

The Exercise of Faith - John 4: 46-54 <sup>came looking for him?</sup>

A Lesson on Faith

Intro: one of the major problems w/ us is our faith - feeble, inadequate, ineffective - Jesus constantly had trouble w/ the disciples lack of faith - where is your faith, u get little faith, a faithless generation - what's wrong w/ our faith - How is it to be effectively exercised - what is the way of real faith?

Story provides an excellent illustration

First, three faults in our faith:

- (1) hunting power of X "before he dies"
- (2) hunting the method of X "come down"
- (3) hunting all - seeing signs & wonders = way of the phar

indicates Jesus was characteristically the people in general. they looked for the spectacular, were linked to Him only by a love for the sensational. Signs & wonders were an absolute necessity for them.

- People looking for a sign before they will believe.

- Sign of feeling = C. S. Lewis quote

"Except ye believe ye will not see signs & wonders"

Jesus to Martha - John 11: 40

at My Ours = "It was there by faith I received my sight." - Reverse.

x lesson in faith

## II. Faith Always Brings Us to Jesus

1. This is always the beginning of blessing - you must bring your need to Jesus & tell Him about.
2. This may seem superfluous - but needs to be emphasized. Our tendency to go to others -
3. It is recognizing that Jesus is all-sufficient & my-sufficient - we find in Him all we need.

(1) Humble Submission = a nobleman, a royal official, one of the king's men coming to a carpenter's workshop

(2) Honest Desperation <sup>a. sick a long time</sup> <sup>b. at point of death</sup> > it was the boy's condition that brought him to Jesus - otherwise no interest

we need, it is servants to bring us to Jesus = washed ashore by waves of distress -

"Jesus is all we need, but never discover that till He is all we've got. When He is all we've got, we discover He is all we need."

## III. Faith Persists in its plea - Jesus tested by Abime -

- Luke 18 - widow, Syrochanaan woman - those endured
- The father more interested in the son than in signs.
- Jesus saw the man's faith being made real was more important than his son being made well.

These tenses of verbs indicate a persistent pleading.