



Calvary of Albuquerque

Everyone Needs a Faith-Lift! - John 4:43-54

From the Series, Believe:879

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

Like any muscle in our physical body, our faith too must be exercised in order for it to develop. Faith is developed in virtually every circumstance in life, but especially in hard times. Peter put it best, "These trials are only to test your faith, to show that it is strong and pure. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold--and your faith is far more precious to God than mere gold" (1 Peter 1:7). Let's look at a real-life story of one who came to Jesus in his trial and had his faith lifted to a higher dimension.

OUTLINE

- I. Life Can be Hard--It Drives Us to Christ.
- II. Christ Can be Surprising--He Wants Us to Grow.
- III. Faith Can be Weak--It Must be Developed.
 - A. Faith in a Power
 - B. Faith in a Promise
 - C. Faith in a Person



Making It More than a Sermon:

1. When you were a child, what was the most serious injury or illness you had? How did it happen? What did you learn from it?
2. Why do think Jesus healed this man's son? What was the result of this healing?
3. When have you been called to demonstrate your faith most dramatically? How did God work in the situation? What were the results for you personally?

DETAILED NOTES

Who was this nobleman? A nobleman is someone who works for a king. The king over the Northern region of Galilee at the time would have been Herod Antipas. This nobleman or court representative went through stages of belief, and from him we learn how God develops faith in us.

- I. Life Can be Hard—It Drives Us to Christ.
 - A. The nobleman's son is sick and he is desperate
 1. Traveled 20 miles from Capernaum to Cana
 - a. No nobleman living in Capernaum
 - b. He is probably from Tiberius
 2. He put his son in a boat and took him to Capernaum looking for Jesus
 3. Left son in Capernaum and went to Cana
 - B. Have you been driven to God in a trial?
 - C. We go to the Lord in prayer when there is not where else to go
 - D. Even unbelievers will go to God when in fear
 1. When storm hits boat Jonah is on - Jonah 1:5
 - a. Each praying to their own God
 - b. Jonah sleeps, doesn't pray
 - c. Thrown overboard, doesn't pray
 - d. Finally in belly of fish, Jonah prays, at end of his rope
 - E. Many come to Christ in difficult circumstances - Psalm 119:67
 - F. If difficult circumstance drives you closer to Jesus, is it really bad?
 - G. Prayer is the gymnasium of the soul
 1. 78% of Americans say they pray once a week
 2. 57% of Americans say they pray every day
 3. Prayers come out of extreme circumstances
- II. Christ Can be Surprising—He Wants Us to Grow.
 - A. Jesus says surprising things to people

1. To the Canaanite woman - "not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs" Matthew 15:16
 2. To the Man with the withered arm ; "stretch out your hand" Matthew 12:13
(whenever Jesus gives a command, He gives the power to obey it)
 3. To the Paralytic man in the synagogue "Do you want to be made well?" John 5:6
 4. To Peter "Get behind Me, Satan!" Matthew 16:23
- B. God always answers your prayers, but the answer may be surprising
1. Yes
 2. No
 3. Wait
- C. "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe" -vs. John 4:48
1. An arrow of tender rebuke
 2. In Cana the crowds had not made a commitment to Christ, just wanted to see signs.
- D. Do you believe God is in charge?
1. Are you okay with it when He says "no" or "wait"
 2. God is more interested in your spiritual growth than He is in your physical comfort
 3. God allows hardship 1 Peter 1:7
 4. Greater to pray for pain's conversion then for pain's removal - P. T. Forsyth
- III. Faith Can be Weak—It Must be Developed.
- A. Faith in a Power
1. Nobleman didn't trust Christ specifically
 2. Didn't care about the source, just wanted his son to be better
 3. Hoped Jesus had the power
 4. Faith is like a muscle, needs exercise
 - a. Jesus adds weight - "unless you people see signs"
 - b. Jesus adds more weight - "Go your way"
- B. Faith in a Promise
1. "Your son lives"
 2. How do you treat the Word of God
 3. Must believe His promises
- C. Faith in a Person
1. Nobleman spent the night in Cana
 - a. 20 miles is one day's travel
 - b. The next day
 2. He stayed and got a good night's rest

God allows trials. God always answers prayers. God wants you to believe.

Figures referenced: Herod Antipas , P.T. Forsyth

Publications referenced: Newsweek

Cross references: Psalm 119:67; Jonah 1:15; Matthew 12:13; Matthew 15:26; John 5:6; 1 Peter 1:7