

A Miracle for a Rich Kid

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple sources)

Introduction:

A. John 4:43-54

1. A nobleman stands at the bedside of his dying son. Doctors are helpless and hopeless. Mother is weeping. Servants are fearful.
2. Father is out of options and needs a miracle. He remembers the “water to wine” (John 2:1-11).
3. The Jewish leaders kept track of those that have the potential to create unrest among the people in Jerusalem. Jesus drove out the moneychangers from the temple, a practice approved by the Jewish leaders (John 2:13-25). The nobleman was in the government
4. “One who was of the royal family, connected by birth with Herod Antipas and one of the officers of the court” (Barnes)
5. Doesn't send servant; comes to Jesus himself.
6. Implored - erotao - “ask, beseech, desire, entreat, pray” (Strongs)
7. “Come down” - Finds Jesus in Cana, an uphill journey from Capernaum. Asks Him to come down, believing Jesus needed to be present in order to perform a miracle.
 - a. Reflects a common human error, the belief that the Divine must follow the rules of this world to do things that are out of this world
 - b. Manifested faith in Jesus ability and the humility of a loving father

B. Jesus changed the subject - John 4:48

1. Revealed that He is concerned more for the soul of the nobleman than for the life of the child.
2. Does not diminish His love for the well-being of children; it highlights His deeper love for the souls of the lost - Matt. 19:14
3. He was direct and to the point, purposing to revolutionize their thinking
 - a. The Lord does not tell this man that he had no faith, but that he did not have not enough. If he had none, he would not have come to beg Him to heal his son.
 - b. Matt. 15:25-28
4. Jesus' purpose is to seek and save the lost - John 6:29; Luke 19:10
5. The purpose of miracles was to that end - John 20:30-31

C. The nobleman returned to the first subject “My child will die. Come down.”

1. He believed, but his faith needed to grow
2. Jesus said, “Go on your way; your son lives”
 - a. Required him to increase his faith to the point where he no longer believes Jesus needs to be present to heal his son
3. The man believed and turned to go back home. His servants met him, saying, “Your son lives”
4. Not that the child was the same; there would be no point in coming to tell him that; for them to come out, he was either dead or well
5. Nobleman asked when he got well; at the moment Jesus said so
6. He didn't begin his recovery then; the fever left him

- D. The nobleman and his house believed. What did they believe?
 1. The Lamb of God - John 1:29
 2. The Teacher sent by God - John 3:2
- E. What are the take home lessons from this account?
 1. Jesus' first concern is for souls
 2. Jesus is not a respecter of persons
 3. Jesus' power is beyond what human beings can imagine

I. JESUS' FIRST CONCERN IS FOR SOULS

- A. Not my health - 2Cor. 12:7-9 - "grace is sufficient"
- B. Not my income - Matt. 16:26, 6:24
- C. Not my earthly relationships - Matt. 12:47-50
- D. My soul
 1. Thief on the cross - Luke 23:39-43 - Jesus didn't save his life, but did save his soul.
 2. Sons of Zebedee - Matt. 20:20-23 - He was not interested in in their name but in their godliness - vv. 26-27
 3. Woman of Samaria - John 4:1-42 - Not interested in the well, class rivalries, gender differences. Jesus was interested in her soul - v. 10.

II. JESUS IS NOT A RESPECTER OF PERSONS

- A. It did not matter to Jesus that the father was a royal official with servants
 1. Many of my brethren would make a big deal out of this, some giving him more deference than he deserves, others treating him like a leprous sinner because of who he is - James 2:1-9.
 2. A mother cares for her children regardless of how they are esteemed
 3. A teacher does not care whether his students are rich or poor; he does not regard gender or color - Gal. 3:27-38
- B. We are judged by the words of Christ, not net worth - John 12:48.
- C. We are rewarded according to works, not age, privilege, gender, or race
 1. Matt. 16:27

III. JESUS' POWER IS ASTONISHING

- A. How did God teach us He has the power to answer prayers from Heaven?
 1. How did He teach us to trust His promises?
 2. He proved Himself - Matt. 11:23
 3. Jesus uttered words from a distance, and it was done - Mark 4:35-41
 4. He uttered words to call a man from the grave - John 11:38-44
- B. This is why we trust Him
 1. John 6:40; 1Thes. 4:16-18; John 5:24-29; 1Cor. 15:51-57
 2. The astonishing power of the Son of God has been fully demonstrated.

Conclusion:

- A. Jesus' first interest is our souls
- B. Jesus is not a respecter of persons
- C. Jesus power is beyond what we can imagine