow Jesus?
 - B. **Relentless Request:** "The official said to him, "Sir, come down before my child dies." (Vs. 49)
 - C. **Option of Obedience:** "Jesus said to him, "**Go**; your son will live." The man **believed** the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way." (Vs. 50)
 1. **Word of Faith:** "Go; your son will live."
 2. **Faith in a Word:** "believed the word"

Question #2: What qualities do you believe strengthen our trust in God and develop relentless faith during these difficult seasons of life? Can these qualities be developed, or are they only attained through the experiences we face?

Question #3: How do you distinguish between perceived “no’s” to our prayer requests and God’s timing in fulfilling those prayers? How do you maintain hope and perseverance in your prayer life, even when faced with disappointment due to God saying “no” to a prayer request?

- III. **A Servant’s Revelation:** “As he was going down, his servants met him and told him that his son was **recovering**.” (Vs. 51)
 - A. **Healing Happened:** “son was recovering”
 - B. **Hour it Happened:** “So he asked them the hour when he began to get better, and they said to him, “**Yesterday at the seventh hour** the fever left him.” (Vs. 52)
 - C. **Hope Happened:** “The father **knew** that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” (Vs. 53a)
- IV. **A Family’s Salvation:** “And he himself **believed**, and all his **household**.” (Vs. 53b)
 - A. **Individual Decision:** “he himself believed”
 - B. **Inspirational Decision:** “all his household”
 - C. **Invitational Decision:** “This was now the second sign that Jesus did when he had come from Judea to Galilee.” (Vs. 54)

Question #4: Take a moment to reflect on your actions' overarching influence on those around you. Do your interactions inspire others to be curious about Jesus? If not, where is one circle of influence (coworkers, family, friends, etc.) where you can take practical steps to inspire and invite Gospel conversations? What specific qualities could we display that would invite and inspire Gospel conversations around you?

Question #5: Have you ever encountered situations where negative actions by Christians have hindered others from exploring faith in Jesus? How can this be avoided, and can we practically be agents of healing to wounds created by “church hurt” or the actions of another Christian?

Takeaway: Miracles can happen at a distance in an instance.