

"Your Son Lives!"  
The Gospel of John Chapter 4:43-54

Although Jesus stays only a short time in Samaria, He lays the groundwork for a future mighty work of God (Acts 8:5-25). He travels to His home place (not birthplace) of Galilee. There He was raised (Lk. 2:51) and rejected (Lk. 4:16-30). Familiarity had bred contempt (Matt. 13:54-58).

Jesus and His disciples come into Cana, which is near to Nazareth in the foothills above the Sea of Galilee. A nobleman (the Greek word denotes royalty) or courtier meets Him. He was probably part of the court of Herod Antipas, the tetrarch of Galilee. The nobleman's son was sick at Capernaum, about 16 miles away on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. This story is not to be confused with the centurion and his servant (Matt. 8:5-13).

Jesus' reply is not simply addressed to the nobleman, for the you is plural in the Greek. Jesus is addressing the Jews who are present for their lack of faith (Matt. 12:38-42; 1Cor. 12:22). Miracles (Greek *dunamis*), signs (Greek *semeion*), and wonders (Greek *teras*), accompanied Christ and His apostles (Acts 2:22, 43; 1Cor. 1:22). In the Old Testament, miracles accompanied Moses and the giving of the Law and also with the prophets like Elijah and Elisha, and their further revelation of God.

The nobleman's faith to have his child healed was strong. However, it was lacking in at least three areas. Unlike the centurion, he assumed Jesus must be present for healing to occur. Like Mary and Martha (Jhn. 11:21, 32), he did not believe Christ's power extended beyond death. Lastly, his faith was to be based on sight and evidence, i.e., the healing of his son.

Jesus does not reply that his son will get better or survive, but that the son lives (present tense in Greek)! Jesus came to give life, abundant life (Jhn. 10:10)! Was this an indication of the son's eternal life through faith in Christ? The nobleman's faith increases, as he believes Jesus' words without visible verification. He leaves and is met by his servants who confirm the exact time of the miracle! His whole household believes (Acts 16:30-33).

We are to walk by faith and not by sight (2Cor. 5:7; Jhn. 20:29). We are not to seek after signs (Matt. 24:4-8, 23-28). We are to **live** by faith (Habakkuk 2:4; Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11; Heb. 10:38). The object of that faith is God (Mk. 11:22). That faith results in obedience to God's Word, just as the nobleman believed the Master's word and went his way home. Trust (believe) and obey, for there is no other way!