

Article: Our Faith is Weak, but Jesus is Strong!

The Gospels are tantalising. We want to know so much more, so many human-interest details, but we must be content with what we have. In His Word, God has given us all the information we need. If the Bible answered all our questions, we would not be able to carry it around, not even in a big truck (John 21:25). In heaven, there will be no end of time to talk to the saints.

One intriguing character in the Bible is the man from Capernaum. You can read about him in John 4:46-54. He travelled several hours to Cana to ask Jesus to come to Capernaum to heal his son. Jesus healed the boy without leaving Cana, and the man returned home to find his son well.

The original text calls this healing a sign (v. 54). It was a clear indication that Jesus is true God. Who but the Creator could heal with a word spoken at a distance? Who but God has that unlimited power and that unlimited presence?

The main meaning of the sign is the identity of Jesus as true God. That is the primary point of all the miracles. But there is often a poignant, personal point, too. In this case, the faith that Jesus gave this man is interesting and instructive.

It is not surprising that the man believed after he saw that his son was well (v. 53). Jesus complained about people needing signs to believe (v. 48). But this man also believed before he saw. He believed the Word of Jesus (v. 50). Jesus gave him that faith through that Word.

Knowing who Jesus is, there is no reason not to believe. Jesus said, "Go! Your son lives," and the son lived. That was the same as when God said, "Let there be light," and there was light (Genesis 1:3). Jesus is God Almighty.

But the man did not see right away. He had faith without sight, before sight. We have not seen yet at all. But we have believed - by God's power through His Word (John 20:29). We walk through life as that man travelled the road to Capernaum - by faith, not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7).

The man had to wait. He could not phone home. He could not race there in a car. What did he think every step on the road to Capernaum? What do we think every step of the way through this world and this life? It was late enough and far enough that the man did not get home until the next day. Did he spend an anxious evening, a sleepless night? He was concerned. He was eager to see his son. He need not have worried. But he was weak. His faith was not perfect. He still struggled with doubt.

We still struggle with the sins of doubt and worry. Our faith is weak. But Jesus is not weak. His Word and His promises are certain. Because He has died for our sins in our place, we have God's grace, the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and salvation. It is enough for us that God is pleased with us for Jesus' sake. That is all we need (2 Corinthians 12:9).

How happy that man was when he got back to Capernaum! How happy we shall be when we get to heaven! Looking back on the road, we shall know that we need not have been anxious at all about anything. Since we know now what we will see then, let us not worry. Let us trust - because of Jesus' death, because of Jesus' life, because of Jesus' power, because of Jesus' promises, because of Jesus!