

I. SAMARITAN FAITH

- A. Recall – still within the first few months of the ministry of Jesus Christ on Earth
1. Chapter 5 will see a break in the linear nature of the Gospel of John
 2. But here we are still following up on the chapters before
 3. It is important for the context
 - a. Imagine a 3-layer cake – Gal/Sam/Jud with the Jordon on right
 - i. Sinners up there in Galilee
 - ii. All the super-religious folk down in Judea
 - iii. And those Samaritans in between, well...
 - b. He went South to Judea to Jerusalem for the feast in Jerusalem
 - c. See that in 2:13 – says He went “up” because of altitude
 - d. (Remember that maps weren’t always North Up as well)
 - e. After the feast, He must needs go through Samaria (vs. 4:4)
 - f. Now He departs to Galilee (vs. 43)
 4. He went to Cana NOT Capernaum (His own town – vs. 3:12)
 - a. Why? Well, He tells us exactly (vs. 44)
 - b. The old saying – Familiarity breeds contempt
 - c. Matthew 11:23-24 – “And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. (24) But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.”
 - d. Imagine for an instant
 - i. A city that should have been most blessed
 - ii. But instead, because they ignored Him, most cursed
 5. Galileans in general received Him (vs. 45)
 - a. They thronged Him
 - b. They had seen the miracles He had done at the feast
 - c. They had heard Him speak back in chapter 2
 - d. They had seen Him drive out the money changers
 - e. They had seen Him in His zeal for God’s House
 - f. John 2:23 says that many believed in His name there “because of the miracles which He did.”
- B. Two Days in Samaria
1. More time than any other Jew would have spent
 - a. Most would have crossed the Jordan river TWICE
 - b. Rather than go through Samaria
 - i. But Praise God He went through!
 - ii. You might say, “it doesn’t matter much to me”

- iii. I'm here to tell you, it mattered to that woman at the well
 - iv. It mattered to the city of Sychar!
 - c. And they LOVED the Gospel so much, they begged Him to stay
 - d. Would that we would beg Jesus to stay with us!
 - 2. After 2 days (vs. 40 and vs. 43) He departed
 - a. He had His mission to complete
 - b. To the Jew first and also to the Greek
 - c. But He spent 2 days
 - 3. Interesting that He did not go into Samaria again after this
 - a. Sure, He dealt with a Roman Centurion and woman from Canaan
 - b. Just those 2 days... you know, the Bible says that 1000 years
 - i. Isn't it interesting God focused 2000 years on Gentiles?
 - ii. Isn't it interesting that God says He will return His attention to His people Israel in the 7 years of Tribulation?
 - c. And that He will return to reign from Jerusalem for 1000 years?
 - d. Like a seventh day of rest?
 - 4. Col 1:26-27 – "Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: (27) To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:"
 - a. It was HID
 - b. But now revealed among the Gentiles!
 - c. Christ in you, the hope of glory!
- C. The Prophets Predicted Christ's Ministry in Galilee
1. Everybody hears Isaiah 9:6 at Christmas time
 2. Isaiah 9:6 – "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."
 3. What about 9:1?
 4. Isaiah 9:1 – "Nevertheless the dimness shall not be such as was in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict her by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations."
 5. And it goes on! After calling out Galilee, God gets specific!
 6. Isaiah 9:2 – "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined."

II. SICK WITH FEVER

- A. A Certain Nobleman (vs. 46)
 1. From Christ's home city Capernaum (but He went instead to Cana)
 - a. It must have surprised Jesus that a child got sick in Capernaum

- b. It must have been quite a shock to find out... 😊
 - c. Of course, it didn't – He is God
 - d. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word WAS God
2. God doesn't tell us the nobleman's name (He must not have wanted to)
- a. It could be because it would have been dangerous for the man
 - i. If his bosses found out who he was
 - ii. Writing it down might have come back on him
 - b. There are some thoughts about who it could have been
 - i. Chuza (Luke 8:3) – “And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance.”
 - ii. Manaen (Acts 13:1) – “Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.”
 - iii. He will save people of all ranks from all walks of life
 - c. Despite what the Pharisee thought – John 7:47-48 – “Then answered them the Pharisees, Are ye also deceived? (48) Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him?”

B. Come Down

1. He besought Him (vs. 47)
2. His son was at the point of death
3. This nobleman didn't know what the Roman Centurion apparently did
 - a. The Word of God is as good as the Presence of God
 - b. The Centurion understood authority – he was a soldier
 - c. I tell this man come and he comes / that man go and he goes
 - d. If God says the servant is healed, then the servant is healed.
4. We see the same thing with Jairus (another Jew) with a sick daughter
5. The Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek wisdom
6. This nobleman was asking Jesus to take a 16 to 25 mile walk (considered a day's journey)

C. He begged Him

1. Now don't worry
2. We need never try to “hurry Jesus up.”
3. He does not always work how we ask but He does work!
4. John 6:37 – “All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.”

III. SIGNS AND WONDERS

A. Jesus does not give an expected answer (vs. 48)

1. This is a gentle reminder to us all not to OVERLOOK the power of God

- 2. How can we overlook something like that?
- 3. By not asking in faith! We have not because we ASK not!
- B. This man barely heard Jesus (vs. 49)
 - 1. Can you hear the despair in the man's voice?
 - 2. His son is dying!
- C. Jesus spoke (vs. 50)
 - 1. And the man believed!
 - 2. There was something about the way Jesus spoke to him
 - 3. A quiet authority – because He spoke the very literal Word of God!

IV. SINS FORGIVEN

- A. He went his way (vs. 50 – 53)
 - 1. He left without any doubts
 - 2. He believed God, after all – like Abraham
 - 3. Not always safe to believe man, but it's always SAFE to believe God
- B. No big works to perform
 - 1. No alms to give, no special prayers to repeat
 - 2. After all, God spoke this universe into existence
- C. Should it be any less when Jesus forgives sin?
 - 1. Religion makes things hard – Jesus came to make it simple
 - 2. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God
 - 3. There is none righteous, no, not one
 - 4. We have all gone out of the way
 - 5. And the wages of sin is death BUT the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord!

V. SAVED FOREVER

- A. John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world that He gave his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have ever-lasting life.”
- B. That boy was healed from his fever, and hopefully lived a full life for God
 - 1. But one day he grew old and died
 - 2. We all have that appointment with death
- C. But we don't have to suffer death's sting! The grave won't have its victory!
- D. Not over the child of God!
- E. Be Saved today!