

Title: Believe It Or Not! - John 4 43-54

Read:

⁴³⁻⁴⁵After the two days he left for Galilee. Now, Jesus knew well from experience that a prophet is not respected in the place where he grew up. So when he arrived in Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him, but only because they were impressed with what he had done in Jerusalem during the Passover Feast, not that they really had a clue about who he was or what he was up to. ⁴⁶⁻⁴⁸Now he was back in Cana of Galilee, the place where he made the water into wine. Meanwhile in Capernaum, there was a certain official from the king's court whose son was sick. When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went and asked that he come down and heal his son, who was on the brink of death. Jesus put him off: "Unless you people are dazzled by a miracle, you refuse to believe." ⁴⁹But the court official wouldn't be put off. "Come down! It's life or death for my son." ⁵⁰⁻⁵¹Jesus simply replied, "Go home. Your son lives." The man believed the bare word Jesus spoke and headed home. On his way back, his servants intercepted him and announced, "Your son lives!" ⁵²⁻⁵³He asked them what time he began to get better. They said, "The fever broke yesterday afternoon at one o'clock." The father knew that that was the very moment Jesus had said, "Your son lives." ⁵³⁻⁵⁴That clinched it. Not only he but his entire household believed. This was now the second sign Jesus gave after having come from Judea into Galilee.

Think:

Just imagine this. Your mate at college or school becomes ill. Maybe it's Aids, maybe it's cancer, maybe it's a car crash. You are at your wits end, there is nothing you can do. You spend your entire time worrying about this mate of yours, and you just can't get it out of your mind. Then you hear about this guy who goes around healing people. He doesn't make a big fuss about it, he just walks around with his mates telling people about God. So you think, well nothing ventured, nothing gained, and you go and ask the guy to come to your school or college, and heal your mate. But he doesn't come. He says "you just think I am a magic act, but go back anyway, your mate's well again." What would you do? Would you be fed up and think, "Oh well, that was a waste of time?" Or would you do what this guy did, and believe a complete stranger had healed your mate, and go back home? I'm not sure what I would do, but I do know that Jesus asks us to believe a lot without always seeing the physical evidence. The good news, is that the Bible tells us that those who believe without seeing, make God have a big smile on his face. Now believe it or not that is true and that sounds great to me.

Pray:

Lord in this world that requires evidence for everything we don't understand, I thank you that you do give us so much evidence of your existence. But Lord, I ask that you increase my faith, to the point where I don't need to see to believe. Amen.

Action:

You are told by so many people that there is evidence to disprove the Bible. Every time I look into their claims, I find they are false. Next time someone says something about the Bible being wrong, without authority, I dare you to go and find out the facts for yourself. Just because someone claims something to be fact, doesn't mean it is. Bye.