

## John 4:43-54 (4D)

**<sup>43</sup>Now after the two days (in Samaria) He came forth from that place and went into Galilee.**

**<sup>44</sup>For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country.**

- ❖ Jesus curses Capernaum for their lack of faith - “And you, Capernaum, which has been lifted high unto the heaven, shall be brought down as far as Hades; for if the works of power which took place in you took place in Sodom, it would have remained until today. [Mt. 11:23] Capernaum was his own country because he lived there and taught there (also Nazareth Jn 1:45)... familiarity breeds contempt. (Chrys.)

**<sup>5</sup>Then when He came into Galilee, the Galilaeans received Him, having seen all things which He did in Jerusalem during the feast; for they also went to the feast.**

- ❖ Origen: he may have seen how Jesus cast out those selling cattle in the Temple.

**<sup>46</sup>Jesus then came again to Cana of Galilee where He made the water wine. And there was a certain king’s officer whose son was sick in Capernaum. <sup>47</sup>After this one heard that Jesus had come out of Judaea into Galilee, he went off to Him, and was entreating Him that He would come down and heal His son, for he was about to die. <sup>48</sup>Then Jesus said to him, “Unless you see signs and wonders, in no wise will you believe.”**

- ❖ The fact that he came and asked for help was a mark of faith (Chrs.)

Saint Chrysostom: “As if He could not raise him after death, as though He knew not the child’s condition. It was for this that Christ censures him, touching his conscience and showing that His miracles were done on the soul’s account. Here He cures the father, sick in mind, in order to persuade us to give our attention to Him, not because of the signs, but from the teaching. For signs are not for the faithful, but for the unbelieving and grosser and for people not as knowledgeable of the faith.”

Q. What are the ways God sends signs for us and for what reasons?

Chrysostom: “We are taught not to wait for miracles or to seek promises of the power of God... and (some) even we their child or wife did not obtain relief, they still should persist in giving thanks and glorifying God.”

**<sup>49</sup>The king’s officer said to Him, “Sir, come down before my little child die.”**

This is why Jesus rebukes him – he had faith but it was imperfect

Saint Gregory the Great: “He had little faith in One Whom he thought could not heal unless He was physically present. If he had believed completely he would have known that there was no place where God was not present....But He Who created everything by His will performed the cure by His command alone.” [Homily 28, *Forty Gospel Homilies*, 222; cf. Hom. 28, *P.L.* 76 (col. 1211).]

Cyril of Alexandria: “Christ does not reject his lack of apprehension; rather, as God,, He helps even the stumbling.

Q. What conditions might we place on our requests for assistance from God?

**<sup>50</sup>Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your son lives.” And the man believed the word which Jesus said to him, and started on his way.**

On the imperfection of his faith

Theodore of Mopsuestia: “He did not come back and give thanks for the miracle but asked at what time the child had recovered. When he had ascertained that it was at the same hour in which the Lord had promised him the healing of the child, then, ‘And he himself believed, and his whole house.’”

Chrysostom: “That he came and entreated was nothing wonderful, for parents in their great affection are also wont to resort not only to physicians in whom they have confidence, but also to talk with those in whom they have no confidence, desiring to omit nothing whatever. Indeed, that he came without any strong purpose appears from this, that when Christ had come into Galilee, then he saw Him...”

**<sup>51</sup>But already, as he was going down, his slaves (servants) met him and brought tidings, saying, “Your child lives.” <sup>52</sup>Then he learned from them the hour in which he got better. And they said to him, “Yesterday *at the seventh hour* the fever left him.” <sup>53</sup>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 house. <sup>54</sup>Again, this second sign Jesus did, having come out of Judaea into Galilee.**

Chrysostom: “Not simply nor in a common way was the child freed from danger, but all at once, so that what took place was seen to be the consequence not of nature, but the working of Christ. For when he had reached the very gates of death, as his father showed by saying, *Come down and heal my child before he dies*; he was all at once freed from the disease. A fact which roused the servants also, for they perhaps came to meet their master, not only to bring him the good news, but also deeming that the coming of Jesus was now superfluous, and so they met him even in the way.”

[Jn. 4:54.] Saint Chrysostom: “The evangelist has not simply added the word ‘second’ without cause, but to exalt yet more the wonder of the Samaritans, by showing that even when a second sign occurred, they who beheld it had not yet arrived at the height of those who had not seen one.”