

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon Notes for July 10-11, 2004**

**"Growing Faith"**

**John 4:43-54**

The word "country" (PATRIS) can refer either, to one's "homeland" or to one's "hometown." In this context it refers to the homeland of the Jews.

Just because John 4:45 tells us that the Galileans received Jesus does not mean that they received Him with the honor that was due Him.

When the Galileans received Jesus they did not receive Him as their Messiah but only as a miracle worker (John 4:45).

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But even though the vast majority of the Jews in Galilee received Him only as a miracle worker there was one certain official who came to see Him as much more than that (John 4:46-54).

What happened to transform the faith of a certain royal official?

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The transformation of this royal official's faith began with a mild rebuke from Christ (John 4:46-48).

A royal official (BASILICOS) refers to someone officially attached to the service of a king.

This royal official had influence and this official had money but this did not spare him from the agony of having to helplessly watch as his son's life steadily slipped away.

When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, it says that he went to Him (John 5:41).

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He was requesting Jesus to come down and heal his son and he was unrelenting. Though this man had an elevated status and though this man had wealth, he was not too proud to beg.

What is amazing about the intensity that this man demonstrated is the fact that his faith in Jesus as a miracle worker was marginal at best (Matthew 8:5-13).

The next thing that helped transform the faith of this royal official was the statement made by Jesus that His son had been healed (John 4:50).

The world says, "seeing is believing" but the scriptures tell us that "believing is seeing." This royal official, by faith, saw his son as healed ( Hebrews 11:13).

The final step in the transformation of the royal official's faith was not to see Jesus simply as a miracle worker, but as the Messiah (John 4:51-54).

The seventh hour would, according to the way Jews reckoned time, place the healing of the official's son at about 1:00 p.m.

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The official had learned who Christ was, and he trusted fully in Him. The more he reflected upon the circumstances, the more wonderful it all seemed.

Let us come to Jesus not only to receive His help, but most importantly to give Him the honor that He deserves as the Christ, the Son of the living God.