

A GREAT MULTITUDE.

Week Four Devotion

John 4:43-54

This week we look at the story of the royal official. As you read the verses, focus on the greatness of Jesus's love for all and how His actions always pointed to salvation.

Here are some things to consider while reading:

After staying in Samaria for two days, Jesus went to Cana in Galilee where He had performed His first miracle turning water into wine. There He encounters a royal official whose son was near death.

The official walked 20 miles from Capernaum to Cana to see Jesus. He recognized the authority of Jesus and had faith that Jesus could heal his son. He was desperate (vs. 46-47).

Some people won't believe unless they see a physical, earthly miracle, which is not faith (v.48).

The royal official had great faith that Jesus could heal his son. His son was healed at the exact time Jesus declared he would live (v.52). Jesus always knows where we are and His power is not limited to time and space. The official and his whole family came to know the Lord (v.53). You sharing the Gospel with one person can impact a whole family too!

Questions to discuss:

Why did the official seek Jesus's help? *He wanted Him to heal his sick son.*

Sometimes difficult things happen in our lives. How can you draw closer to God and grow in your faith when difficult things happen? *Here are some examples: by spending time in His word as I search for answers, really listening to what God is teaching me through the difficulty, by using the difficulty to reach out to others and talk about God with them.*

How can you put the attention on God instead of on your earthly circumstances so that others will notice there is something different about you? *Here are some examples: let people know that you believe that God is in control, trust God to do His will in the situation, talk about your feelings and what God is showing you through the sadness, anxiousness, anger, etc.*

How would you answer someone when they say that a loving God would not allow them to go through difficult times? *Here is an example: the world we live in is broken, it happened in the Garden of Eden with the first sin, but there is hope of glory in heaven through Jesus Christ; sometimes difficult times are because of choices that we have made and there are consequences to those actions; sometimes difficult times are out of our control, but God is right there with us the whole time helping us to know what to do next.*

How can we remain thankful through difficult times? *Here are some examples: focus on the positives and not the negatives; give thanks for the character of God and that he loves us so much; recognize when God answers prayer and be thankful for the answers.*

Do you think the official thought making the 20 mile trip to and from Cana to meet Jesus was worth it? *Yes, because He changed his life forever, healed his son, and saved his entire family.*

Prayer:

Pray you will live on mission every day so that the Great Multitude can know Him.

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