

The Second Sign:

Healing The Nobleman's Son

TEXT:	John 4:46-54
KEY VERSE:	John 4:53

To truly understand this story, we need to examine:

"The Tale of Two Noblemen."

The stories are similar, but there is a striking difference: Jesus' response: He commended the one and rebuked the other. Why? Let's see ...

READ:
Matthew 8:5-13

The Centurion:

Matthew 8:5-7

This man came to Jesus on behalf of his servant, pleading for Jesus to heal him. The servant was paralyzed and in terrible pain. Jesus responded, "I will come and heal him."

The Nobleman:

This man came to Jesus because his **own son** was at the point of death, pleading for Jesus to heal him. Jesus responded, "Unless you see signs and wonders, you will not believe." Harsh words to a man whose son lay dying. Why?

The Centurion:

Matthew 8: 10

This man said to Jesus, "I know and believe what you can do. Just speak, and my servant will be healed." Without proof, he was ready to head home, confident that his servant would be well when he arrived. Jesus said, "I haven't found faith, like this Roman centurion has, in all of Israel!"

The Nobleman:

John 20:25

Jesus had been to town before. There was a wedding, and he had saved the day by turning water to wine. Now, he returned, and everyone welcomed him. He was warmly received in Cana, and many people had believed on him. But the word says plainly, it was not until **after** Jesus healed his son, and he **verified** that it was at the exact moment that Jesus said, "Your son will live;" that he believed. Like Thomas, he had to see the proof first. Jesus never denied healing to **anyone**, but He wanted this man to learn to trust Him. **That** was even bigger than his own son's life!

One man Jesus rebuked because, to believe, he had to see physical evidence. The other, he praised because he believed **first**, expecting to see Jesus heal his servant.

Faith is believing God **BEFORE** he works a miracle. It is believing what his word says, and then waiting to see him perform his word. That is faith that he praises and honors. It is substance, solid enough to stand on for 120 years if you are Noah. It is a baby for a 90-year-old woman if you are Sarah. It is a promised land that you have never seen if you are Moses. but you build and work, Conceive

a son, and lead 2,000,000 people out into a wilderness. Why? "It is written." You believe for one reason, **God said it**. You do not **need** science to finally prove the Bible true, or Dr. Phil to tell you it makes sense.

Today, settle it in your heart. God's word **is** true. **Always** true. No matter the obstacles that stand in the way, it remains, unfailing and true. Red Seas and Jordan Rivers **part**. Impenetrable walls of Jericho **fall**. Incurable lepers **heal**. Broken families **reunite**. Addictions are forever dissolved for those who will believe that Jesus is the Christ (the anointed one), the son of God.

So, believe in your heart first, then agree with your mouth.

that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:8-10

That is God's way in everything, beginning with Salvation. Believe in your heart, then speak out of the overflow of a heart filled with faith in him, "Jesus, just speak the word, and (your) servant will be healed, delivered, restored, **whatever**." ¹

DO:

1. Fill your heart with the word and believe it first.
2. Let that word overflow from your mouth; say, "it is written ..."
3. See God perform his word, without fail, in **your** life.²

As I write (March 7, 2016), I wait for the promise of God to restore my own marriage and family. I BELIEVE!

READ:

Isaiah 49:22-26, Romans 4:20-25

¹ Luke 6: 45, Matthew 17: 20

² Joshua 23: 14