

## John 4:43-54

At the end of the two days, Jesus went on to Galilee. <sup>44</sup>He himself had said that a prophet is not honored in his own hometown. <sup>45</sup>Yet the Galileans welcomed him, for they had been in Jerusalem at the Passover celebration and had seen everything he did there.

<sup>46</sup>As he traveled through Galilee, he came to Cana, where he had turned the water into wine. There was a government official in nearby Capernaum whose son was very sick. <sup>47</sup>When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went and begged Jesus to come to Capernaum to heal his son, who was about to die.

<sup>48</sup>Jesus asked, “Will you never believe in me unless you see miraculous signs and wonders?”

<sup>49</sup>The official pleaded, “Lord, please come now before my little boy dies.”

<sup>50</sup>Then Jesus told him, “Go back home. Your son will live!” And the man believed what Jesus said and started home.

<sup>51</sup>While the man was on his way, some of his servants met him with the news that his son was alive and well. <sup>52</sup>He asked them when the boy had begun to get better, and they replied, “Yesterday afternoon at one o’clock his fever suddenly disappeared!” <sup>53</sup>Then the father realized that that was the very time Jesus had told him, “Your son will live.” And he and his entire household believed in Jesus. <sup>54</sup>This was the second miraculous sign Jesus did in Galilee after coming from Judea.

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## Background

When verse 44 states Jesus said, “*a prophet is not honored in his own hometown*” (Matthew 13:57; Mark 6:4), this was foreshadowing the rejection He would face later. The Galileans praised Him for His signs but lacked genuine faith.

Based on the original Greek, the rebuke in verse 48 is aimed at the crowd, not at the government official. That official, likely a Jew employed by Herod Antipas, traveled from Capernaum to Cana to see Jesus about his son. His faith was honored, and his son was healed.

This healing was the second of seven “sign miracles” recorded in John’s Gospel (the first was turning water into wine). We know Jesus did many other miracles (John 2:23), but they’re not recorded in detail.

## Teaching Points

### 1. God designs dilemmas of faith to cause Christian growth.

Jesus placed the government official in a dilemma of faith. He told him, “*Go back home. Your son will live*” (John 4:50). The official had to choose: stay and plead, or leave, trusting only Jesus’ word. He chose faith and later confirmed that his son was healed at the exact moment Jesus spoke. This deepened his belief, and his entire household came to faith. God often uses such dilemmas in our lives. Our faith grows through trusting God in uncertain moments.

### 2. God can heal from a distance.

Jesus healed the official’s son simply by speaking. He didn’t need to be present. This miracle showed His divine power and affirmed His deity. John recorded it to help readers believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 20:21). Dr. Dave was miraculously healed from polio as a child through prayer alone. While healing isn’t always granted, it’s in God’s sovereign hands, and He’s fully able to heal, even from afar.

## Application

### 1. Do you need signs and wonders?

In verse 48, Jesus rebuked the crowd, saying, “*Will you never believe in me unless you see miraculous signs and wonders?*” Requiring miracles to believe is not pleasing to God. While God has used signs throughout Scripture to confirm His Word (through prophets, Jesus, and the apostles), He can still use signs and wonders today. The key question is: *Do you need signs to believe?* (See John 20:25-29)

### 2. Maybe your sickness will bring others to Christ.

The healing of the official’s son led to faith. Not just to his own faith, but also to that of his entire household (v53). This would not have happened without the boy’s illness. God can use sickness or hardship to draw others to Christ. What seems like tragedy may be part of His greater plan to bring people to faith.