

The Book of John:
The Disciple Jesus Loved
Study Notes

Chapter 4 PT. 3: Jesus Heals An Official's Son

John 4:39-54

Review:

John 4:39 (NASB) – “³⁹ Now from that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, ‘He told me all the things that I have done.’”

- Jesus stops to speak with a woman that no one else would dare to speak with.
- Jesus had one supernatural encounter with this woman, and it impacted her so greatly that her testimony influenced a whole city.
- These few words in **Verse 29**, “He told me all the things that I have done,” changed her life and many in that city.
- Even in doubt, she witnessed to a whole city; “this is not the Christ, is He?”



Question: Ask yourself this question, when was the last time you were so excited about something Jesus spoke to you, that you had to tell everyone around you?

Verse 40

John 4:40 (NASB) – “⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they were asking Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days.”

Note: Jesus is always willing to stay where He is welcomed.

Verses 41-42

John 4:41-42 (NASB) – “⁴¹ **Many more believed because of His word;** ⁴² and they were saying to the woman, ‘*It is no longer because of what you said *that* we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One truly is the Savior of the world.*’”

- Jesus knew the Samaritan Woman would be a seed in the ground that He himself would water!
- Jesus knew if one person is touched in any way by Him, they will change those around them.
- Those in the city wanted their own encounter.
- **They were not satisfied to just hear her testimony; they wanted **their** own!**

Paul in Berea

Acts 17:10-12 (NASB) - “¹⁰ The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. ¹¹ Now these people were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily *to see* whether these things were so. ¹² **Therefore, many of them believed,** along with a significant number of prominent Greek women and men.”



- The Bereans were **residents of the city of Berea in Macedonia**. Paul and Silas preached to them during Paul's second missionary journey.
- The Bereans were the inhabitants of the city of Berea, located in northern Greece, who are noted for their diligent study of Scripture.
- There were no Bibles at this time in history, they had copies of the **Torah (The first Five Books of Moses)** on scrolls.
- In addition to the Torah, synagogues served as places for reading and interpreting the **Nevi'im (Prophets)** and **Ketuvim (Writings)**, which comprise the remaining sections of what would eventually become the Hebrew Bible.

Here Lies The Problem Today: The American Church Has Settled to Be Spectators



- Church became a building and not a people.
- A place where you had Church and not became the Church.
- A place where a good time became more important than a good witness.
- A place where the Word of G-d is no longer at center stage!

Understanding: It is not 100% the Pastors' fault; the Samaritans and the Bereans both searched out truth for themselves!

Verses 43-45

John 4:43-45 (NASB) – “⁴³ And after the two days, He departed from there for Galilee. ⁴⁴ For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country. ⁴⁵ So when He came to Galilee, the Galileans received Him, *only*

because they had seen all the things that He did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they themselves also went to the feast.”

Note: Jesus went into the country of Galilee, but not to Nazareth, which was strictly *his own* country.

- The saying "familiarity breeds contempt" originated from ancient wisdom and was later popularized in English literature.
- The idea that too much familiarity can lead to a lack of respect.



Jesus Rejected at Nazareth

Mark 6:1-6 (NASB) – “¹ Jesus went out from there and came into His hometown; and His disciples followed Him. ² And when the Sabbath came, He began to teach in the synagogue; and the many listeners were astonished, saying, ‘Where did this Man *learn* these things, and what is *this* wisdom that has been given to Him, and such miracles as these performed by His hands? ³ Is this not the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are His sisters not here with us?’ And they took offense at Him. ⁴ Jesus said to them, ‘A prophet is not dishonored except in his hometown and among his *own* relatives, and in his *own* household.’ ⁵ And **He could not do any miracle there** except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed *them*. ⁶ And He was amazed at their unbelief.”

Healing an Official’s Son **Verses 46-47**

John 4:46-47 (NASB) – “⁴⁶ Therefore He came again to Cana of Galilee, where He had made the water *into* wine. And there was a **royal official** whose son was sick

at Capernaum. ⁴⁷ **When he heard** that Jesus had come from Judea into Galilee, **he went to Him and *began asking Him*** to come down and heal his son; for he was at the point of death.”



- Jesus returns now to the place of the first miracle that He performed: turning the water into wine.
- They know about this miracle, so the excitement is through the roof knowing He is coming back.
- This royal official has high ranking and would likely have been at the wedding where the first miracle happened.
- He could have had faith by hearing or by seeing.
- Either way, as verse 47 states, “***When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and began asking Him***” ...

Verses 48-49

John 4:48-49 (NASB) – “⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to him, ‘Unless you *people* see signs and wonders, you *simply* will not believe.’ ⁴⁹ The royal official said to Him, ‘**Sir, come down before my child dies.**’”

Understanding: The Royal Official was not focused on the reply; he just wanted his son saved! Reminds me of where Jacob says, "I will not let you go, except you

bless me," in **Genesis 32:26** when he wrestled with a man (often interpreted as an angel or even God in disguise).



Key: Yeshua just let us in on something that is not so easily seen upon reading

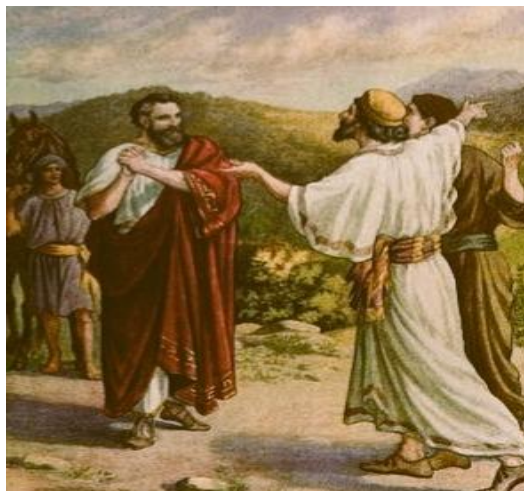
Verses 46-47: Jesus just exposed, “a heart of unbelief”!

... *“Unless you people see signs and wonders, you simply will not believe.”*

Revelation: Just because you are pulling great crowds or followers does **not** mean they Believe; it may mean you have more spectators. **Selah...**

Verses 50-51

John 4:50-51 (NASB) – “⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, ‘Go; your son is alive.’ The man **believed** the word that Jesus spoke to him and went *home*. ⁵¹ And as he was now going down, his slaves met him, saying that his son was alive.”



Note: Your belief or unbelief is not Jesus' motivator. He is Faithful even when we are not! Yeshua knows some people need to see something when they are new in their knowledge of the Messiah or simply of little faith.

Verses 52-53

John 4:52-53 (NASB) – “⁵² So he inquired of them the hour when he began to get better. Then they said to him, ‘Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.’ ⁵³ So the father knew that *it was* at that hour in which Jesus said to him, ‘Your son is alive’; and **he himself believed, and his entire household.**”

- In this chapter we first see how one woman's encounter with Jesus impacted a whole city.
- Now we see one man's persistence saved his whole family!

Note: Even though Jesus knew the hearts of both the Samaritan woman and this royal official, He was Faithful to who He is. He is **Merciful** even in the face of fear, doubt, and unbelief. Never forget, King David praised Him for His mercy!

Psalm 103:10-14 (NASB)

¹⁰ He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
Nor rewarded us according to our guilty deeds.
¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him.
¹² As far as the east is from the west,
So far has He removed our wrongdoings from us.
¹³ Just as a father has compassion on *his* children,
So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him.
¹⁴ For He Himself knows our form;
He is mindful that we are *nothing but* dust.”

Verse 54

John 4:54 (NASB) – “⁵⁴ This is again a second sign that Jesus performed when He had come from Judea into Galilee.”

Remember: Nothing that we do changes **WHO HE IS!**

The End