**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Jesus Is God’s Answer to Man’s Doubt |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | John 4:46-54 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1926 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. John had a strategy when he wrote the Gospel of John.
      1. He listed seven miracles; he called these miracles “signs.”
         1. They are miracles with a message.
         2. They are signs with significance.
      2. John 21:25
         1. Jesus did many other things.
   2. Jesus is the Christ.
      1. He is the Messiah.
         1. When you believe, then you will have everlasting life.
   3. Jesus did not come to perform miracles.
      1. Jesus came to save souls.
   4. What we need to do is to go beyond miracles and on to Jesus.
      1. We may believe in miracles, but we don’t trust in miracles.
         1. We trust in Jesus.
   5. The first of these seven miracles is where Jesus turned the water into wine.
      1. John 2:1-11
      2. This tells us that Jesus is God’s answer to man’s disappointments because the wines of this world run out.
         1. But the joy that He gives is always fresh, full, and free.
   6. Jesus healed a nobleman’s son, but that man had difficulty believing in Jesus.
   7. Not only is Jesus God’s answer to man’s disappointments, but Jesus is also God’s answer to man’s doubt.
      1. Everyone has difficulty with doubt.
      2. What we need is a strong faith.
         1. Doubt sees obstacles; faith sees the way.
         2. We need to possess a faith, but more than that, we need a faith that possesses us.
   8. John 4:46-54
      1. This man had a problem; his problem was that he was a nobleman.
         1. He had prestige, power, wealth, and all of the accouterments that went with that wealth.
         2. He had a son who was sick.
            1. He had a problem that he could not handle.
      2. He had heard about Jesus turning water into wine at Cana of Galilee.
         1. He thought that maybe Jesus could heal his son.
      3. The man made the journey from Capernaum to Cana of Galilee to see Jesus.
         1. He desperately pleaded with Jesus to heal his son.
            1. Rather than healing his son, the Lord seemed to remonstrate with him and almost to scold him.

John 4:48

* + - 1. The Lord Jesus told him to go his way, that his son was alright.
    1. This man’s problem was the dark soil in which the flowers of faith would bloom and blossom.
  1. In today’s message, we will look at three specific things as we discuss strong faith and going beyond miracles and on to Jesus:
     1. The obstacles of strong faith.
     2. The operation of strong faith.
     3. The objective of strong faith.

1. the obstacles to strong faith (john 4:46-47)
   1. He had a second-handed faith.
      1. All this man had was hearsay about the Lord Jesus.
         1. He had heard how Jesus had done miracles.
            1. John 4:46-47
         2. He had only heard about Jesus.
            1. All he did was to listen to other people talk about miracles that Jesus had done.
      2. Second-handed faith is not strong faith.
         1. We cannot go to Heaven on our parents’ faith, our pastor’s faith, our neighbor’s faith, or anyone else’s faith.
         2. We can hear about Jesus and what He has done for others, but that is not strong faith.
            1. It is second-handed faith.
      3. Jesus asked His disciples, “Whom do men say that I am?”
         1. Matthew 16:13
         2. Then, Jesus asked the pertinent question, “But whom do you say that I am?”
            1. Matthew 16:15
      4. Do you know about Jesus, or do you know Him?
      5. Is your faith first-handed faith or second-handed faith?
   2. He had a sign-demanding faith.
      1. John 4:48
         1. Jesus was not approving the man when He said this but rebuking him.
      2. Matthew 16:4
         1. Jesus said this to those who were asking Him for a sign from Heaven.
      3. Even when Jesus Christ was on the cross, there were those who told Him to come down from the cross, and then they would believe.
         1. Matthew 27:40
      4. Are you in this category?
         1. Are you a person who says that if God would work a miracle for you, a miracle that you could see, then you would believe because seeing is believing?
            1. Seeing is seeing.
            2. Believing is believing.
      5. Many people have the idea that if God would perform a sign, then it would be alright.
      6. Miracles are not good tools for evangelism.
         1. Jesus had performed a miracle by turning the water into wine.
            1. John 2:1-11
         2. John 2:23
            1. People followed Jesus because of the miracles He did.
         3. But in John 2:24, we are told that Jesus did not commit Himself to them.
            1. The word “commit” in this verse and the word “believe” in verse 23 are the same words in the Greek language.

They believed in Him, but Jesus did not believe in them.

John 2:24-25

Jesus knew that they followed Him, not because He was the Messiah, but because of the miracles.

* + - * 1. It was not God they were hungry for, but a sign or a miracle.
      1. When Jesus fed the five thousand, the crowds followed Him.
         1. John 6:1-15
      2. When Jesus began to talk to them about eternal truths, such as eating His flesh and drinking His blood (that is, receiving Him into their lives), they deserted Him.
         1. John 6:47-66
         2. Jesus had to turn to His disciples and ask if they, too, would turn away.

John 6:67

* + - 1. Jesus knew man.
         1. He knew that these people who demanded signs and miracles didn’t have strong faith.
    1. What is wrong with asking for signs and miracles?
       1. It dishonors God.
          1. It tells God that we cannot take Him at His Word and that He has to prove Himself to us.

It is an insult.

Is His Word not enough?

* + - * 1. Thomas is called “the doubting disciple.”

The other disciples believed in Jesus and the resurrection.

Thomas wouldn’t believe until he saw the nail prints in Jesus’ hands and the wound in His side.

John 20:24-28

Jesus said, “Blessed are they that have not seen, yet have believed.”

John 20:29

* + - 1. It is dangerous to man.
         1. Signs and wonders can be very deceiving.
         2. 2 Thessalonians 2:9

This is a description of the antichrist.

He will be a super deceiver.

He is the devil’s messiah.

He is Satan incarnated.

He will be the last world ruler before the Kingdom of Heaven is set up.

The antichrist will be a master magician.

He will have power to do incredible miracles.

By those new age miracles, millions will be doomed because they were deceived by the signs and wonders of the antichrist.

* + - * 1. Revelation 13:13-14

This passage speaks of the antichrist.

* + - * 1. This is why Jesus remonstrated with the nobleman.

John 4:48

* 1. He had a self-centered faith.
     1. John 4:49
        1. The man was interested in the welfare of his child.
           1. There is nothing wrong with that.

Just like there is nothing wrong with miracles.

* + - * 1. But this man had yet to bow at the feet of Jesus Christ and worship Him.
    1. Many people are more concerned about our health, welfare, children, families, and futures.
       1. This is not strong faith.
    2. There is nothing wrong with asking God to bless us.
       1. Strong faith is interested primarily in the glory of God and the heart in its right relationship to Him.
    3. This man was interested in the physical, not the spiritual, and in the temporal, not the eternal.
  1. He had a strong-willed faith.
     1. John 4:49-50
        1. He told God what to do; he instructed the Lord.
           1. The man told Jesus to come, but Jesus told the man to go.
           2. The man tried to tell the Lord how He was going to do what He was going to do when He did it.
           3. Have you ever been guilty of this?

Instead of saying, “Speak Lord, your servant hears,” do you say, “Listen Lord, I’m talking to You”?

* + 1. Strong faith waits upon God, listens to God, and gets a message from God.
    2. Weak faith is strong-willed faith.
  1. Faith is not so much receiving from God the things that we want, as it is accepting from God the things that He gives.
     1. We cannot claim it until He names it.
  2. Faith is not dictating to God.
  3. Faith is hearing God, believing God, and acting upon what God says.

1. the operation of strong faith (john 4:49-50)
   1. A radical and dramatic change took place.
   2. We must hear the Word of God.
      1. John 4:50
      2. Romans 10:14
      3. Romans 10:17
      4. In order to have faith, we must know what God has said and is saying because faith is a response to the Word of God.
         1. Jesus said something to the man, and he heard the Word.
            1. John 4:50
         2. That is the reason why we preach the Word of God.
            1. So that people can hear it.
            2. If we want people to believe, then we have to give them something to believe.

We must give them the Word of God.

* 1. We must believe the Word of God.
     1. John 4:50
     2. Hearing is not enough.
     3. Some people will hear, but they have not yet believed.
     4. Some people say that they cannot believe, but they can believe.
        1. It is not an intellectual problem; it is a moral problem.
           1. The problem is not in the head but in the heart.

Hebrews 3:12

Psalm 53:1

* + - 1. It is not that they cannot believe; it may be that they will not believe.
         1. Because Christ gives faith to every man.

We must accept it, receive it, and believe it.

John 1:9

* + - 1. You can believe if you will believe.
      2. Unbelief is not weakness; it is wickedness and rebellion.
      3. If you want to believe, then God will enable you to believe.
    1. Faith is a response to God Himself.
       1. It is not a response to what God has done or to miracles.
    2. This man believed before he saw that his son was healed.
       1. He didn’t see any sign.
       2. He didn’t see any wonder.
    3. What did he have?
       1. He looked into the face of Jesus.
       2. He was captivated by the person and character of Jesus Christ.
    4. Faith is the heart response of the soul to the character and nature of God.
       1. Faith does not demand signs or wonders.
       2. God created us this way.
          1. God created our eyes to respond to light.
          2. God created our ears to respond to sound.
          3. God created our spirits to respond to the character and the nature of God.
  1. We must obey the Word.
     1. John 4:50-51
        1. He did exactly what Jesus told him to do.
           1. Had he not believed, he would have demanded a sign and continued to ask Jesus to heal his son.

But it was settled.

* + 1. Faith is shown by obedience.
       1. We must hear the Word.
       2. We must believe the Word.
       3. We must obey the Word.
    2. True faith is always linked to obedience.
       1. Romans 16:26
       2. James 2:26
       3. Sitting in a church, nodding your head, and taking notes is not faith.
    3. We are not saved by faith and works; we are saved by faith that works.
       1. If it does not work, then it is not faith.
    4. There is no substitute for obedience.
       1. Faith that does not lead to obedience is not faith.
    5. John 4:51-53
       1. 24 hours passed between the time when Jesus told this man that his son was well and when he met his servants.
          1. The man lived in Capernaum, and he met Jesus at Cana.

It was approximately a twenty-mile journey.

On foot, it would have taken seven or eight hours.

This man was a nobleman.

He would have gone by chariot, camel, or some other conveyance instead of by foot.

* + - * 1. If you left home and had a child that was at the point of death, and someone told you that he was alright, what would you do?

You would get back home as quickly as you could to see and check.

This man took 24 hours when he could have been there in two or three hours.

This is one of the most incredible demonstrations of faith in the Bible.

* 1. We rest in the Word of God.
     1. The Bible says, “*He who believes will not make haste*.”
        1. Isaiah 28:16
        2. We don’t have to worry; we can wait on the Lord.
     2. Psalm 37:7
     3. Don’t get all upset and go around with nervous frustration.
        1. Rest in the Lord.
     4. Psalm 37:5
        1. Commit your way to the Lord.
     5. Why did Jesus not go with this man to heal his son?
        1. The man had the Word of Jesus.
        2. When we need a blessing or an answer to prayer, we do not have to have Jesus here with us physically in order to receive it.
           1. Psalm 107:20

He sent His Word.

* + - 1. Jesus is not here in a body today, but we have His Word.
         1. The Bible is the Word of God.
         2. When we have the Bible in our homes, it is like having Jesus in our homes.
         3. When we pick up the Word of God and read it, God speaks out of His Word.

Faith is finding a promise in the Word of God, brought home by the Spirit of God, and standing on it.

1. the objective of strong faith (john 4:53)
   1. John 4:50 says, “*and the man believed*.”
      1. Here in John 4:53, it says, “*and himself believed*.”
      2. When did he believe?
         1. In verse 53, the man was not believing for physical healing but for salvation.
            1. He was believing not in a miracle, but in a Messiah.
            2. He went beyond the miracle and went on to Jesus.
   2. The miracles were there so that he might believe in the Lord Jesus.
   3. It is easy to picture this man as he went back home to tell his family and household that he had met the Messiah, and that they too could be saved.
      1. What good would it have done if this boy had been healed and then later died and went to Hell?
   4. Jesus didn’t heal everyone, but He will save everyone who will call upon Him.
      1. He did not come as a teacher or as a healer; He came as a Savior.
         1. Luke 19:10
   5. John 20:31
2. CONCLUSION
   1. Believe in miracles, but trust in Jesus.
   2. John 20:31
   3. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   4. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16