

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 01 Sept 2013 John 1:1-18 God Revealed
- 2) 08 Sept John 1:19-51 Jesus Identified
- 3) 15 Sept John 2:1-25 Authority Acknowledged
- 4) 22 Sept John 3:1-36 Salvation Offered
- 5) 29 Sept John 4:1-38 The Power to Give Life
- 6) 06 Oct **John 4:39-54** **The Power to Save**
- 7) 13 Oct John 5:1-47 The Power to Heal
- 8) 20 Oct John 6:1-71 The Power to Meet Needs
- 9) 27 Oct John 7:1-52 Asking Questions About Jesus
- 10) 03 Nov John 7:53-8:59 Wondering About Judgment
- 11) 10 Nov John 9:1-41 Doubting Jesus' Power
- 12) 17 Nov John 10:1-42 Feeling Insecure?
- 13) 24 Nov John 11:1-57 Dealing with Death

INTRODUCTION

- Kudus to the Samaritans who believed after hearing a testimony from a woman with a troubling past – and they also believed without seeing a single miracle or sign
- Most Jews, on the other hand, only believed after seeing the miracles Jesus performed
- Who's belief would be stronger...the Samaritans who believed on Words (Faith), or the Jews who believed on Miracles (Sight)?

Passage	Comments
John 4:39-42	<p>The Samaritans Accept Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recall that the woman at the well had a less than honorable reputation – but that did not prevent Jesus from wanting to give her eternal life • v39. The key witnessing tool this woman had to share with her town was “Look what Jesus did...” – and that was enough for many to believe in Him • vv40-41. The Samaritans “begged” Jesus to stay with them, and He spent 2 days there – and many more believed because of His Words <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Some come to Christ very easy and early in life ♦ Others need more time and info – and that's OK
4:43-45	<p>“A Prophet is Not without Honor, Except At Home”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Samaritans probably would have loved it if Jesus had stayed in their town for a month or more – BUT Jesus was on a mission to first save His own people • v45. Jesus returns to Galilee and He is “received” by them for all the apparent miracles they witnessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Recall John 2:24 where Jesus did not trust those who believed in Him after witnessing His mighty works, because He knew their allegiance was based on sight and not on sound faith
4:46-54	<p>The 2nd Sign – Remote Healing of a Boy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to this point John has only recorded 1 miracle/sign by Jesus – Water turned into Wine (John 2:1-11). BUT by this time, according to Matthew's account at least, Jesus has developed quite a reputation for healing anyone and everyone of anything and everything! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Mat 4:23 Jesus healed every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people in Galilee ♦ Mat 8:16 Jesus healed all who came to him for a healing at Peter's house ♦ Mat 9:35 Jesus healed every kind of disease and every kind of sickness while traveling through cities ♦ Mat 10:1 Jesus sent out the 12 disciples to heal every kind of diseased and sickness ♦ Mat 12:15 Jesus healed all who followed Him • vv46-47. So, it is no wonder the royal Official had some hope for his son to be healed – IF he could entice Jesus to work just one more miracle

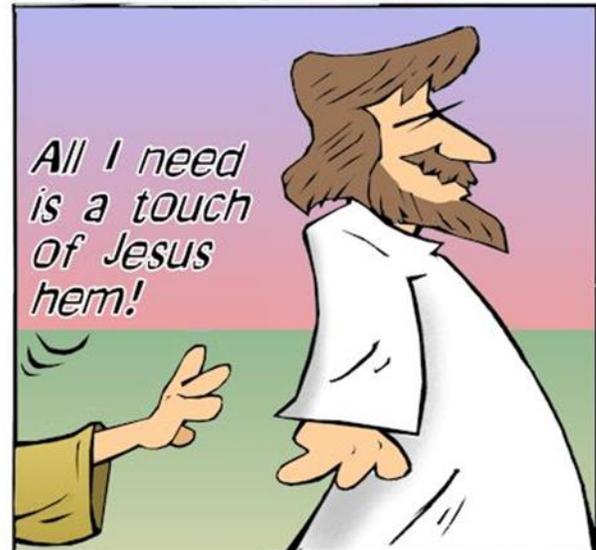
Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Note. The official left his son sick on his bed in Capernaum to travel about 20 miles to fetch Jesus. He did not send his servants, but made the trip himself to ensure success. What a loving Dad • v48. Jesus replied rather abruptly to the Official's begging “<i>Unless you people see signs and wonders you simply will not believe</i>” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ How would this direct the Official's focus to see Jesus as the Giver of Eternal Life and not just a Miracle Vending Machine? • vv50-53. In the end, the Official did fully believe in Jesus, along with his household – though, his faith developed over time • v54. What made this remote healing a sign of Jesus' Messiahship? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Note: The Jews were no strangers to miracles. Just like our day and age, they had their miracle-workers ♦ Only an omnipotent deity could know what kind of sickness the boy had, and to deliver the right healing at the moment the command was given miles away
The Magnitude of Jesus' Miracles	<p><i>“The number of the miracles which [Jesus] wrought may easily be underrated. It has been said that in effect He banished disease and death from Palestine for the three years of His ministry”</i> – B.B. Warfield, “<i>Counterfeit Miracles</i>”, page 65, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1918</p>

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Should we be like the Samaritans who accept Christ on His Word, or should we be like the Jews who must first see a sign?
- Recall the words of Christ to Thomas – “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.” John 20:29

NEXT WEEK: John 5:1-47. Apostle John hits us with the events that surround Jesus healing a man on the Sabbath – the 3rd sign of His special calling.

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



My Turn, My Turn...