

SERIES: Gospel of John
From Desperation to True Faith
John 4:43-54

Jesus Contemplates Unbelief: True Faith Requires Actual Commitment, not Spiritual Curiosity. (43-45)

- Whereas the Samaritans received Jesus as Savior, the Jews failed to honor him.
 - It is possible to welcome Jesus without truly **welcoming** him.
 - There is a way to believe in Jesus without truly **believing** in him.
- Despite their rejection, Jesus continued to go to his own.

Jesus Confronts Unbelief: True Faith is Based on Informed Belief, not Emotional Feelings. (46-49)

- Jesus criticizes all the people of Galilee for their faithless desire to see signs and miracles. (47-48)
 - These people were **sign**-seekers. At the root of their desire for miracles was unbelief.
 - Unbelievers do not love God. They **use** God.
 - We must beware of spiritual self-entitlement by thinking we deserve Jesus' blessings.
 - This minimizes God's **grace**.
 - We must avoid over-familiarity with Jesus so that he becomes normal and cannot shock us.
 - This minimizes God's **power**.
 - They should have been **Savior**-seekers. They needed Christ more than they needed miracles.
 - Sign seekers say, "I have a health need, **fix** it."
 - Savior seekers say, "I have a sin problem, **forgive** it."

Jesus Conquers Unbelief: True Faith is Rooted in a Growing Dependence, not a Single Decision. (50-54)

- True faith comes from hearing God's word. (50-51)
 - Capernaum was 15 miles away from Galilee.
 - Jesus' word is not limited by **space**.
 - The city could have been 15,000 miles away.
 - Jesus' power is not lessened by **distance**.
- The way to increase faith is to **exercise** faith. (52-53)
 - The "**spark**" of faith: "*When he heard Jesus had come to Galilee... he asked him to heal his son.*"
 - The "**flame**" of faith: "*Sir, come down before my child dies.*"
 - The "**fire**" of faith: "*The man believed the word Jesus spoke to him and went on his way.*"
 - The "**inferno**" of faith: "*And he himself believed and all his household.*"
- This story reveals three amazing truths about Jesus.
 - Jesus is **powerful**.
 - Jesus is **gracious**.
 - Jesus is **glorious**.

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