

The Healing of the Nobleman's Son: Scripture Text (John 4:46-54 NASB)

46. Therefore He came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a royal official whose son was sick at Capernaum.

47. When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and was imploring Him to come down and heal his son; for he was at the point of death.

48. So 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."

50. Jesus said to him, "Go; your son lives." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and started off.

51. As he was now going down, his slaves met him, saying that his son was living.

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 lives"; and he himself believed and his whole household.

54. This is again a second sign that Jesus performed when He had come out of Judea into Galilee. (John 4:46-54 NASB)

Notes:

The Healing of the Nobleman's Son: Outline (John 4: 46-54)

- I. Jesus back in Cana of Galilee for a second sign (v.46)
- II. The royal official of Capernaum (v.47)
 - a. His office
 - b. His sick son
 - c. His hope was for a cure from “sickness” **NOT** “sin”
 - d. His request of Jesus was to “heal my son” **NOT** “heal my soul”
 - e. His initial view of Jesus’ identity was “miracle-worker” **NOT** “Messiah” (contrast with the Samaritans)
- III. The response of Jesus (v.48)
 - a. Divinely stated imperative – “will not”
 - b. You people – collectively, not specifically/individually
 - c. Signs and wonders – seeing **NOT** hearing
 - d. Unbelief was the royal official’s mountain
 - e. Read: John 2:24-25
- IV. The respectful, but desperate request of the royal official (v.49)
- V. The command of Jesus and the obedience of the royal official (v.50)
- VI. The meeting along the way (vv.51-53)
 - a. Going back down to Capernaum (home)
 - b. The good news on the way
 - c. Jesus’ power confirmed and authenticated
 - d. Belief of the royal official and his whole household after the “signs and wonders”
- VII. Second sign of Jesus in Galilee (v.54)

The Healing of the Nobleman's Son: Hand-out (John 4:46-54)

1. After two days with the Samaritans, Jesus comes back to _____ of Galilee. (v.46)

a. What did Jesus do on his first visit to Cana of Galilee? (John 2:1-11, 23)

b. Who did Jesus meet in Galilee on His second visit and why was the man there?

i. Most likely under King Herod Antipater (Anitipas) who lived from 20 BC – 39 AD, and was tetrarch of Galilee and Perea

ii. Capernaum was approximately 16 miles NE of Cana (he traveled a considerable distance up hill)

iii. Capernaum was down from Cana topographically speaking

2. The royal official was most likely Jewish and not Roman

a. This account should not be confused with the Roman Centurion and his sick servant, which some have tried to say is the same encounter

b. Read: **Luke 7:10** and compare to **John 4:46-54** (similarities and differences)

	The Royal Official (John 4:46-54)	The Roman Centurion (Luke 7:1-10)
Where did the miracle take place?	Capernaum	Capernaum
Who was sick/healed?	His son	His servant (slave)

Who sought for the healing?	The royal official	The Jewish elders sent by the Centurion
Why was Jesus asked to heal?	Son at the point of death	Slave was about to die; Centurion considered to be worthy, "he loves our nation, and it was he who built us our synagogue"
Was Jesus going to go personally to heal?	No, "Go; your son lives"	Yes, almost made it to the house before meeting the Centurion's friends
Did Jesus heal the sick person in person?	No	No
Showed signs of humility and genuine faith?	No, " Sir, come down before my child dies. "; asked his servants on the road what time his son got better; didn't believe until the time of the healing had be synchronized with Jesus' actual words	Yes, " Lord , do not trouble Yourself further, for I am not worthy to come to you, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed."
Understood the authority that Jesus had?	No, did not believe completely until his servants met him on the road with confirmation, leading to authentication of Jesus (signs and wonders)	Yes, "For I also am a man placed under authority..." (belief in the power and authority of Jesus' word)
Received commendation from Jesus	No, "unless you people see signs and wonders, you simply will not believe."	Yes, Jesus turning to the crowd said, "I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such great faith."

3. "...imploring Him to come down and heal his son; for he was at the point of death." (v.47)

a. What does "imploring" indicate about the way that the royal official was asking Jesus for healing on behalf of his son? (*hint: active/progressive tense*)

b. The royal official wanted Jesus to _____ down and _____ his son.

c. Why was it so urgent?

4. "You people..." (v.48)

a. What do you think about when you hear this phrase in day-to-day life?

b. Was he directing his statement at the royal official personally?

c. What, according to Jesus was necessary for the people of Galilee to believe who he was? They had to _____, _____ & _____.

5. The royal official's plea (v.49)

a. How did the royal official address Jesus? (compare to the Roman Centurion)

- b. What did he want Jesus to do and how did he want Him to do it?
(compare to the Roman Centurion)

6. Jesus' response and the royal official's actions (V.50)

- a. A command – "Go!"
- b. A pronouncement – "your son lives."
- c. The royal official faith increased, resulting in action - "he believed the word" and "started off."
- d. People often times want to not only tell God what they want, but how they want Him to do it as well.
- e. The best way to show faith is to do what Mary (the mother of Jesus) said in **John 2:5 (Read)**

7. The royal official's journey home (vv.51-54)

- a. Who did the royal official meet on the way down to his home and what news did they have? (v.51)

- b. Why do you suppose the royal official inquired about what time his son started feeling better? (v.52)

- c. What time was it when Jesus spoke the word to the royal official?

- d. What time was it when the royal official's son got better?

- e. What was the revelation and subsequent result of this discourse between the royal official and his servants? (v.53-54) The royal official _____ and _____ along with his _____ household. (discussion about household)