

YOUR SON LIVES

Text: John 4:46–54

Crisis Can Be a Catalyst to Greater Faith

Introduction:

1. **Sometimes we think the journey of faith is an easy one...**
 - a. So when tragedy strikes our first reaction is usually shock
 - b. Why is this happening to me?
 - c. I'm doing what's right! I'm walking by faith following the Lord
2. **A Loved one gets sick and the Doctors don't know why...**
 - a. Not for any reason other than time and chance happens to all (**Ecc 9:2, 11-12**)
 - b. The question is not does bad things sometimes happen—but what is our reaction?
 - c. We're faced with the choice to either Blame God—Or Seek God...
 - d. Were about to witness a Case Study on Faith When a Child Gets Sick

I. A CASE STUDY ON FAITH

A. Stage 1: CRISIS (4:46)

1. **Many Times—True Faith Begins with a True Crisis...**

- a) We usually think of a faith crisis as a bad thing—
- b) But A Crisis Can Be a Catalyst to Greater Faith
- c) When times are good it's easy to forget God
- d) But a Crisis causes us to look to heaven for help

2. **This is a Royal Official—Possibly an Official Under King Herod**

- a) He's a nobleman of wealth, power, prestige...But his son's life is hanging by a thread
- b) He Had Access to the Best Doctors...
- c) People Brought their Problems to Him to Solve
- d) But Even With all of his power and wealth,

there was nothing he could do about his son's sickness

"How vapid and vain was all the showy courtlife when there rang through it, in a voice he loved so well, the wild and delirious cries of raging fever!" (Morrison)

3. **A Crisis Forces us to STOP and Face the Facts**

Sometimes it's a Crisis that Causes us to Realize We Need God

"It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes." (Ps 119:71)

B. Stage 2: HUMILITY (4:47)

1. **Here is a Royal Official Who Came to a Carpenter from Nazareth**

- a) He would leave his son's side for only one reason, to find Jesus
- b) A man of his position, he must have heard the news about Jesus

2. **He Doesn't Know if Jesus Will Heal His Son—But He Goes Anyway!**

- a) *"Faith doesn't know the future—but it steps out anyway" (Lowell F. Johnson)*

3. **This Royal Official walks almost 20 miles of dusty rocky road to find Jesus**

- a) Do you think he rehearsed in his mind what to say to convince Jesus to heal his son?

C. Stage 3: REQUEST (4:47)

1. **Even with his limited and weak faith—**
 he asks Jesus to come to his house to heal his son
2. **He Doesn't Realize Jesus Power is not limited by Space or Time!**
 - a) Jesus is the creator of Space and Time
 - b) And the Creator of Space and Time Entered Space and Time
 - c) with power over all space and time
3. **His Request is out of Desperation for his son**
 - a) But He Has Gone to the Right Source—Jesus Himself

D. Stage 4: PERSISTENCE (4:48-49)

1. **Jesus had a way of drawing people to greater faith...**
 - a) If this man got irritated and turned away...
 - b) If He Was too arrogant to accept a rebuke...
 - c) If He Was too shallow to accept the truth—Then His Faith Was Fake
2. **Jesus words were sharp—but necessary...**
 - a) It's interesting that the “you” is plural...
 - b) Jesus is not just talking to this man—but to the entire crowd that was watching.
 - c) This man could've sought out Jesus before his son was sick
 - d) He could've sought Jesus for who Jesus was—not just for what Jesus can do
 - e) A faith built only on miraculous signs is not a complete faith (**John 2:23–25**).
3. **Think About the Implications of What Jesus is Saying Even to Us Today!**
 - a) Unless God does exactly what YOU WANT—you won't believe...
 - b) Unless God does exactly what YOU EXPECT or DEMAND—you won't believe...
 - c) In other words: God is not good enough for you—you have to have more...
 - You have to have signs and miracles...
 - You Have to Have Big Conversion Experiences...
 - Not once, not twice, but constantly... Because God is not enough
4. **Why Not Believe and Obey God for Who He is?**
 - Not Just Going to God When Your Desperate
 - Or When You Want Something from Him?

E. Stage 5: OBEDIENCE (4:50)

1. **Jesus said to him, 'Go your way; your son lives.'**
 - a) No Big Display... No Dramatic Effects... Nothing to Impress the Crowd...
 - b) Sincere Faith Doesn't Need Big Miracles to Believe
2. **This Man Believes and Obeys Jesus**
 - a) The man Wanted Jesus to come to his house to heal his son
 - b) But Jesus said, “Go!” your son lives... And the Man Does what Jesus says...
3. **He Had Rushed to Jesus in Panic over his son—**
 now he returns the same way in the soft glow of faith and peace of
4. **Not Only Did He Meet Jesus, but He Heard the Words of Christ:**
 'Go Your Way, Your Son Lives!'

F. Stage 6: CONFIRMATION (4:51-52)

1. Confirming that the Fever Left Him at that exact moment Jesus told him!
2. Confirming that Jesus didn't even need to be present!
3. He can heal anyone, anywhere by the same energy He fills heaven & earth!
4. By the same Power He upholds all the universe in suspended animation!

G. Stage 7: COMMITMENT (4:53-54)

1. "He was not a man who got out of Christ what he wanted and then went away to forget. He and all his household believed." (Barclay)
2. **Some People's Faith is Shallow and Weak...**
 - a) When the crisis is over... When the Storm Passes...
 - b) They Go Back to their Old Selfish Lifestyle
3. **But the Faith This Man Brought Back Was Transformed...**
 - a) It was different than the faith he brought to Jesus.
 - b) This is now a tested faith...a confident faith ...a victorious faith!
 - c) This was an Event He Would Never Forget—and He Would Never Be the Same!

II. SOME LESSONS ON FAITH

A. JESUS FIRST CONCERN IS ABOUT YOUR SOUL

1. **Not your HEALTH...**
 - a) Paul prayed 3x that the thorn in his flesh be removed...
 - b) Jesus told Paul, "My strength is made perfect in weakness." (2 Cor. 12:8-10)
2. **Not your WEALTH...** For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? (Matt. 16:26)
 - a) No one can serve two masters, You can't serve both God and Money Matt. 6:24)
3. **Not your RELATIONSHIPS...**
 - a) Jesus said, anyone who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me
4. **His First & Primary Concern IS FOR YOUR SOUL! —which will live forever!**
 - a) So much so that He humbled Himself to come From Heaven in Human Form
 - b) Not Just in Human Form—but Humbled Himself in the Form of a Servant
 - c) Not Just as a Servant—but He Humbled Himself to the Point of Death
 - d) But Not Just to the Point of Death—But as the death of a Criminal on a Cross!

B. FAITH MUST BE IN CHRIST—NOT IN WHAT WE WANT FROM HIM

1. **It Was a Sharp Rebuke Jesus Gave the Crowd...**
 - a) "Unless you *people* see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe." (4:48)
2. **It's Like Saying—You're So High Maintenance that You Won't Believe...**
All the Evidence Around You, Within you and Given to you!
 - a) You Won't Believe—Unless God does exactly what YOU WANT!
 - b) You Won't Believe—Unless God does exactly what YOU EXPECT or DEMAND!
 - c) In other words: God is Not Enough For You—You Have to Have More than God

3. Did You Know Miracles Alone Cannot Change the Heart?

- a) Israel saw incredible signs at Mount Sinai and even heard the very voice of God (Exodus 19), But pretty soon they're worshipping a gold calf (Exodus 32:1-6).
- b) The Rich Man Wanted Abraham to Send Someone Back from the Dead to Warn His Brothers...Abraham said, "They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' But the Man said 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'³¹ But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'" (Lk 16:30-31)

4. Even Some Who Actually Witnessed Jesus Miracles Refused to Change! (Matthew 11:20–24) Our Faith Must Be in Christ—not in what we want

C. CRISIS CAN BE A CATALYST FOR GREATER FAITH

1. Saul was Blinded by Jesus so He Could See...
2. Later, when He asked the Lord 3x that an affliction be taken away
 - a) Jesus told Paul, "My strength is made perfect in weakness." (2 Cor. 12:8–10)
3. A Crisis Can Be a Catalyst for Greater Faith!

Jesus Healed This Man's Son—and the Result was:

- a cured boy > a comforted father > and a converted family.
- The faith he brought home was different than the faith he brought to Jesus.
- Now, his was a tested faith...a confident faith ...a victorious faith!
 - a) "It was worthy of His care to heal the boy; it was far more needful that He should train and lead the father to faith." (Maclaren)

D. GOD ALLOWED HIS OWN SON TO DIE SO WE COULD LIVE

1. Jesus Healed the Man's Son so he would live...

How ironic that God would send His Son to die—So WE CAN LIVE
2. This is the hidden miracle that took place at the cross...
 - a) A Great Exchange—Jesus exchanged His Life for Ours
 - b) He Paid Our Debt in Full with His Blood (Isaiah 53:3, 5–6)
3. It's Not Easy to be Despised, Afflicted, Smitten, Spit upon, Whipped
Nails Driven through the Hands and Feet
Hanging on a cross while corrupt elitists laugh and mocked Him
4. But Jesus Did That For You and Me! (1 Corinthians 1:20–23)

CONCLUSION:

- 1) Jesus Did Many Other Amazing Things (John 20:30-31)
- 2) So We Would Believe Him and Trust Him with Our Very Souls
 - a) 'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus / Just to take Him at His word
 - b) Just to rest upon His promise / Just to know, "Thus saith the Lord."