

Problem:

we tend to walk by sight - 2 Kings 6:8-17

Text:**The Place**

John 4:43 ¶ After the two days **he departed for Galilee.**

John 4:44 (For Jesus himself had testified that a prophet has no honor in his own hometown.)

John 4:45 So **when he came to Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him, having seen all that he had done** in Jerusalem at the feast. For they too (*clue that hometown is a reference to Jerusalem*) had gone to the feast.

John 4:46 ¶ **So he came again to Cana in Galilee**, where he had made the water wine (*first sign*). And at Capernaum (20 miles away) there was an official whose son was ill.

(44) 4:1-3 - left to judea and passed through samaria - then went to galilee 4:39-40;

synoptics opposite (Mk 6:1-6);

but John is relating Jesus to His people the Jews in Jerusalem -John 1:9-11; 2:23-25

(45) the Galileans who had seen and believed -

The Problem

John 4:47 When **this man heard** that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, **he went to him and asked** (*was asking = begged*) him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death.

John 4:48 So Jesus said to him, **“Unless you(p) see signs and wonders you will not believe** (*double negative*).”

Jesus not rebuking this man but the people in general - plural. Jesus uses the plural you here - “unless you all” (likely a test)

Jn 4:45 (he was welcome because they had seen) -> 6:26

- contrast with the Samaritans believed because of His words - 4:41

His Word ought to be enough - Luke 5:1-8

The Persistence

John 4:49 The official said to him, “Sir, come down before my child dies.”

Gen 32:9-the God who promised

Gen 32:10- i am not worthy

Gen 32:11-12 -but i need them

(Gen 32:13-23) he sends everyone away, everything that gives him status and strength

Gen 32:24-30 when he is left alone he wrestles God holding on to nothing more than the promise

The Promise

John 4:50 Jesus said to him, **“Go; your son will live.” The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him** and went on his way.

He had to believe in His word alone - no sight no sign no proof and be satisfied - this is what John is driving to -

John 20:26-31 - we are given the Word regarding the miracles etc.

we are given a promise - it is to be enough - Rom 10:17; Eph 1:13; James 1:18; 1 Pet 1:8-9, 23

The Perspective

John 4:51 As he was going down, his servants (*first miracle servant were witnesses too - Jn 2:9*) met him and told him that his son was recovering (*was living*).

John 4:52 So he asked them the hour when he began to get better, and they said to him, “Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.”

John 4:53 **The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” And he himself believed, and all his household.**

John 4:54 This was now **the second sign** (*in Cana*) that Jesus did when he had come from Judea to Galilee.

first sign, not in general -Jn 2:23; 3:2; but in Cana - 4:46 (one regarding time one regarding space)

- we should not need sight - both miracles private affairs focused on servants

main idea: God wants you to take Him at His Word

Main Idea:

God wants you to take Him at His Word, to see life through His promises not your perception

Implication:

sight came by faith - perception came after promise.

faith is a kind of sight

we are to walk by faith not by sight - 2 Cor 4:16-18; 5:6-7

Application

walk by sight = matt 14:28-33 -sight = senses

to walk by sight is to walk according to your senses

Peter trusted his senses and instead of seeing Jesus even though he was standing right in front of him he saw wind and waves

Action: instead of trusting your senses to tell you where to step

walk by faith = Hebrews 11-12:2 -faith = promises

to walk by faith is to walk by His promises

these heroes saw through the lens of God's promises and stayed focused on them -we have the greatest promise of all - Christ Himself

Action: trust the promise, stay fixated on Him, to know where to step