

Principles of Healing

John 4.43–54

Background

- John 4.1–42: The woman at the well; Samaritans & Jews didn't intermingle (4.9); Jesus is given a word of knowledge (4.17–19); She runs into town & tells everyone (4.29).
- They come to see Jesus & welcome him into their village (4.40) & many come to faith in him (4.41).
- The word of knowledge led them to Jesus & eventually to faith in Him. This wasn't a huge miracle, but it accomplished what miracles are supposed to accomplish...lead people to faith in Jesus.

4.43–45

V.44 – John is referring to Nazareth which is a city in Galilee. Jesus couldn't/can't do miracles where he isn't welcomed. In Nazareth (Mark 6), people wouldn't believe him. They were too familiar with Jesus; they felt like they knew him; **they had already made up their minds about him;** were incensed at his claims; Jesus did a few miracles, but this was in spite of their lack of faith.

I believe a big reason why we don't see more miracles today is b/c our concept of Jesus is so limited; we have confined him to our experience & understanding.

We limit him by our experience...we serve a wild & untamed God who refuses to conform to our image. If we don't let him be who he is he won't hang around. He might do a few miracles, but it won't be to the degree it could be.

Principle: Admit that our understanding, experience & belief in Jesus is weak & incomplete. We can't limit him...he isn't going to act contrary to His word, but he will not limit himself to our understanding of the Word...

he will move beyond the limits of our understanding, experience & beliefs.

The religious leaders said he was casting out demons b/c he was the prince of demons. The people who supposedly knew God best said, "He's not from God." We are to study the Word & know it, but we can't allow our finite minds limit the infinite God

V.45 - In this portion of Galilee they welcomed him. Their eyes had been opened to his authority when he spoke and did miracles (John 2.23) during the Passover in Jerusalem.

Principle: Welcome Jesus into our lives! I'm not talking exclusively about the initial point of salvation, but in every area. If we want Jesus to work in us & through us, he has to have your permission. . **Jesus will do as much as we let him do...** this is true in your own heart & w/in a church or community!

They were convinced of his ability. As we read the Word & hear the testimonies of others, it should stir our hearts to desire the same. Jesus goes to those who welcome him!

By welcoming Jesus, it allows him to operate in liberty. Skepticism & stringent fundamentalism restrain the working of the Holy Spirit. Jesus ministry is limited by us not him. **It's our inability to let Him operate as Lord and our desire to control His behavior through wrong beliefs that curtails the flow of His might.**

He stands at the door & knocks while we have Bible studies about him. He won't enter unless He's invited into our lives, families, church & community.

*the importance of collective agreement - the whole of the community responded positively (v.45)... **Jesus can answer the prayers of one, but I**

think he most readily responds to collective agreement...the environment of faith & love are the fertile ground for the miraculous.

Vs.46-47

Principle: Humble ourselves and actively seek the healing power of Jesus. Desperation is essential!

This man had authority & power in his community. He made himself a spectacle. He let go of his dignity and sought Jesus. He didn't care what the religious community, his family or his political alliances said. He went after Jesus. He gave up the comforts of home, food & family to get an answer.

We don't know how many days he pursued Jesus, but what if he had given up one day too soon. You can miss God's best by not persevering; you can have God's best by tenacity.

The man desperately requested his son be healed. **He begged Jesus.** If you have the attitude, "It would be nice if God did something, but we'll manage w/o him" then you will. Desperation is essential...you must pursue Jesus.

V.48 - Jesus reproves the man. **Principle: Miracles are tools to focus our attention on Jesus & his message.**

Miracles are meant to get us closer to Jesus. He isn't an aspirin to be used & then forgotten. **He is a person we are to know & a King we are to serve.** Miracles aren't magic...meant to impress or dazzle...they are to bring us closer to Jesus. **Miracles are "signs" that point us to Jesus.**

Matt.11.20! Jesus rebukes the cities that gladly accepted his miracles, but didn't respond to his message or place their faith in him. If we receive a miracle, but don't internally change that is inadequate. Transformation of the body must lead to transformation of the soul.

Note the responsiveness by the Samaritans (Jn.4.41). A little word of knowledge led to a whole community changing. Appl. – When God answers our prayers it should reorient our lives to a degree. Miracles increase my love for God and understanding about his power, love & goodness. I see that He is the God who cares, has power & is personal.

V.49f – He maintained his persistence. He didn't let a rebuke bruise his spirit. He didn't let the momentary delay quench his fire. He didn't shelve everything ...he kept asking & Jesus responded.

Principle: Keep asking until you get a response and once you receive your response walk it out.

He had faith in Jesus and didn't need to ask any longer. Once God gives you an answer begin looking for the manifestation of it. He didn't need to continue asking...you must take Jesus at his word.

When he gives you a promise take it and don't let anyone pull it from you...then begin to walk it out..

Vs.51f. – There is sometime a distance between us & the answer. (When God closes 1 door he opens another, but he doesn't tell you the distance between the two.) The father had to be a little concerned about his child's livelihood. He believed Jesus through personal assurance, but he had no answer. He expected to see its fulfillment.

The walking home with nothing to trust in other than the word of Jesus can be the most difficult part. This is important – Once you get your answer don't go back looking for another, but walk forward in trust/faith& thanksgiving. It may be the answer will be fulfilled in a day or a year, but either way praise him. Praise begins the moment the answer is given...you don't have to ask anymore!

When you see the answer, connect the request with the response (v.52f.). This is important for your own spiritual growth & to see God's power on your behalf. He is working for you.

V.53 – The son was healed, and most importantly the entire household responded in faith to Jesus. Similar to 4.41f.

Principle: Ask for signs and wonders to accompany us for the furtherance of the gospel.

The gospel message is validated and the man Christ Jesus is trusted when people experience the miracle working power of God. Mark 16.20; Acts 4.29f.

I believe one of the main reasons why young people quit attending church is there is no demonstration of power. But, when people encounter God's power, there is a change in the hearts of many.

We shouldn't settle for a Word only gospel. The gospel is not fully preached until there are demonstrations of the Spirit's power. Paul said in Romans 15.19. I don't want to preach or live a partial gospel

Let's not believe the lie that says since we have the Word of God we don't need miracles. The Jews had the living Word (the One who inspired the Word of God) among them and he performed miracles. He could've said, "You don't miracles...you've got the real deal walking among you...just believe what I say." Rather, he said, "John 10.38, 14.11"

The message of the Kingdom demands that there be signs & wonders. The way people see God's kingdom is through physical & spiritual transformation. God is fully known when His power is fully expressed.

Conclusion: What should you do with this message?

Jesus answers the prayers of those who welcome him & those who desperately seek after him.