

February 9, 2014

Lesson 18: Healing Stories



John 4:46-54

Then he came again to Cana in Galilee where he had changed the water into wine. Now there was a royal official whose son lay ill in Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went and begged him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. Then Jesus said to him, 'Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe.' The official said to him, 'Sir, come down before my little boy dies.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your son will live.' The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and started on his way. As he was going down, his slaves met him and told him that his child was alive. So he asked them the hour when he began to recover, and they said to him, 'Yesterday at one in the afternoon the fever left him.' The father realized that this was the hour when Jesus had said to him, 'Your son will live.' So he himself believed, along with his whole household. Now this was the second sign that Jesus did after coming from Judea to Galilee.

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The Big Story Truth: Jesus is the giver of abundant gifts... including the gift of life!

About This Scripture Passage: In this Scripture passage Jesus is approached by a royal official who's son was so ill that he was at the point of death. He is coming to Jesus because he was desperate. In the face of losing his son, he is grasping at straws to find a way to save him. What he receives from Jesus is a word and a promise, "Your son will live." The man walked away from Jesus... not knowing until the next day that the promise had been effective. Indeed, the son was healed. The official and his family received more than they knew they needed. They were given both the gift of healing and the gift of faith in Jesus!

Think back to the story of creation. The pattern was, "God said... And it was so." Here in this story we see a similar thing. Jesus speaks, and it was so. This is one more way in which Jesus is revealed as more than just a miracle worker, but as God. The point of this story is not what Jesus can do, but who Jesus is. Jesus is the giver of abundant gifts... including the gift of abundant life!*

*New Interpreters' Bible
Commentary John 4 Reflections

Healing Stories

John 4:46-54
(5:1-18)

"The man
believed the
word that Jesus
spoke to him
and started on
his way."



Making the Connection: The fact that God speaks and the result is accomplished is an important thing for kids to learn. This is what assures us that we can trust God's promises including that we have the forgiveness of sins. When the pastor stands up in church on a Sunday morning and declares that God has forgiven all our sins, the promise of God declared accomplishes that act. It is done. Kids need to know that they can trust the Word of God to do what God says God will do. Like the official heading home trusting that Jesus had healed even before he "knew" it to be true, we too can trust God and act upon that trust even when our faith is not yet sight. For kids its a little like being able to trust that a parent will do what they say they will. If a parent doesn't follow through, the child can't develop that trust. Kids need to know that God is even better at that than the best parent. God will always keep God's promises. God's word accomplishes what it says.

Where in the World Are We?
Jesus is back in Cana (in the region of Galilee); the child is in Capernaum.

For Your Reflection:

When have you had to trust without or before being able to see the outcome? What empowered you to trust in that situation?

What are you trusting God for right now?

How is this reading good news for you today?



