

## LIFE CHANGING STORIES FROM THE BIBLE

### “BELIEVING AND ACTING ON THE WORD OF JESUS”

I want to look at an event in the life of Jesus, when he was here on earth that shows things happen when you believe and act upon his word. We find it recorded in John 4:46-53.

“Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum.”

The man was a royal official, so in other words he had a good job working for King Herod. Probably it was a well paid job so he was quite comfortable financially, with a nice home, wife, servants and a son who he no doubt loved very dearly. But having a lot of the good things in life did not save him from the suffering and pain both the rich and the poor experience in this world, for his son became very ill. He could afford to pay for the best physicians but all they would have said would be, “We have done all we can, your son is dying.” We can imagine he would be devastated, his whole world would have revolved around his son. His nice home and comforts of life would mean nothing to him now, his son was dying!

I remember visiting a home where the family were grieving the loss of a teenage son who had died of cancer. His mother said to me, “We have a new car in the garage, we have just bought a new frig but they don’t mean anything to us any more.” The royal official would have been feeling the same way as he contemplated the death of his son.

“When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him-“

News reached the royal official that Jesus had come into Cana which was about 40, or so, kilometres away from Capernaum. He would have heard about the miracles Jesus was doing or he may have seen Jesus in action in the past, but thing for sure he believed Jesus could help him. Immediately he started on the journey to Cana.

I guess as he journeyed he was doing what most of us do, imagine how Jesus would respond. In his mind, because he knew how compassionate Jesus was he imagined Jesus would come back with him to Capernaum, come into his house, go into the boy’s bedroom, put his hands on him and heal him. In his mind he could see Jesus doing all this. But Jesus doesn’t usually do things the way we imagine he is going to do them he does things God’s way.

“\_\_and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death.”

I guess it wasn’t too hard to find Jesus in Cana, you just had to look for a big crowd.

We can imagine him pushing his way through the crowd until he came face to face with Jesus. Then full of expectation he begged Jesus to come down to Capernaum and heal his son. Imagine his shock when Jesus said the opposite of what he was expecting.

“Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders,” Jesus told him, “you will never believe.”

Jesus was speaking to him as well as all the people in the crowd. He was saying, “Unless you see you will not believe.” It is like the man who says, “Unless I can see God I will not believe in him.” Whereas he is surrounded by the evidence that God exists, by the creation around him. Jesus knew that soon nobody would see him because he would die on the cross, be buried, rise from the dead and then go back to heaven. But they still could believe in him and act accordingly.

The royal official could see in his mind what he expected Jesus to do but Jesus was going to test him to believe the word of Jesus alone and act on it even though he sees and feels nothing. Because we can't see Jesus today he calls on us to do the same.

“The royal official said, “Sir, come down before my child dies.”

He still didn't understand what Jesus was getting at. So Jesus put him to the test.

“Jesus replied, “You may go. Your son will live.”

Now he had nothing to go on except the word of Jesus but we read, “ The man took Jesus at his word and departed. While he was on his way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, “The fever left him yesterday at the seventh hour.” Then the father realized that this was exact time at which Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” So he and all his household believed.”

We cannot see Jesus today but we have his words and God's words in the bible. If we believe and act on them many times we will see him do the same things he did when he was on earth. But he will do it his way not necessarily the way we imagine he is going to do it. Let's all learn that lesson from the royal official.

## A FATHER'S TESTIMONY

MY SON WAS GOING TO DIE AND I WENT TO JESUS EXPECTING HIM TO COME DOWN TO MY HOUSE AND HEAL HIM. BUT JESUS HAD A BETTER WAY, HE WANTED ME TO JUST BELIEVE AND ACT ON HIS WORD, SO I DID AND AS A RESULT MY BOY WAS HEALED. NOW MY WHOLE HOUSEHOLD ARE BELIEVERS IN JESUS.



THE RESULT OF THE ACTED ON WORD

THE WORDS OF JESUS ARE FOUND IN  
THE BIBLE, IF WE BELIEVE AND ACT  
ON THEM, HE WILL DO GREAT THINGS  
THROUGH US.

FRANK HUTCHINSON