

# The Word Brings Life

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**John 4:45-53** *45: Then when he was come into Galilee, the Galileans received him, having seen all the things that he did at Jerusalem at the feast: for they also went unto the feast. 46: So Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum. 47: When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judaea into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son: for he was at the point of death. 48: Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe. 49: The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die. 50: Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way. 51: And as he was now going down, his servants met him, and told him, saying, Thy son liveth. 52: Then enquired he of them the hour when he began to amend. And they said unto him, Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him. 53: So the father knew that it was at the same hour, in the which Jesus said unto him, Thy son liveth: and himself believed, and his whole house.*

Jesus had been in Galilee before and the people could have cared less but after hearing of the miraculous they decided they would possibly like to have this evangelist back. They had the same mentality of most of the church. We speak harshly about the world's idolization of Hollywood icons but we in the church do the same thing. We make idols of men and women of God. It does not mean they are not men and women of God but it does speak of the maturity of the church.

So, Jesus returns to Galilee and the word of His reputation has spread. Now a nobleman heard of Jesus' return and the man's son was at a point of death. The man had heard of Jesus' but He wanted to experience Him, he needed to encounter Him for a life saving expectation. He had heard word of the miracles of Jesus and believed that if he could just get Jesus to come to his house his son would be healed and his life spared.

This man was at a point of desperation and not just for himself but for the life of someone else, someone near and dear to him. If he was to have any faith it was not going to be from a selfish motivation but his motivation was going to be his love for his son. His obedience to what ever Jesus said was going to be because of two things:

1. What he believed about the Word of Jesus
2. His obedience to the authority of that Word motivated by love for another.

This man's son was at the point of death. It means there was nowhere else to turn. There were no vaccines or no penicillin to give any hope of sustaining his sons life. This father was concerned. I have not been to this point but I do know what it means to be a concerned father. This weekend Joshua came down with a mild case of pneumonia. Though it was mild, I was still a very concerned father when I listen to him wheezing and coughing all day and during the night. He got to where he was cranky and just not acting himself. So last night I laid down with him, placed my hand on his chest and cried out to the Lord to heal my son. I reminded God of the destiny that lay before this child, not for me but for the furthering of the Kingdom. The next morning it awakened and was playful and running around the house saying Da Da. Now if this was my heart, I could just imagine the heart of this father.

Again, this man was at a point of but one end, the death of his son or one option, the LIFE of the words of Jesus.

What this man did not understand was that Jesus did not come to make miracle house calls. What he did understand was that he was desperate and this man had life in Him. He was not concerned with the reputation of His big ministry and what a tight schedule this man had. He did not understand that he would have to call the ministry headquarters, schedule a tour date to his church and meet the minimum honorarium. He just knew he needed life for the sake of his son.

Now the man asked Jesus, "Sir, if you would just come to my house my son would live." And most would consider Jesus' response insensitive and harsh. Jesus replies, "Do you have to see signs and wonder to believe?" Jesus had a purpose and intent in His reply. Jesus was not going to be able to stand around this man's house every time the enemy came or troubles came. Every time the weekly budget fell short because of

unexpected trials, every time hardships of life came, Jesus was not going to be able to rush over to this man's house and make it all better.

Many people were this way with their earthly father. As a father to my children and a husband to my wife I have a drive within me to try to solve all their problems and make sure everything is always okay for them. The reality is I cannot solve every problem or always be there for them. However, there is one who can. There is a Father greater than I than I want them to learn to trust in more than myself.

So, Jesus was trying to teach this man and the disciples something greater than the current circumstance and something greater than seeing. Note Jesus said, "Unless you SEE signs and wonder you will not believe." The signs and wonders is not the issue of emphasis here but the SEEING or NOT SEEING determining whether you believe or not.

Look with me in **Matthew 8:5-10** 5: *And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him,* 6: *And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.* 7: *And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him.* 8: *The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.* 9: *For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.* 10: *When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.*

Here we find a similar scenario where the centurion has a concerned need of the heart where his only hope lies in the authority of the Words of Jesus.

Now look again at the nobleman. I can hear him saying to Jesus, "I do not understand whatever gobbledygook you're trying to tell me but I know that my son is dieing and you can save his life. But Jesus was preparing him for what He was about to do. He was stirring the sincerity of this man's motives. And Jesus replied, "Go thy way thy son liveth." Now comes the real test. He wanted the physical presence of Jesus. He hoped that the very physical manifestation of the presence of the Lord would be all he needed to solve all his problems and ease all his fears.

You ever been there? Sure you have, we all have. All too often God's people think that if they could just see the manifested presence of God it would solve all their problems, ease their fears, give them peace and restore their joy. The children of Israel thought the same thing. With their enemy on their back and vast obstacles before them I can hear them saying to Moses, "So where is this God now?" Then suddenly the fire falls from heaven, consumes their enemies, the vast waters open up and Moses says, "I'm sorry, what were you murmuring about now?"

Just as we seek and cry out to God to provide the money to pay our bills as if the money would be the answer, so it is with His manifested presence. When we get our eyes off of what we think is the solution and get our focus on the sovereign authority of any solution then not only will our salvation come but a greater revelation of who He is. You see it is not just about your salvation from day-to-day life that Father wants. It is your life from day-to-day in revelational relationship.

Notice again, Jesus tells the man, "I cannot go with you but if you will go in obedience and with the right heart motivation I will send something that will heal your son and cause him to live and not die." What was Jesus going to send? A prayer clothe maybe? One of the disciples? No, He sent His Word and when Jesus gives His word it is a sure thing. Jesus said, I do not have to go all I have to do is speak it because I know who my Father is and I know to what great length His authority extends.

This is where we often fall short. We perceive our problems as possibly exceeding the capability and authority of the Father's Word. What would cause us to think of God as all sovereign and omnipotent one moment and limited then next? I will tell you, your heart. As Obi Won Kenobi said in Star Wars to the young Jedi Skywalker, "Your emotions betray you."

Every one could receive from Jesus every need they ever had, no matter how great a need if Jesus physically walked up to you to day and said, "it is yours." If we could but see some fire, some smoke, or maybe some gold dust. If we could see a limb grow out or something. Then our motivation to believe and obey His every word might be stirred up. I have seen such manifestations and they only stir the God's people but for a moment and then they are right back to their old ways. Father wants to appeal to more than your fleshly excitability. He wants to secure your affection for His heart.

Now this nobleman did not have the Holy Ghost, He did not have a blessed assurance, he did not have the logos bound in a leather cover with his name etched in gold leaf. Yet the man received and believed the word as Jesus spoke it and went his way without a single back talk.

Not many of the church today would have responded as such. I can hear Christians today, "Well, we'll just get us another evangelist." Or I can hear the goats speak, "But Lord!" One thing my earthly father never tolerated from me was back talk nor do I tolerate it from my children, soldiers, or employees. If I say do something I expect it to be done. Unfortunately, we tolerate it in the church.

This man could have said, "My son is dieing and all you are going to do is speak something good and leave it at that. I'll just find me another preacher. I was going to give an offering into your ministry but not now. I want someone who is really going to do something for me than just speak life to me. I want someone who is going to come to my house, visit me every time I am sick, and give me a prophecy every time I feel bad."

But no. Not this man. He embraced the concept that Jesus "sent His Word and healed them." This man embraced the sovereign authority of the words spoke. For the sake of his son he quickly brought his mind and heart to the place where he knew that the words of Jesus alone had the sufficient authority to bring life to his son without the physical manifested presence of Jesus. He knew that the word alone had the authority to bring life. It is not the feeling that brings the anointing it is the anointing that brings the feeling. It is not the manifestation that brings the healing it is the motivation of your heart that brings forth the manifestation of God's presence. It is the authority of His Word that breaks every yoke. It is the authority of His Word that saved you, cleansed you, heals you, delivers you, makes you whole and can make you Holy and worthy to even stand in His presence.

Jesus brought something greater to us than healing and deliverance. What He brought is even greater than your not going to hell for eternity. He brought the very authority of the Kingdom of God and may a way not just that you could leather bind it and hold it in your hands or set it on your coffee table but that you might hide it in your heart, let it be inscribed upon your every thought and exercise the authority there in.

It is time the church quit running from meeting to meeting, service to service, preacher to prophet looking for the very thing that is right in front of them but they cannot see.

There is another pattern for Kingdom living we find here as with Moses, the prophets, the disciples, and expected of you today. In order to walk in this authority there are prerequisites:

1. Humility
2. Right motives
3. Submission
4. Un-distracted or single minded devotion

And finally, we see that as the nobleman inquired of his servants as to when the fever left his son he discovers that it was at the very moment that he obeyed the Master thus truly believing.

Are you a believer? Are you truly a believer? Look at your life? Think back on your offenses and the attitude you had with someone yesterday? Look at the unforgiveness of your heart? Consider your worries? I am not asking are you saved. Do you profess that Jesus was the Christ and Messiah? Or maybe it does go that deep. But my motivation is to challenge your obedience to the maturity of the authority of God's Word in your life today. Do you believe. The disciples loved Him and believed. Yet when they were overcome with fear, Jesus calmed the storm and asked them, "Where is your faith." In other words, "After all I have taught you about the authority of the Kingdom I have brought to you, why did you not respond in obedience and calm the storm. Why did I physically have to do it for you." And the disciples plea was, "Lord, increase our faith. Increase our obedience to your authority." This friends is where the church is falling short. This is why the church seems powerless and irrelevant. We do not need more revival. We simply need to return to truly being believers.