

Sermon: A Noble Father

John 4:46-54

(46) So Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where He made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum. (47) When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judaea into Galilee, he went unto Him, and besought Him that He would come down, and heal his son: for he was at the point of death. (48) Then said Jesus unto him, except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe. (49) The nobleman said unto Him, Sir, come down ere my child die. (50) Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way. (51) And as he was now going down, his servants met him, and told him, saying, Thy son liveth. (52) Then inquired he of them the hour when he began to amend. And they said unto him, Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him. (53) 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. (54) This again the second miracle that Jesus did, when He was come out of Judaea into Galilee.

Introduction

Let me begin this sermon by saying, emphatically, that Antioch-Lithonia is blessed with many great fathers. To borrow a phrase from a local TV station: they are dedicated, determined and dependable. They do not send their children to church; they bring their children to church and Sunday School. Like this nobleman, who walked a long distance and appealed to Jesus for help, so do the fathers of Antioch demonstrate care and concern for their children. This man was a dignitary and a high-ranking governmental official. However, his greatest attribute was not his rank and status, but his character as displayed by his love for his son and his trust in Jesus. On this Father's Day of 2021, let's look at this father's attributes and gain inspiration from and admiration for all of the noble fathers, especially the noble fathers of Antioch-Lithonia.

Exposition

- 1. A Noble Father Knows His Own Power Is Not Enough.**
- 2. A Noble Father Knows Where To Go When His Children Are In Need.**
- 3. A Noble Father Does Not Always Follow the "Mind-Sets" Of Society.**
- 4. A Noble Father Does Not Mind Being Tested.**

5. A Noble Father Casts His Cares On Jesus.

6. A Noble Father Takes Jesus At His Word.

7. A Noble Father Is Rewarded For His Faith.

Closing Thoughts

Weak faith in Christ is better than strong faith in things of this world. This noble man took Jesus at his word and acted on the basis that Jesus' word was true. Faith brings about obedience and obedience brings about victory. This noble father found victory over a fatal fever. When we trust and obey, we allow God to have His way. His way is best. Give God Glory! Give God All The Glory!

End Notes:

1. This is the first recorded "healing" miracle of Jesus.
2. John is the only gospel writer who records this miracle.
3. The people of Nazareth wanted Jesus to repeat this miracle in his own home town. Please read Luke 4:23.
4. The distance between Capernaum and Cana is about twenty-five miles. The distance was close to a full day's walk. This man walked approximately 25 miles to see Jesus about his sick son.
5. Some people confuse this miracle with the healing of the centurion's servant. There are similarities, but they are indeed two separate miracles. The healing of the centurion's servant is recorded in Matthew 8:5-13 and in Luke 7: 1-9.
6. The word nobleman is *basilikos*. It is Strong's reference number 937. Some translate the terms as "royal official." The term usually refers to someone in the service of a king. Perhaps he was a wealthy aristocrat, influenced by Greco-Roman culture. This proves that no matter the rank or title, we all need Jesus.
7. You have often heard me say that technology is just now getting where theology has been all along. A case in point: remote control has been around for a few decades and has advanced lately to audible control. We can now just speak to TVs and other devices and make desired program changes. Jesus did not physically go to the noble man's home to heal his son. He used remote, audible control. Who wouldn't serve a God like that?

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