

BIBLE EXTENSION COURSE PROGRAM

Sign Two Healing of the Nobleman's Son

Lesson No.5

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Required Reading: John 4:43-54

- A Crisis Moment of Faith
- A Confident Moment of Faith
- A Confirmed Moment of Faith
- A Contagious Moment of Faith

Key Verse: John 4:54 This is again the second miracle that Jesus did, when he was come out of Judea into Galilee.

INTRODUCTION – We last saw the Lord Jesus in the village of Sychar, where he had that amazing encounter with the woman at the well which eventuated in a great spiritual awakening in that area. **John 4:39-42 Sign Two** completes a cycle in John's Gospel – framed also by **Sign One** with two conversations occurring between them. **Salvation Examples on Page Three**

No Honor in Your Hometown – Shortly after his first miracle in Cana, Jesus returned to Nazareth. On the Sabbath Day Jesus delivered a message in the Synagogue, the response of the people was not favorable. Those in the synagogue rose up in anger and attempted to destroy his life. **Luke 4:16-30**

John is careful to note that Jesus received no honor in his hometown, the village of Nazareth. **John 4:43-46** *"a prophet is without honor in his own country"*

John is suggesting what many people have discovered: It is hard to gain acceptance and recognition in one's own hometown, but if you make a hit somewhere else and then come back home, people see you in a different light.

The sad story of an anguished father's heart *"come down before my little boy dies"* **verse 47** Every parent has experienced a helpless feeling that grips the heart as he or she watches a little child tossing in fever.

It is a moment of desperation – Jesus ultimately heals the Nobleman's son, and in the process reveals his authority over illness in realms beyond the capacity of men. The heart of the story is its significance – Jesus *"the object of faith"* the key to our spiritual life as a Christian believers.

Therefore, the progression of faith shown by the Nobleman is an important example for the Christian to follow, as we approach God in moments of desperation.

The Nobleman

1. **Who He Was** – *"a king's man"* *"an official"* He was a member of Herod's governing class in Galilee.

2. **What Was His Need** – Hearing of Jesus at Cana, this man rode horse back (very likely), 20 miles up to Cana, driven by the image of his little boy lying at the point of death, to beg Jesus to come down and heal his son.

The Response of Jesus – Unless **"ye"** see signs and wonders you will not believe. **verse 48** Jesus, for he knew what was in man – uses the term **"ye"** to identify the class of people whom the father belongs, *"a special, privileged class"* who were for the most part in opposition to the work of Jesus.

Healing of the Nobleman's Son – Lesson No.5

The Originator and the Completer of Our Faith – Hebrews 12:1-2

Both the miracles performed at Cana are shown to have been prompted by **trust**. The two miracles are also shown to have resulted in a personal surrender to Jesus, which is full Christian faith. In both cases the verb in the original is – an inceptive aorist, Lit “*they put their faith in Him*” i.e.

- Mary “*believed*” her Son to do something to relieve the embarrassment of their host at the wedding.
- His disciples “*believed on him*” after the water had been turned into wine.
- The father and the rest of his household “*believed*” as the result of the healing of the boy.

Jesus has come to bestow faith and make it grow. He is the “*author and finisher of our faith*” Lit – he is the **Originator** and **Completer** of our faith. **Hebrews 12:2**

How Faith Grows– Four Stages of Faith experienced by the Nobleman is a pattern experienced by others who have truly “*believed*” in Jesus Christ. **Hebrews 11:1, 6** and **Romans 10:17**

1. A Crisis Moment of Faith: verse 47

It is obvious that the Nobleman “*believed in his name, when he heard about the miracles which he did*” **John 2:23** There is no indication that initially he believed that Jesus was more than a healer.

2. A Confident Moment of Faith:

verse 48 – 50 an important transformation in the Nobleman's trust in the Son of God.

The Desperate Plea of the Nobleman

“*come down ere my child die*” verse 49 the statement reveals “*a low level of faith*” **Stage One** The Nobleman feels that everything is going to be lost if Jesus will not come; that he has to come and touch his son before anything can happen. We too, have experienced those moments.

NOTE – Jesus did not do what the father asked, but He gave him a promise instead: “*his son would live*” verse 51 “*your son will live*” (RSV) Lit – “*Your son is living, he lives*”

The Command of Jesus – “Go” Jesus gives the father an opportunity to believe at “*a higher level of faith*” **Stage Two**

3. A Confirmed Moment of Faith:

verse 53 His servants met him on his way to Capernaum with good news. Jesus had made His promise about “*1 p.m. the day before*” (Jewish Time) the Nobleman met his servants. The condition of his son was reported by the servants in the exact wording of Jesus. **Stage Three** – the father knew that it was the same hour in which Jesus said those words. “*Thy son liveth*”

4. A Contagious Moment of Faith:

verse 53 The Nobleman learned that Jesus' word is powerful to save even at a distance – “*a higher faith*” **Stage Four** and his household believed in Jesus too. This story tells us that we are in the hands of one who does not answer our prayers the way we expect, but in doing so He lifts us to “*a higher awareness*” of **Who He Is**, of His Authority and Power in the world and in life.

- Scholars believe that “**Manaen**” is the Nobleman mentioned in **Acts 13:1**

The Two Examples of Salvation

- **Nicodemus** – John 3:1-21
- **The Samaritan Woman** – John 4:1-38

Contrasts between Nicodemus and the Samaritan Woman		
SALVATION	Nicodemus John 3:1-21	The Samaritan Woman John 4:1-38
Sex	Male	Female
Race	Pure Jewish	Mixed Gentile
Social Status	Highly Respected	Not Respected
Place	Judea	Samaria
Time	At Night	At Noon
Condition	Darkness	Light
Setting	Indoors	Outdoors
Occasion	Pre-Planned	Spontaneous
Subject	New Birth	Living Water
Initiator	Nicodemus	Jesus
Conversation	Faded Out	Continued Strong
Result	Later Belief	Immediate Belief
Consequence	No Witness	A Witness