



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel
John 4:43-54
From Sermon 7.30.23

Read *John 4:43-54*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: With His encounter with the Samaritan woman concluded, Jesus heads to His home region. He's confronted by a desperate father with a dying child. Jesus always displayed His compassion and healed those who came to Him—despite their faith, response, or background. His power over nature (illness here) is further evidence of His identity as the Great I AM.

1. Read *Hebrews 11:1*. Did the royal official have faith or something else? It appears that he first comes with a desperate hope only. Although the text said he "believed" Jesus and headed home, a different kind of belief (one of faith) came for he and his household after he got home and told his Jesus story.

2. On Sunday, we learned several categories of "How People came to Faith" in Jesus. Review and discuss each.

- Identity/Identify: this group was ready. They just need a name/face. See *John 1:35-37*
- Knowledge: this group knew some but needed the truth of the Word from Jesus or a witness.
- Miracle: this group needed evidence of the divine and came to Jesus after the supernatural.
- Rejection: this saddest of the groups had all the above, in many cases, yet refused salvation.
For each level of evidence, a great judgement is coming. See also *Matthew 11:20-24*

3. Although in the end few believed in Jesus, many came to Him over the years of His ministry. Review and discuss *why* they came to Jesus.

- For the Benefits: Jesus could feed them, fight their battles, & provide for physical needs.
- Healing & Answers: They needed Jesus to relieve them of pain or infirmities. Relieve their anxiety.
- Salvation: They came spiritually bankrupt wanting reconciliation with God. See *Luke 23:39-43*

4. Gospel accounts like this one lead us to consider the doctrines on healing and miracles. The Jews believed anyone who had trials & problems was always under God's curse. Many of today's churches and TV ministries teach that a less than perfect life (concerning health, wealth, prosperity) = a lack of faith. Does a faithful life and ministry in Christ secure freedom from illness, poverty, or failure? No. We live in a curse, fallen world. While God can/may shield His elect from some trials and hurts, we are still subject to these dying bodies and the sin of others.

5. Consider and discuss the trials and plights of these examples of godly, faithful men: Jesus, Paul, Peter, Jeremiah, John the Baptist & Daniel.

6. Is it wrong to pray for healing? Not at all. Just know—1) it's not guaranteed, even for believers. Also 2) it's not a lack of faith that prevents healing. (more in this next week). 3) no one has the gift of healing.