

John 4:43-54
January 11, 1987
Rome Georgia
September 29, 2013

SUBJECT: The second miracle of Jesus in Galilee.

THEME: Faith in Christ.

PURPOSE: To show the increase of faith through obedience to Christ.

PROPOSITION: What will it take in your life to get your eyes off of the things of this life and onto the weightier matters of eternity?

While returning from Birmingham Thursday evening, (In '87, and ironically, on Thursday 9/26/2013) I was fighting drowsiness by reading every sign and billboard I saw. Most were at eye level or higher and were the usual signs and advertisements you would expect to see while traveling a back road; "STOP" "YIELD" "55 MPH" and my all time favorite, "**SLOW CHILDREN PLAYING**" make for boring reading and are a poor substitute for a cup of coffee. But the most down to earth sign that I saw was one that was leaning against a highway sign. It was down on the ground and stood about two feet high and its black letters on a white background read simply "**DEATH.**" That's all it said. **But that is all it needed to say. My mind received a jolt of adrenalin that was**

sufficient for the remainder of the trip. I had no idea why the sign was there or what purpose it served, but it was a most sobering and all consuming thought.

Ironically, in a conversation with Clinton on Saturday morning on the way back from a short trip he asked a question that for a **six year old** seemed strange, "**dad, how long do people live.**" **And as a father and son we discussed the matter of life and death, the probability of one and the certainty of the other.**

"DEATH." It is always present, it looms in unexpected places. Around the next bend, the next intersection of life, awaits death. Inevitable, intriguing, enigmatic death. Death holds no fear for the true believer for "we know that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord", and we can say with Paul, "**oh death where is thy sting? Oh grave, where is thy victory?**" But yet, that transition, that time or eternity between this life and the next when they are inextricably intertwined for those last conscious moments, when we pass from that which we have experienced to that about which we have only believed; this period that is known as DYING, the inescapable moment of life when we stand at the precipice of death, the enigmatic phenomena peculiar to all life, THIS above all other mysteries of life, is capable of chilling the spine of the bravest of men. And when this specter of death rears its awesome presence in the lives of one of our loved ones, it imparts catastrophic dimensions of dread in the life of the Godliest of men.

TV program (1987) about the 23 year old with cancer. His dad's concern. "How are you" equated to the son as" is there any sign of the recurrence of the cancer, are you sick, do you hurt anywhere...?" as the son talked almost flippantly about his cancer, you could see the pain and concern on the face of that father.

In our passage this morning, we see the lengths that a father will go to in order to preserve the life of his child.

*******READ 43-45*******

The statement of 43, 44 is a resumption of the narrative of 1-3, which has been interrupted by the account of the Lord's experience in **Samaria**. That narrative had assigned as the reason for our Lord's leaving Judea and making for Galilee, His own over-popularity, which threatened a collision with the Pharisees. To avoid this, He goes to Galilee, where, as He himself said, there was little risk of His being too highly honored.

I. COMING TO SEE JESUS 46-49

****read 46-49****

47 "It is interesting that in His own country Jesus was not received as a prophet uttering truth, but as a miracle worker He was sought. The Samaritans had received Him without miracle as a prophet ." Expositors.

A. The man came to Jesus to request help. 47

1. **He came in person.** [although he had slaves. v. 51]

2. **No intermediary can do for us what we must ourselves do with regard to coming face to face with Jesus. We can't expect the faith of our fathers to be sufficient for us. We can't leave the ministry of the church up to our wives and expect to grow in our relationship to Christ by a proxy.**

B. The man was persistent in his request.

1. He was undaunted by Christ's searing accusation of 48.

2. He was determined to receive Christ's help. 49.

APPLICATION: WE FIND HERE A MAN WHO ABANDONED HIS HIGH OFFICE AND FORGOT HIS PRIDE AND WENT IN PERSON TO SEE JESUS CHRIST. He did not send slaves on such an errand of importance. He could trust no one but himself to gain an audience with Jesus on a matter as important as this.

He had been like many of us who IN THE JOYS OF LIFE ARE CONTENT TO ALLOW OTHERS TO ASSOCIATE WITH CHRIST WHILE WE OURSELVES ARE INVOLVED IN " WEIGHTIER" MATTERS. BUT, when faced with the reality of our own mortality, we then realize the foolishness of all our worldly pursuits and turn to Christ.

NOT ONLY DID THE MAN COME TO SEE JESUS HE ALSO HAD COME TO HEAR JESUS.

II. COMING TO HEAR JESUS. 48-50

*****READ 48-50*****

A.. The man came for one purpose and was **uninterested** in hearing anything that was not pertinent to his cause.

1. He all but ignored Christ's admonition of v. 48.

2. All he wanted was to hear of His son's healing

B. *When he heard what he came to hear, he went on his way.* v. 50

1. He exhibited faith in the area that he desired help in

2. His initial faith was incomplete - - i.e. Salvation.

APPLICATION: MANY UNSAVED PEOPLE TURN TO CHRIST IN A TIME OF PHYSICAL NEED AND SINCERELY DESIRE HIS HELP. **They are still unaware of their spiritual need but realize that Christ is at least part of the answer to their problems.** THEY ONLY TRUST CHRIST IN THE AREA OF THEIR NEED AND DO NOT TRULY TRUST HIM AS SAVIOR. (sometimes they do, after tangible proof of Christ's deity is shown) **MANY THERE ARE WHO HAVE HAD A SPECIFIC PRAYER ANSWERED AND MISTOOK THIS FOR GOD'S STAMP OF APPROVAL ON THEIR LIFE-STYLE.**

Radio Friday (1987) mentioned a new book out by one of the men involved in **Watergate 13 years ago.** The book recounts the **spiritual impact** that the affair had on the lives of those involved. Although all the men did not have lasting spiritual revivals he mentions several such as Chuck Colson and his Prison Ministries and another key figure who has now become a Presbyterian minister. ONE COUPLE THAT WAS MENTIONED IN THE BOOK REVIEW, WERE MENTIONED BECAUSE THE AFFAIR HAD **TAUGHT THEM HOW TO PRAY!** PERHAPS THIS IS THE MOST LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE OF THEM ALL. IT GENERALLY COMES OUT OF A TIME OF DIFFICULTY OR TESTING. It is the "last resort" that men turn to. **Many in Christ's day were impelled to seek Christ because of distress of heart,(cf. John 2:24) much as this nobleman in the passage for today.** After exhausting every other avenue, men will cry out to God.

The **prodigal son** is a good example of one who is brought to the point of being willing to "arise and go unto his father." And though many come in LATENESS OF HOUR, ALL WHO COME UNTO HIM MEET A SAVIOR WHO IS WAITING TO WELCOME THEM INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD.

He came and **SAW** He **HEARD** Christ and he **BELIEVED what Christ said of his son.** V 50

III. COMING TO BELIEVE JESUS CHRIST AS SAVIOR. 51-53

A. He first believed in regard to physical matters

B. After affirmation of Christ's power, he and his household believed in the spiritual sense of the word, and were saved.

IT IS POSSIBLE TO BELIEVE IN THE ABILITY OF CHRIST WITHOUT ACCEPTING HIM AS SAVIOR

APPLICATION: **Belief is not dependent on any physical proof.** Often God chooses to use physical needs to bring people to a saving knowledge of Himself.

THIS MAN AND HIS HOUSE BELIEVED ON JESUS CHRIST AND WERE SAVED BY A BELIEF IN THE DEITY AND SAVING POWER OF CHRIST. God chose to show him physical evidence and then to spiritually save him. His faith developed from physical faith to spiritual faith. How about you?

OVERALL APPLICATION

This man was very fortunate to have been able to walk or ride 25 miles and to see Jesus and hear the word of Jesus and to have his request fulfilled.

John 9:5 as long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

BUT He has departed and left us here as a LIGHT.

If a person in **Brazil** or **Kuwait** wants to deal with the American people, they do not have to come here to do so. They simply go to the embassy and see the **AMBASSADOR**. **He is the representative of our country**. He will bring the request for foreign aid to the attention of the proper authorities and see that the request is met

Likewise, God has left us here as the light of the world. **I Peter tells us that we have been scattered around and placed next to the unbeliever as little embassies so that men who need Christ can see Him in us and turn to us so we can give His word to them and they can be saved!**

We are Christ's ambassadors. We are here to let the world know Christ through us.!!! **II COR. 5:20-21**

2Co 5:20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

2Co 5:21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Rm. 10:14-15

Rom 10:14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

Rom 10:15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

(After the graveside for Johnny, as I stood by the grave of Johnny's son Mark, one of Annette's cousins, Bubba, approached me and said, "Ernie, I hope that someday I can sit down and just have a conversation with you when you are not preaching a funeral.")

ON THE REASON FOR 43-45 "PROPHET WITHOUT HONOR" STATEMENT.

PERHAPS: Jesus left Galilee in order to substantiate His Messianic claim in Jerusalem, and this having been accomplished, He returns with his credentials to His own country (cf. 45)" Expositors. p. 733.(this is a possibility, but not the best one.)

‘Miracles still happen’: Did a mother’s prayer prevent a massacre at McDonalds?

Friday, Sep 27, 2013 at 12:19 PM EDT

There is an incredible story in Fort Worth, TX. A crazed man attempted an armed robbery at a local McDonalds restaurant, but when he tried to shoot his gun, it failed. He went outside and successfully fired into the air. When he went back into the store, the gun failed again. Did a prayer from the mother of the suspect prevent a massacre?

[TheBlaze reports:](#)

When **Jestin Anthony Joseph** walked into a McDonald’s and asked for a cup of water, that’s not all he was after.

Fort Worth police say surveillance video shows **Joseph pulling the trigger at least five times while pointing it at individuals inside the restaurant** — but the gun wouldn’t fire.

At least one man tried to wrestle the gun away from the Joseph, **who then went outside and fired a shot into the air**, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram says.

As people ran from the restaurant, Joseph went back inside and **again pointed the gun at individuals and pulled the trigger**.

Again the gun didn't fire, police said.

"I want to make sure you have this. He walked in, demanded people give him the money. They were complying. He points the gun. He pulls the trigger five times. It misfires five times," Glenn said on radio this morning. "He just gets frustrated. He goes outside, pulls the trigger up into the air. It fires. He goes back in, points the gun again several times, click, click, click. **He goes back outside, points it at a passing vehicle. He fires two rounds in its direction; it doesn't hit the car. The car never stops. But it did fire."**

Joseph was soon arrested, and the police confirmed there were no injuries. The police could not explain, however, why the gun was misfiring.

"I've never seen anything like that before," robbery Sgt. Joe Loughman told the Star-Telegram. "It must not have been their time to go."

But the story doesn't end there.

As it turns out, Joseph's mother was concerned about the well-being of her son after a phone call she had with him earlier in the day in which she feared her son was suicidal. She told the Stat-Telegram she believes the gun malfunctioned "because we were praying."

"Last night I told God to keep Jestin safe," she said. "And that's what I do believe happened. **I did not know he even had a gun.**"

"Joseph's mother, who did not want to be identified, told the **police four hours before the robbery she feared her son was suicidal based on a phone call with him. She went down to the police station and said, 'You've got to help him. I don't know where he is, but there's trouble.' He called me and he said, 'They're trying to kill me, Mom. I'm going to die tonight. I'm going to die tonight,'"** Glenn explained. "He had been experiencing a **mental breakdown** just like his father had a few years before, a condition that runs in the father's family. She said, **'The only thing I can tell you is it wasn't my son. He was not in his right mind.'** The gun was loaded. The gun was loaded and misfired over and over and over again. **He's in jail today."**

It is an incredible story that certainly could have had a very tragic ending, and yet, inexplicably, everyone is just fine.

"So you have to ask yourself, did a mom's prayer make it? Did a mom's prayer help save all the people in that McDonald's in Fort Worth," Glenn asked. "The number one story on TheBlaze – in a world gone insane. **In a world gone insane, in a world that shows so little light, it's good to see that good still exists. It's good to see that miracles still happen and can be called down by the righteous. Because we need some miracles."**