

Beulah Baptist Church
Rev. Jerry D. Black, Pastor

Sunday School Lesson
July 10, 2022
Rev. Mark A. Seals, M.Div., Instructor/Teacher

Lesson—The Word Heals

Text: John 4:46—54

I. Aim for Change/Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, we will...

1. *UNDERSTAND* the definition of faith and how Christ honors faithfulness;
2. *ACCEPT* that faith in Christ strengthens the relationship between Christ and the believer; and
3. *TRUST* Jesus, by faith and action, to do what we cannot do.

Key Verse— *“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.” (John 4:53, KJV)*

Lesson Song of Praise and Worship: *“Broken, But I’m Healed”* by Byron Cage

II. People Places and Times

Capernaum. Located on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, a city in the Galilean province, was a central location for Jesus’ earthly ministry. The ministry of our Lord saw a number of important things happen in Capernaum: Jesus resided in Capernaum at Peter’s home; he called his first disciples (Peter, Andrew, James and John); Jesus, preacher in the Capernaum Synagogues; healed the centurion’s servant and the man with palsy.

Background

Cana of Galilee is the birthplace of miracles in Jesus’ ministry. The healing of this nobleman’s son is notable as Capernaum is approximately 16 miles away from Cana. This miracle is not only notable because of the geographic distance but because it marks Jesus’ return to Galilee.

Cana provided the opportunity for Jesus to go through Samaria for the “needs” of ministry. There the Lord ministered to and revealed his holiness and identity to the woman at the well in Samaria. Typically, Samaritans and Jews had no dealings with each other, but ministry demanded that they intersect. This encounter with the woman got her referred to as the first female Evangelist, because of her witness about the encounter she had with Jesus. In Galilee, belief was challenged, and miracles were hindered. The miracle healing of the nobleman’s son was an announcement that Christ was in Cana and He was indeed the Messiah.

III. The Lesson At-A-Glance...

1. Flawed Believing Faith (John 4:46–47)
2. The Challenge of Faith (v. 48)
3. Dismantling Earthly Expectation (vv. 49–51)
4. The Healing Word of Jesus (vv. 52–54)

V. In Depth with More Light on the Text

1. Flawed Believing Faith (John 4:46–47) The very existence of Jesus is a manifestation of the power of an unhindered and unrestrained spoken word. The nobleman was familiar with Jesus' miracles and believed in what Jesus could do. When the nobleman learned that Jesus was in Cana, he traveled for an entire day uphill to beckon Jesus to come to Capernaum to heal his son.

The nobleman had the faith to approach Jesus knowing He could heal his son, but his faith was flawed because he believed the healing required His presence, believing Jesus' authority and power was relegated to His bodily form.

2. The Challenge of Faith (v. 48) It is evident that the nobleman had believing faith, yet his faith was hindered by his thinking and experience. The nobleman believed the sickness of his son is what brought him to Jesus, but Jesus knew that the nobleman needed to be challenged in his faith to accept the reality of Him being Messiah and to demonstrate that His Word is as powerful as His presence when believed.

The nobleman's faith in Jesus was sparked by what he heard, but his faith needed to mature so that it could be strengthened by his own experience with Jesus. The challenge of his son's illness brought him to Jesus so that his reality of Jesus could be challenged.

3. Dismantling Earthly Expectation (vv. 49–51) Often crisis reveals our expectation of God. Jesus' encounters on earth were designed to shift our perspective from the earth to heaven. The nobleman had an earthly expectation of what Jesus could do: heal. It could only happen if Jesus came in person. Jesus needed the nobleman to understand that the power of God is unhindered by time or space. Jesus gave a direct order that dismantled the nobleman's expectation and increased his faith, "Go thy way; thy son liveth." The nobleman believed what Jesus said and obediently followed His directive (John 4:50).

4. The Healing Word of Jesus (vv. 52–54) The power embedded in the spoken word of Jesus shines out when the nobleman inquires at what time his son became well. The servants confirmed the exact timing of the word of healing that manifested for the son. The nobleman immediately recognizes the power in the healing word of Jesus, and the faith of the nobleman matured. The timing of healing words, "Thy son liveth" showed the nobleman the correlation between faith and miracles. He believed, his household believed, and his son lived.

Liberating Lesson— See Sunday School Book...

Application for Activation— See Sunday School Book...

Discuss the Meaning

Food for Thought and Questions for Consideration (from the Application for Activation)?

1. What have we learned (😊Charlie Brown)?
2. Can you identify times when your faith and the word of God worked together to produce miracles?
3. Why is it important to examine our expectation of healing?
4. How does what we believe impact what we receive from God?

Vocabulary-New Words

A. Believing (John 4:48) *pisteuo* (Gk.)—To trust, have faith in

B. Amend (v. 52) *kompso* (Gk.)—To be good, well, glad

C. Heal

2390. *iaomai*, Pronounced: *ee-ah'-om-ahee* middle voice of apparently a primary verb; to cure (literally or figuratively):--heal, make whole

2323. *yerapeuw* *therapeuo*, *ther-ap-yoo'-o* to wait upon menially, i.e. (figuratively) to adore (God), or (specially) to relieve (of disease):--cure, heal, worship.

Daily Bible Readings For the Week of July 3rd

MONDAY

Jesus Reveals His Glory
(John 2:1–11)

TUESDAY

O Lord, Heal Me!
(Psalm 6)

WEDNESDAY

Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant
(Matthew 8:5–13)

THURSDAY

Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man
(John 5:1–9)

FRIDAY

Jesus Heals a Blind Man
(John 9:1–7)

SATURDAY

God Heals Their Infirmities
(Psalm 41)

SUNDAY

Jesus Heals a Royal Official's Son
(John 4:46–54)