

# Jesus Helps a Desperate Father

John 4:46-54

Ps Too Teh Hsin

John 4:46-54 recounts the second miracle that Jesus performed in Cana, Galilee. Here, Jesus meets a desperate man with a dying son and we see this man go on a journey of faith towards Jesus.

## The Desperate Father's Journey of Faith towards Jesus:

### **1. The Desperate Plea for Help (v46-47)**

This man is a royal official with some power and wealth. We observe two limitations with power and wealth.

**Observation #1:** Power and wealth cannot shield this man from tragedy.

Tragedy does not discriminate and there is nothing we can do to shield ourselves from the brokenness of this world. Only God can be our shield and fortress.

**Observation #2:** Power and wealth are unable to save his son.

The man must have exhausted all his options and came to the point of desperation where he was willing to try just anything - seeking Jesus' help.

***If your desperation makes your problem bigger than God, there is danger ahead.***

Desperate measures can be foolish and self-destructive ultimately. Instead, we need the fear of the Lord which is the beginning of wisdom to navigate the complexity of life well. Apart from the fear of the Lord, all other fears will drive us down the path of foolishness. What fear drives you today?

***If your desperation drives you to Jesus, there is hope ahead.***

Whenever you need help, turn to Jesus. You must approach Him personally. You cannot seek Him through anyone else. It is between you and Jesus.

### **2. The Unexpected Responses (v48-50)**

Jesus gave a rather unexpected response to the man. The reason for his choice of response is always love! Jesus knows what is best for every situation.

In this case, he wants the man to come to Him not for his usefulness but to know Him as His saviour rather than a miracle man (v48). Jesus wants the man to believe He has power to heal with just a few words.

***Believing is seeing.*** The way of God is to walk by faith and not by sight. The man then went from being indifferent about Jesus to trusting in the word of Jesus (v50b). Are you ready to believe the word of Jesus has power and is true?

### **3. The Healing Beyond Sickness (v52-53)**

The father learnt news that his son was recovering and believed in Jesus, along with the rest of his household. ***The mission of Jesus is much beyond saving us from physical sickness. He came to save our souls.*** This father did not lose his son because God lost His Son. This father wanted to save his son and his son lives. God the Father wanted to save us, and His Son died to satisfy the payment for our sins.

Jesus is more than able to empathise with our situations and solve our problem because he is fully human and fully God. It is not the strength of your faith that will solve your problem. It is Jesus.

Jesus is the Lord over joy at wedding celebrations (v46a) and the Lord over sorrow at desperate situations (v54). Jesus can turn our worst pain, our deepest sorrow, our most desperate situation, into a celebration like a wedding feast.

**Three Applications:**

1. When you are desperate for help, go to Jesus.
2. Trust Jesus to help you in His way, not your way.
3. Once you have received His help, which may be in ways you're not expecting, tell others about it so they may believe as well.