



# Jesus Heals the Official's Son

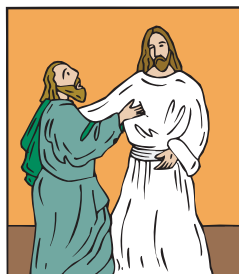
John 4:43-54

*When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to Him and begged Him to come and heal his son, who was close to death.*

*"Unless you people see signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe."*

*The royal official said, "Sir, come down before my child dies."*

*"Go," Jesus replied, "your son will live." The man took Jesus at his word and departed. - John 4:47-50*



## Day #1: Powerful One

In John 4:43-54, we read the story of a desperate father, doing anything he could to save his son's life. The boy was sick with a high fever, and without a miracle, he would die. Clearly the man had done all he knew how to do to cure his son. Surely, he hired the best doctors. But no one could do anything to heal him.

The boy, his family, friends, and doctors were powerless over the illness. But the boy's father heard about a Man who was full of power. So he left his son's side to find this Man, Jesus.

*Now He (Jesus) is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made Him head over all things for the benefit of the church. - Ephesians 1:20-23 NLT*

In this verse, we see that Jesus has power over all things - all physical things and all spiritual things. The fever was stronger than the boy, but not stronger than Jesus! Jesus simply spoke, several miles away, and the fever vanished.

The Bible gives us a peek at the amazing power of Jesus, from healing incurable diseases to making blind people see, to calming a raging sea and making demons flee. All of these things are more powerful than we are, but none of them hold a candle to the power of our Lord!

*No matter what you are facing, it is not too powerful for Jesus! Just as the official ran to Jesus for healing, you can run to Jesus with your need.*

## Day #2: Just Ask

What did the man have to do to get Jesus to heal his son? How much money did Jesus ask for? (None!) Did the man have to promise he would go to church or to do good things? (No.) Did he give Jesus a long list of the many good deeds he had done in the past? (No.)

The man did nothing to earn Jesus' favor. His son had done nothing to earn a miracle. All the father had to do was ask.

*Jesus said: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. - Matthew 7:7-8*

Jesus goes on to say that it is God's pleasure to give good things to those who come to Him and ask. The Lord will not withhold good things from His children. But we must ask Him. When we ask God for help and blessings, we are showing Him that we trust His goodness and generosity. We know that He is able and willing to help us, just like Jesus helped the official's son.

We hate to even imagine what would have happened if the man had not gone to ask Jesus for this miracle. But how many times do we decide not to ask God for what we need? How many times do we talk to everyone else before we take our problem to God?

*Do you have a need that you have not taken to God? Take time right now to pray and ask for what you need.*

## Day #3: From Bad to Good

Could God have kept the little boy from getting sick in the first place? Of course He could! Then why would God allow him to become so sick? God was going to use this illness for good.

*And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. - Romans 8:28 NLT*

Sometimes God allows things to happen that we can't understand. In this case, God allowed the boy's illness so that Jesus could heal him and then his family would know that Jesus was the Savior. Before he got sick, the boy and his family were not in God's kingdom;

### Day #3 continued:

they were separated from God. Because of his illness and Jesus' miracle, his entire family came to believe in Jesus.

Sure, the boy could have never fallen ill. But then he would not have known that Jesus was the Savior. It was far better for the boy to go through the illness and find Jesus on the other side, than never to have gotten sick at all.



This story is just one example of the many ways that God can use a bad situation for ultimate good. In your lifetime, you will face trials of many kinds. Trust that God can use each one for good in your life and for His kingdom.

Read this verse, putting your name in the blank. If you are a follower of Jesus, this verse is written about you!

*And we know that God causes **everything** to work together for the good of \_\_\_\_\_.* - Romans 8:28a NLT

## Day #4: Seal of Approval

Over 100 years ago, a man named Clark Bryan started *Good Housekeeping* magazine. It gave advice on cooking, health, decorating, and raising children. Like every magazine, *Good Housekeeping* allowed companies to place ads in their pages. However, Mr. Bryan was committed to only allowing good quality products to be seen in his magazine. So he set up a test lab where his magazine tested every item. Through the years, products from vacuums to toys, and shampoo to diapers have been tested. When a product proves to be good quality, *Good Housekeeping* puts its **seal of approval** on it. If you ever buy something with that seal of approval on it that turns out to be a bad product, the magazine will give you back the money you spent!

*Good Housekeeping* only puts its seal on items that can be trusted. Because of the magazine's good name, people know that those items are trustworthy. A fancy way to say this is that *Good Housekeeping* **endorses** these items.



Now, what does this have to do with the miracles of Jesus? The Bible says:



*God publicly endorsed Jesus the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through Him,*

### Day #4 continued:

*as you well know.* - Acts 2:22

God wanted everyone to know that Jesus' message was true. God wanted people to know that Jesus could be trusted when He said, "Believe in Me and I will give you eternal life." When God did miracles through Jesus, it was His way of putting His **seal of approval** on Jesus' message.



Are the words you speak so truthful, good, and life-giving, that God would be willing to put His seal of approval on them?

## Day #5: The Kids Have It!

There is an old saying that started in England in the early 1400's by some very misguided adults. It goes, "Children should be seen and not heard." What do you think that means? It must have been made up by adults who did not understand how awesome kids are! These adults did not want to be "bothered" by the inquisitive minds of the young people in their lives.

But that is just the opposite of how Jesus feels! He did not think that kids were objects that should sit silently so as not to disturb His important work with grown ups. In fact, let's read what happened one day while He was in the middle of teaching some adults.



*Some people brought little children to Jesus. They wanted Him to place His hands on the children and pray for them. But the disciples told the people to stop.*

*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me. Don't keep them away. The kingdom of heaven belongs to people like them." Jesus placed His hands on them. Then He went on from there.* -Matthew 19:13-15

Jesus **wanted** the children to come to Him. He commanded His disciples to let them come. Jesus stopped what He was doing in order to place His hands on them and give them his blessing.

From this story, the story of Jesus healing the official's son, and many more, we know that Jesus values children. You do not have to wait and grow up before you have a relationship with Him. You are not one bit less important to Jesus than a grown up. In fact, Jesus points out that kids often understand His kingdom more easily than adults do.



How old are you? If you have a relationship with Jesus now, how many years will you spend with Him by the time you are 80 years old? But if you didn't know Him until you were 30 years old, how many years would you spend with Him by the time you were 80? In Jesus' book, the younger you are, the better it is!