

# JOHN

AND THE WORD WAS GOD

## JESUS HEALS THE OFFICIAL'S SON

John 4:43–54

---

### RELATED SCRIPTURES

Psalm 103:2–4 | James 5:13–15 | 1 Peter 2:24

### STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 3.15.26

### SUMMARY

As Jesus continued in his ministry, he gained followers; however, they weren't necessarily believers. Many people followed out of curiosity but remained unwilling to consider that he might be the Lord's Messiah. Hearing of the wondrous things he could do, John tells us that an "official," likely a man of wealth and status, approaches Jesus. His son was sick, and although he had the means to call upon the best physicians of the time, nothing worked; his son remained sick, at the point of death. The official begged Jesus to come with him, believing Jesus could heal his son, and Jesus responded, "Unless you see signs and wonders, you will not believe." This response wasn't just aimed at the official; rather, he spoke to the crowd at large in Galilee, who welcomed him, only being fascinated by his signs and wonders while their faith was absent. Nevertheless, the official wasn't primarily concerned with Jesus' signs and wonders; rather, he was most concerned with his son's well-being and continued to plead with Jesus. In response, Jesus said, "Go; your son will live" (v. 50a). John also notes, "The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way" (v. 50b). The official, in the midst of his desperation, heard the promise of Christ and believed it. He trusted the word of Christ. Ultimately, this illustrates that faith in Christ is: we must believe in the word of Christ instead of trusting in what we can do to earn his favor. The official was desperate, with nothing to offer Christ except his need. This is where anyone who wishes to follow Christ must first find themselves—in a state of need, unable to save themselves, relying solely on the word and work of Christ for salvation. Furthermore, as shown in this account, the means by which the Lord has chosen to spread his word through his people. John tells us that not only did the official believe the words of Jesus, but through his testimony, his household believed as well.

### GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of John 4:43–54.

What was the principal difference between the official and the people of Galilee at large? Why did Jesus appear disappointed that they wanted a sign, yet responded favorably to the official and his son?

John called Jesus' miracles "signs" (v.54), which points us to something. What does this miracle point to? What is the overarching message behind this sign?

If there's one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

### CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today's themes in what you bring before God.