

A Miracle for a Rich Kid

John 4:43-54

John 4:43-48

- “Now after the two days He departed from there and went to Galilee. 44 For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country. 45 So when He came to Galilee, the Galileans received Him, having seen all the things He did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they also had gone to the feast. 46 So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum. 47 When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. 48 Then Jesus said to him, Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe.”

John 4:48-54

- “The nobleman said to Him, Sir, come down before my child dies! 50 Jesus said to him, Go your way; your son lives. So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way. 51 And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told him, saying, Your son lives! 52 Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better. And they said to him, Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him. 53 So the father knew that it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, Your son lives. And he himself believed, and his whole household. 54 This again is the second sign Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.”

A Miracle for a Rich Kid

- The nobleman was in the government.
 - “One who was of the royal family, connected by birth with Herod Antipas and one of the officers of the court” (Barnes)
- Doesn't send servant; comes to Jesus himself.
 - Implored - erotao - “ask, beseech, desire, entreat, pray” (Strong's)
- “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 Miracle for a Rich Kid

- Jesus changed the subject
 - John 4:48 - “Then Jesus said to him, Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe.”
- Revealed that He is concerned more for the soul of the nobleman than for the life of the child.
 - 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 - “But Jesus said, Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.”

A Miracle for a Rich Kid

- He was direct and to the point, purposing to revolutionize their thinking
 - 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.
 - Matt. 15:25-28 - “Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, Lord, help me! 26 But He answered and said, It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs. 27 And she said, Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. 28 Then Jesus answered and said to her, O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire. And her daughter was healed from that very hour.”

A Miracle for a Rich Kid

- Jesus' purpose is to seek and save the lost
 - John 6:29 - "Jesus answered and said to them, This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."
 - Luke 19:10 - "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

A Miracle for a Rich Kid

- The purpose of miracles was to that end
 - John 20:30-31 - “And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”

A Miracle for a Rich Kid

- The nobleman returned to the first subject
“My child will die. Come down.”
 - He believed, but his faith needed to grow
- Jesus said, “Go on your way; your son lives”
 - Required him to increase his faith to the point where he no longer believes Jesus needs to be present to heal his son

A Miracle for a Rich Kid

- The nobleman and his house believed. What did they believe?
- The Lamb of God
 - John 1:29 - “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”
- The Teacher sent by God
 - John 3:2 - “This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”

A Miracle for a Rich Kid

- What are the take home lessons from this account?
 - Jesus' first concern is for souls
 - Jesus is not a respecter of persons
 - Jesus' power is beyond what human beings can imagine

Jesus' First Concern Is For Souls

- Not my health
 - 2Cor. 12:7-9 - “And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

Jesus' First Concern Is For Souls

- Not my income
 - Matt. 16:26 - “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”
 - Matt. 6:24 - “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

Jesus' First Concern Is For Souls

- Not my earthly relationships
 - Matt. 12:47-50 - “Then one said to Him, Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You. 48 But He answered and said to the one who told Him, Who is My mother and who are My brothers? 49 And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, Here are My mother and My brothers! 50 For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.”

Jesus' First Concern Is For Souls

- My soul
 - Thief on the cross - Luke 23:39-43 - Jesus didn't save his life, but did save his soul
 - Sons of Zebedee - Matt. 20:20-23 - He was not interested in in their name but in their godliness
 - Woman of Samaria - John 4:1-42 - Not interested in the well, class rivalries, gender differences. Jesus was interested in her soul

Jesus Is Not A Respector Of Persons

- It did not matter to Jesus that the father was a royal official with servants
 - 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 - “My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality.”

Jesus Is Not A Respector Of Persons

- A mother cares for her children regardless of how they are esteemed
- A teacher does not care whether his students are rich or poor; he has no regard for gender or color
 - Gal. 3:27-38 - “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Jesus Is Not A Respector Of Persons

- We are judged by the words of Christ, not net worth
 - John 12:48 - “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.”
- We are rewarded according to works, not age, privilege, gender, or race
 - Matt. 16:27 - “For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.”

Jesus' Power Is Astonishing

- How did God teach us He has the power to answer prayers from Heaven? How did He teach us to trust His promises?
- He proved Himself
 - Matt. 11:23 - “And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.”

Jesus' Power Is Astonishing

- Jesus uttered words from a distance, and it was done
 - Mark 4:39 - “Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, Peace, be still! And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.”
- He uttered words to call a man from the grave, and he arose
 - John 11:43-44 - “Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth! 44 And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with grave clothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, Loose him, and let him go.”

Jesus' Power Is Astonishing

- This is why we trust Him. The astonishing power of the Son of God has been fully demonstrated.
 - John 6:40 - “And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

Jesus' Power Is Astonishing

- 1Thes. 4:16-18 - “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.”

Jesus' Power Is Astonishing

- John 5:24-29 - “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. 25 Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. 26 For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, 27 and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. 28 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 and come forth--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”

Jesus' Power Is Astonishing

- 1Cor. 15:51-54 - “Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: Death is swallowed up in victory.”

A Miracle for a Rich Kid

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