



LORD, I NEED A MIRACLE WHEN THERE IS NO MORE POSSIBILITY OF LIFE!

Lesson 2 • John 4:43-54

WE NEED A MIRACLE WHEN THE POSSIBILITY OF DEATH MAKES US DESPERATE

I. DESPERATE TIMES TEMPT US TO JUST SEEK SIGNS RATHER THAN THE SAVIOR!

OPTIONS IN DESPERATE TIMES: FAITH IN SIGNS OR THE SOVEREIGN SAVIOR?

- The **SURPRISING** success of “saving faith” in Samaria. (4:39-42)
“After the two days He went forth from there (= Sychar in Samaria) into Galilee.” (v. 43)

TWO SURPRISING OBSERVATIONS:

- 1) They **believed** in Jesus on the basis of His **words** not His **wonders**! (vv. 39, 41)
- 2) They **begged** Jesus to stay with them because of **who** He was, not **what** He did! (vv. 40, 42)

“and they were saying to the woman, ‘It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world.’” (v. 42)

- The **UNWELCOMING (DISHONORING)** welcome of “sign faith” in Galilee. (4:44-45)

TWO SURPRISING OBSERVATIONS:

- 1) Jesus knew He was a prophet **without** honor in His own country **but** goes back home anyway. (v. 44)

“He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.” John 1:11-13

- 2) The Galileans welcomed Him **but** not with **the honor** He deserved! (v. 45)

- The **UNBELIEVING** belief in signs instead of the Savior in Jerusalem. (2:23-25)

TWO SURPRISING OBSERVATIONS:

- 1) Many **believed** in His name **because** of the signs He was doing. (v. 23)
- 2) But Jesus did not **entrust** Himself to them, **because** He knew what was really in their heart. (vv. 24-25)

- The temptation to just seek signs in desperate times in Cana of Galilee. (4:46-54)

OBSTACLES TO SAVING FAITH IN DESPERATE TIMES

- 1) **SECONDHAND** faith. (vv. 46-47a)
- 2) **SIGN**-demanding faith. (vv. 47-48)

3) **SELF**-centered faith. (v. 49)

4) **STRONG**-willed faith. (v. 50)

THE OFFICIAL SAYS: "YOU COME!"

AND JESUS SAYS: "NO! YOU GO! YOUR SON LIVES!"

"The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and started off."

2. DESPERATE TIMES CALL FOR SAVING FAITH NOT MERE SIGN FAITH!

"Believe in miracles but trust in Jesus!" ~ Adrian Rogers

OPERATION OF SAVING FAITH AT ALL TIMES

➤ **HEARS** the words of Jesus (versus just seeking His signs and wonders). (4:50, 53)

➤ **BELIEVES** the words of Jesus (versus just hearing them). (4:50, 53)

➤ **OBEYS** the words of Jesus (versus just professing "belief" in them). (4:50, 53)

*"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."
John 3:36*

➤ **RESTS** in the words of Jesus (versus having to see it to believe it). (4:50-53)

THE OFFICIAL'S INITIAL FAITH: *Shallow and sign-believing.*

THE OFFICIAL'S FINAL FAITH: *Saving and Savior-trusting.*

3. GIVE THE SOVEREIGN SAVIOR THE HONOR HE DESERVES AT ALL TIMES!

OBJECTIVES OF SAVING FAITH IN THE SOVEREIGN SAVIOR

1) Give the One who is **POWERFUL** enough to prevent death and preserve life the honor He is due!

2) Give the One who is **MERCIFUL** enough to prevent eternal death by providing eternal life the honor He is due!

WHEN LIFE'S DESPERATE TIMES TEMPT YOU TO JUST SEEK JESUS FOR A MIRACLE...

Move beyond shallow sign faith to actual saving faith in Jesus as your powerful and merciful Savior at all times!

- How is God trying to grow your faith in Jesus during your present desperate times?
- Has your faith progressed from a shallow faith that just seeks Jesus in desperate times to an actual saving faith in Him as your Savior and Lord at all times?
- How does your life demonstrate the four characteristics of saving faith (Hearing, Believing, Obeying, Resting in Jesus's Words) on a daily basis?