



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Signs on Believers' Highway, Lesson 38

Lesson Title: Healing of the Official's Son

Take Home Point: Believe Jesus – everything will be okay.

Warm-Up:

The story is told of a circus performer who claimed he would cross Niagara Falls on a high wire. On the day of his performance, he stood before the people who came to watch and said, "Do you believe I can do this?" The excited crowd roared, "YES!" With that, the acrobat carefully and steadily walked the wire across the falls and back. There was tension in the air as he performed his dangerous stunt. When he arrived back in front of the crowd, they cheered his success. Then he asked them, "Do you believe I could carry a person on my back across the falls?" "YES!" the crowd roared again. "Do I have any volunteers?" Ooo, nothing but silence. Although they saw the acrobat do it, none were willing to trust him with their life. Their "belief" was only intellectual assent; they were not willing to risk it themselves.

Read: John 4:43-54; Psalm 145:13

Observation (What happened?):

What did the sick child's father do when Jesus said his son would live?

What two things happened as a result of the man's confidence in the word of Jesus?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think Jesus responded the way he did to the man's initial entreaty?

Why, after his first response, do you think Jesus healed the boy?

Insight:

Jesus has eternal authority granted to him by his Father (read John 17:2). In the healings of Matthew 8 and other scriptures, Jesus demonstrated his power and authority in specific ways. He had authority over temporary conditions (Peter's mother-in-law's fever), permanent conditions (the centurion's servant), and even congenital conditions (the man born blind in John 9). While living on this earth, Jesus healed many spiritually; read Mark 5:1-20 for a particularly moving example. Jesus healed not only to ease the suffering of people whom he loved very much, but also to demonstrate that he had full authority over everything seen and unseen. He proved he could be trusted. And while Jesus didn't need the cooperation of faith for healing to occur, he worked most wonderfully when belief was evident. Contrast Matthew 9:18-29 with Matthew 13:53-58 for vivid illustrations. On occasion, as in today's Bible account, Jesus wanted that belief exercised from a distance. Look at the result of the official's willingness to take Jesus at his word – not only did his son live, but his entire family was brought into God's Kingdom.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

At what point in your life do you need to believe Jesus and let go of your worries?

Think of a time when you trusted a promise of God and everything worked out. Thank him for that evidence of his goodness.

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