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"The man was given an opportunity to believe at a higher level, no longer believing on what Jesus could do but to believe on who Jesus was and what He said. Jesus was [at that moment] healing both the son's body and the father's soul." "Go, your child lives!" The father takes Jesus at His words and believes He can meet his son's need. "There was no sign to be 'seen' at that moment, but the official made the difficult choice between insisting on evidence (revealing unbelief) or exercising saving faith without any tangible proof to encourage him." The official instantly recognized the voice of authority. The man believed and started off. It is true belief because it is based on the WORD of Jesus, not on visible signs. One obeys or disobeys a word. The Word and His words were enough and should be enough for us also.

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Jesus’ first year of public ministry is recorded in **Jn. 1:19-4:54** (perhaps **5:1-47** also). Mark’s Gospel basically begins with Jesus’ second year of public ministry which was in Galilee (**Mk. 1:14ff**). From this 2<sup>nd</sup> sign, Jesus will go on in **Mk. 4:35-5:43** to reveal His power over nature, demon-possession, disease, and death. What an amazing Lord!

Jesus is responsive, not always in the way we ask Him to be. But because He sees more clearly than us, He answers in ways we could never anticipate (recall **Eph. 3:20: Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us...**)!

What is your faith based on? How are you applying your increasing understanding of Jesus to your daily life? How does this passage impact your thoughts about and walk with our Lord? Will we trust Him, simply on the basis of His Person and word? Jesus said to Thomas in **20:29: “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.”** Will we believe in Jesus without seeing or experiencing a ‘sign’?

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**:51 As he was now going down, *his* slaves (doulos) met him, saying that his son was living.** He must have stopped overnight somewhere along the way to Capernaum. The next day as he was going down to Capernaum, his slaves met him with the good news that his son was alive and well!

**:52 So he inquired of them the hour when he began to get better. Then they said to him, “Yesterday at the seventh hour [either 7 p.m. Roman time or 1 p.m. Jewish time] the fever left him.”** Suddenly (precisely at the time he was talking with Jesus) his son was well! Look at his response in **:53!**

**:53 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 household.** The boy was restored completely, at a distance of 16-20 miles (distance is no problem with Jesus!). The father believes a 2<sup>nd</sup> time. Belief is the aim of this Gospel (20:31). From belief in Jesus’ miracle-working power (4:47-48) to faith in the word of Jesus (4:50) and finally to faith in the person of Jesus, in which he was joined by his entire household (4:53). This was similar to how the Samaritan woman in 4:1-42 progressed in her thinking as to who Jesus was (from a Jewish man to a prophet to the Jewish Christ to the Savior of the world)! The word ‘believe’ occurs 22 times in the first 4 chapters of the Gospel and over 100 times in this book. Believe means faith, persuaded, entrust.

Jesus may not answer our prayers the way we expect or think necessary, but He’s leading us to a higher understanding of who He is and what He can do.

**:54 This is again a second sign (attesting miracle) that Jesus performed when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.** The first sign was in the realm of joy, at a wedding feast. Now Jesus is seen operating in the realm of sorrow, a little boy dying. There will be five more signs (feeding the 5000, walking on water, healing the without-strength man, giving sight to the blind, and raising a man from the dead), making Himself known as the Jewish Messiah and the Son of God. After the first sign, the disciples believed. After the second, not only the official believed but so did his entire household, which probably included the slaves! I’m sure the disciples’ faith also deepened.

Jesus’ first year of public ministry is recorded in **Jn. 1:19-4:54** (perhaps **5:1-47** also). Mark’s Gospel basically begins with Jesus’ second year of public ministry which was in Galilee (**Mk. 1:14ff**). From this 2<sup>nd</sup> sign, Jesus will go on in **Mk. 4:35-5:43** to reveal His power over nature, demon-possession, disease, and death. What an amazing Lord!

Jesus is responsive, not always in the way we ask Him to be. But because He sees more clearly than us, He answers in ways we could never anticipate (recall **Eph. 3:20: Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us...**)!

What is your faith based on? How are you applying your increasing understanding of Jesus to your daily life? How does this passage impact your thoughts about and walk with our Lord? Will we trust Him, simply on the basis of His Person and word? Jesus said to Thomas in **20:29: “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.”** Will we believe in Jesus without seeing or experiencing a ‘sign’?

Remember, this is a life and love only Jesus through the Holy Spirit can live in/through you! Yet He will as you by faith run the race set before you (**Heb. 12:1-2a**).

Lessons you learned? Applications you made? Questions you have? What impact does this passage have on your daily walk with Jesus?

“Lord, may I never limit You in my belief or in my prayers!”

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