

TRUTH & LIGHT

the Wellsburg church of Christ

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BELIEVING HIS WORD

“Therefore He came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a royal official whose son was sick at Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and was imploring Him to come down and heal his son; for he was at the point of death. So Jesus said to him, ‘Unless you people see signs and wonders, you simply will not believe,’” (John 4:46-48). As word got out of the miraculous power Jesus wielded, the people fell into two distinct categories. One group was full of amazement and curious excitement about the fact that someone who had that kind of mysterious power was actually in their presence. If there was a specific personal need, they might think to give that power a try to repair some urgent

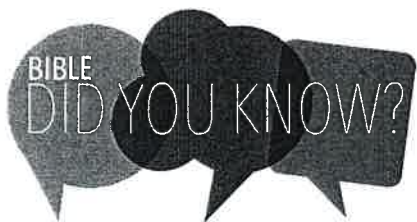
problem, but nothing more beyond acknowledging Him as some bewildering generous oddity. “Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, observing His signs which He was doing. But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men, and because He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man,” (John 2:23-25). Those in this group essentially believed in His power, yet remained largely confused and unchanged by the words He spoke in His teaching. Then there was another group beginning to form. The second group, fully convinced by the signs and miracles Jesus performed that there was power and essential truth in the challenging words He spoke, began recognizing

His power based upon the life changing truth they were hearing. “From that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, ‘He told me all the things that I have done.’ So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they were asking Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. Many more believed because of His word; and they were saying to the woman, ‘It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world,’” (John 4:39-42). Once we recognize the differences between these two predominant groups responding to the power of Jesus, we will understand the meaning behind Jesus’ statement to the royal official’s request to come and heal his son. “So Jesus said to him, ‘Unless you people see signs and wonders, you simply will not believe,’” (John 4:48). Always willing to see Jesus’ power on display, either through a personal request or through the curiosity of simply wishing to see the extent of it, those in the first group remained unchanged by the message His signs confirmed. They still had not been fully convinced of their need to draw closer to let the power of His teaching perform wonders on their lives

and transform them. Jesus was addressing this first group. The royal official and many like him were still in this group. While they believed Jesus possessed life changing power, it was strictly limited in their mind to the physical aspect of life. This group still exists today. Many who are willing to ask Jesus to do this, fix this, make this go away, stop that, bring this, change this, and allow this, are still unwilling to let His word change them, mold them, enlighten them or renew them. Seeing the royal official stuck in this first group, He seeks to bring Him to a deeper faith and see things Jesus is capable of he never thought possible. Refusing to get sidetracked from the challenging statement Jesus makes, the royal official reminds Jesus that time is of the essence and it is imperative they make their way to the house as fast as possible. “The royal official said to Him, ‘Sir, come down before my child dies,’” (John 4:49). Jesus challenges the official to move from believing in His power to heal to believing in the power of His word. So rather than physically come down to the house, Jesus shows His own word has power in itself. “Jesus said to him, ‘Go; your son lives.’ The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and started off. As he was now going down, his

slaves met him, saying that his son was living. So he inquired of them the hour when he began to get better. Then they said to him, 'Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.' So the father knew that it was at that hour in which Jesus said to him, 'Your son lives'; and he himself believed and his whole household. This is again a second sign that Jesus performed when He had come out of Judea into Galilee," (John 4:50-54). How about us? What group are we in? While we believe in Jesus' power to forgive us of our sins, are we willing to go any deeper than that? Will we be content to make sure we access that power when we are in need of His forgiving power, or are we willing to access the truth of His word and seek His changing power? There is a big difference. Jesus wanted to show the royal official that there was something more life changing than merely His ability to bring health to the body (and there is something more life changing than merely His ability to forgive us of our sins). He wanted to show him that the very words Jesus speaks has power in themselves and are able to bring a renewed and more fulfilling life if we let it change us. Let's seek to be in the second group Jesus was forming; a people who have

been moved to a trusting faith that if we let His word abide in us then He will abide in us and change us from the inside out (John 14:18-24). "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly," (John 10:7-10). – Daniel Ruegg



"We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God."

1 John 3:19-21

BIBLE TRIVIA

C H A L L E N G E

DIRECTIONS: After searching through your Bible, circle which answer is correct.

1. After praying to God, Jesus said this man went to his house justified.

- a) Pharisee
- b) Tax Collector
- c) Sadducee
- d) Priest

2. He became very sad in response to Jesus' command.

- a) Zaccheus
- b) Bartimaeus
- c) Nathanael
- d) Rich Young Ruler

3. The crowd told him to be quiet when he called out for Jesus.

- a) Blind Beggar
- b) Lazarus
- c) Judas
- d) Herod

4. Jesus said, "The Son of Man has come to seek and to save ____"

- a) Christians
- b) Good people
- c) Caucasians
- d) The Lost

5. While the rich gave out of their surplus, a poor widow gave out of her ____.

- a) Poverty
- b) Purse
- c) Wealth
- d) Leftovers

6. Came and strengthened Jesus while praying in garden.

- a) Peter
- b) Mary
- c) John
- d) Angel

7. Forced to carry cross for Jesus.

- a) Nicodemus
- b) Judas
- c) Simon of Cyrene
- d) Herod

8. Was with Jesus in Paradise after death.

- a) Pilate
- b) Thief
- c) Barabbas
- d) Ananias

9. Jesus was placed in this man's tomb when taken down from cross.

- a) Peter
- b) Abraham
- c) Joseph of Arimathea
- d) David

10. To prove the disciples were seeing Jesus alive in the flesh after death and not a spirit, Jesus ate this.

- a) Bread
- b) Lamb
- c) Skittles
- d) Fish

1) B, Reference: Lk. 18:9-14
2) D, Reference: Lk. 18:18-23
3) A, Reference: Lk. 18:35-39
4) D, Reference: Lk. 19:9-10
5) A, Reference: Lk. 21:1-4
6) D, Reference: Lk. 22:39-43

7) C, Lk. 23:26
8) B, Lk. 23:39-43
9) C, Lk. 23:50-55
10) D, Lk. 24:36-43

ANSWERS & VERSES: