

STAGES OF SAVING FAITH

John 4:46-54

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: This message is taken from the episode of a man seeking help from Jesus for his sick and dying son. There are many lessons to be learned here about faith for there are many ideas as to what "faith" is. There is but one kind of faith that brings action from Jesus.

I. SEEKING FAITH (vv46, 47)

1. There was a desperate need - the man's son was dying.
 - Everyone eventually needs help in severe distress, disasters.
2. The man had heard about Jesus - he remembered for he had paid attention.
 - He didn't turn a deaf ear or think himself too important or consider what he heard foolish.
3. The man was coming to Jesus - he had heard that Jesus could help situations like his son's.
 - He left his dying son, traveled a full day's journey, about 20 miles.
4. He found Jesus and began to beg Him to help - he was persistent.

II. PERSISTENT FAITH (vv48, 49)

1. Jesus' words were enough
2. There was a desperate insistence by the man - Jesus could help and he was determined to get Jesus' help.
 - Belief is more important than signs and wonders.
 - Persistence shows one's sincerity.

III. OBEDIENT FAITH (v50)

1. Jesus told the man to leave, to go home that his request was granted.
2. The man immediately believed Jesus and started home.
3. Faith and obedience are necessary to receive help from Jesus.
 - To disbelieve or complain or to reject God's words IS NOT faith or obedience. It is telling God what He is supposed to do and how to do it.
 - There is no saving or real faith apart from obedience and action.

IV. CONFIRMED FAITH (v51-53)

1. In the process of acting on his faith, going home, his request was granted by Jesus.
2. His faith was confirmed when he knew his son was healed the very moment he started for home.

V. WITNESSING FAITH (vv53-54)

1. The man began to tell others what Jesus had done for him and his son.
2. The man was of high rank, a nobleman, a high official, and it wasn't easy for him to do what he did.
3. Telling others about Jesus was more important than his position.

CONCLUSION:

1. "Faith" means a lot of different things to different people.
2. If one wants Jesus' help, then there is ONLY one kind of faith that will bring the desired results and that is absolute, total, complete belief in what Jesus says and then one's obedience and action.
3. What kind of FAITH do you have? Are you obedient? Do you do what Jesus says?