

SHALLOW FAITH VS. SAVING FAITH

JOHN 4:43-54

LAST WEEK IN JOHN'S GOSPEL WE LOOKED AT THE POWER OF TESTIMONY. JESUS MET A WOMAN AT A WELL IN SAMARIA ON HIS WAY TO GALILEE. THIS "PIT STOP" THOUGH SEEMINGLY ACCIDENTAL WAS ORDAINED BY GOD'S PROVIDENCE. SHE CAME TO THE WELL THIRSTY, DISCOURAGED, SHAMEFUL, AND GUILTY OF A SINFUL LIFE. JESUS IN HIS LOVE FOR HER, OFFERS HER SALVATION. HE SAID, "WHAT I HAVE IS LIVING WATER AND ANYONE WHO DRINKS FROM THE WELL OF GOD WILL NEVER THIRST AGAIN." THEN JESUS PROCEEDS TO TELL HER THE SIN AND GUILT SHE CARRIES. "YOU'VE BEEN DIVORCED 5 TIMES AND YOU'RE LIVING WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND". JESUS ACCEPTS HER JUST THE WAY SHE IS AND THE WOMAN ACCEPTS THE TRUTH, THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAVIOR SHE'S BEEN WAITING FOR. IN EXCITEMENT SHE GOES AND TELLS THE PEOPLE IN HER CITY WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO HER AND WHO SHE JUST MET. HER SIMPLE AUTHENTIC TESTIMONY CAUSED MANY OTHERS TO SEEK JESUS. JESUS SPENT 2 DAYS IN THE CITY OF SYCHAR TEACHING, CAUSING A REVIVAL OF SALVATION. KEEP IN MIND, JESUS DID NO MIRACLES. NO SIGNS OR WONDERS WERE PERFORMED. THESE PEOPLE HEARD THE TRUTH AND BELIEVED. JOHN'S WHOLE GOSPEL IS PURPOSELY FOCUSED ON BELIEF (PISTEUO).

DEFINITION: TO BELIEVE WITH AN IMPLICATION THAT ACTIONS BASED ON THAT TRUST MAY FOLLOW. PISTEUO IS USED IN THIS GOSPEL MORE THAN 100 TIMES SO THAT, ALL WHO READ THIS GOSPEL MAY BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD. AND THAT BY BELIEVING, WE MAY HAVE ETERNAL LIFE IN HIS NAME. TODAY WE WILL STUDY THE ACCOUNT OF JESUS ENTERING GALILEE. HIS GALILEAN MINISTRY IS WHERE MATTHEW, MARK, AND LUKE (SYNOPTIC GOSPELS) START THEIR ACCOUNTS OF JESUS'S MINISTRY. JOHN HOWEVER, ONLY SHARES APPLICABLE EVENTS THAT ALL POINT TO BELIEF IN JESUS CHRIST (MONOGENES) THE ONE AND ONLY SON OF GOD.

John 4:43-54 NIV

⁴³ After the two days he left for Galilee. ⁴⁴ (Now Jesus himself had pointed out that a prophet has no honor in his own country.) ⁴⁵ When he arrived in Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him. They had seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, for they also had been there.

⁴⁶ Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. ⁴⁷ When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death.

⁴⁸ “Unless you people see signs and wonders,” Jesus told him, “you will never believe.” ⁴⁹ The royal official said, “Sir, come down before my child dies.” ⁵⁰ “Go,” Jesus replied, “your son will live.” The man took Jesus at his word and departed. ⁵¹ While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. ⁵² When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, “Yesterday, at one in the afternoon, the fever left him.”

⁵³ Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” So he and his whole household believed.

⁵⁴ This was the second sign Jesus performed after coming from Judea to Galilee.

LET'S GET INTO IT

John 4:43-44 NIV

⁴³ After the two days he left for Galilee. ⁴⁴ (Now Jesus himself had pointed out that a prophet has no honor in his own country.)

AFTER 2 DAYS WITH THE GRATEFULLY SAVED PEOPLE IN SAMARIA...HE LEAVES FOR GALILEE

JOHN ADDS THIS PARENTHETICAL STATEMENT FOR A REASON
THIS IS TO SHOW THE CONTRAST BETWEEN THE BELIEVING RESPONSE OF
THE SAMARITANS WITH THE UNBELIEF OF THE JEWS IN GALILEE AND
JUDEA

John 2:23-25 NIV

²³ Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name. ²⁴ But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. ²⁵ He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person.

UNBELIEF AND SHALLOW BELIEF ARE NOT SUFFICIENT SAVING FAITH

John 4:45 NIV

⁴⁵ When he arrived in Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him. They had seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, for they also had been there.

THESE ARE THE VERY PEOPLE JESUS WOULD NOT ENTRUST HIMSELF TO.
THEY LOVED THE SIGNS AND WONDERS BUT LACKED THE
REVELATION/BELIEF THAT THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD WAS IN THEIR
MIDST

John 4:46 NIV

⁴⁶ Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum.

JESUS VISITS THE CITY WHERE HE PERFORMED HIS FIRST MIRACLE. THIS
ROYAL OFFICIAL/BASILIKOS/NOBLEMAN WAS ATTACHED SOMEHOW TO
KING HEROD ANTIPAS

SHOW SLIDE

CAPERNAUM IS ABOUT 16 MILES NE OF CANA BUT IS AT 680 FT. BELOW SEA LEVEL. THIS MAN'S SON IS DEATHLY ILL

John 4:47 NIV

⁴⁷ When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death.

HE HEARD, HE WENT, HE BEGGED/EROTAO/ASK, URGE, PRAY
HE HAD ENOUGH FAITH IN CHRIST AS A HEALER

John 4:48 NIV

⁴⁸ "Unless you people see signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe."

JESUS CHALLENGES HIS FAITH BY SAYING THIS. "ARE YOU NOT PREPARED TO BELIEVE ME NOW AT MY WORD? OR ARE YOU LIKE THE REST OF THE PEOPLE WHO NEED TO "SEE" MIRACLES TO BELIEVE? SHALLOW FAITH ALWAYS LOOKS FOR THE CRUTCH OF SIGNS AND WONDERS- "SEEING IS BELIEVING" MENTALITY

John 4:49 NIV

⁴⁹ The royal official said, "Sir, come down before my child dies."

SIGNS OR NO SIGNS, WONDERS OR NO WONDERS, SAVE MY SON. THIS MAN EXERCISES THE FAITH AND DESPERATION THAT HE HAS.

John 4:50 NIV

⁵⁰ "Go," Jesus replied, "your son will live."

The man took Jesus at his word and departed.

JESUS SAID, "GO" IT IS DONE BY MY WORD. NOW WALK IN FAITH UNTIL YOU RECEIVE THE PROMISE

HE COULD HAVE ARGUED WITH JESUS
LIVE/ZAQ/TO LIVE, ALIVE AGAIN, RETURNED TO LIFE, RESSURECTION LIFE

HE "PISTEUO HO LOGOS" BELIEVED JESUS AT HIS WORD AND OBEYED WHAT HE SAID WITHOUT SEEING IMMEDIATE RESULTS

OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD WILL NEVER FAIL YOU
EVEN WHEN THINGS DON'T WORK OUT THE WAY YOU WANT THEM TOO

WHEN WE PRAY, WE GIVE THANKS FOR WHO HE IS, WE BRING OUR PETITIONS TO HIM, THEN WE STAND ON HIS UNFAILING WORD AND WALK IT OUT

Hebrews 11:1 NIV

11 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

2 Corinthians 5:7 NIV

⁷ For we live by faith, not by sight.

A CHILD OF GOD WALKS IN THE SPIRIT, TRUSTING GOD AT HIS WORD IN ALL THINGS CONCERNING LIFE AND DEATH

John 4:51-53 NIV

⁵¹ While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. ⁵² When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, "Yesterday, at one in the afternoon, the fever left him."

⁵³ Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” So he and his whole household believed.

IN HIS WALK OF FAITH, HE RECEIVED THE PROMISE

BECAUSE OF THIS MAN’S FAITH IN JESUS, HIS WHOLE HOUSEHOLD GOT SAVED

YOUR FAITH CAN MOVE MOUNTAINS CHURCH, TRUST IN GOD.
BELIEVE HIM AT HIS WORD.

Matthew 7:7-11 NIV

⁷ “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. ⁹ “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ¹¹ If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

JESUS SAID IT, BELIEVE IT. SEEK FIRST HIS KINGDOM AND EVERYTHING ELSE WILL BE ADDED UNTO YOU

John 4:54 NIV

⁵⁴ This was the second sign Jesus performed after coming from Judea to Galilee.

FROM THE TIME JESUS WAS BAPTIZED IN THE JORDAN BY JOHN THE BAPTIST, MADE HIS FIRST TRIP TO CANA, STOPPED IN SAMARIA (NO MIRACLES), TO THE SECOND TIME IN CANA

1. WATER TO WINE (NEW COVENANT).
2. RESSURECTION LIFE (NEW LIFE IN CHRIST)

*CHALLENGE THE CHURCH TO WALK IN OBEDIENCE TO WHAT JESUS HAS
ALREADY SAID (PROMISED)*

END