

God of Wonders 9th in the "Life in his Name" Series John 4:43-54, p. 889

John 4:43-54, p. 889 November 18, 2018 Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage God challenges our selfish interest in him and exhorts us to worship the wonder that he is.		
The Text: John 4:43-54		
1)	We must be careful not to distort Jesus to fit our needs and desires (vv. 43-45).	
2)	Our worship of God is not based on the wonders he performs but on the wonder that he is (vv. 46-49).	
3)	Jesus is the true "Royal Official" who is worthy of our submission and praise (vv. 50-54).	

Response

Do you seek wonders OR the God of wonders?

Sunday Text Questions for John 4:43-54

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1)	Starter Question: What are symptoms of a person who is interested in the things God can do for them and is not interested in God himself?
2)	Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
3)	Why do you think people in Jesus' hometown had less respect for him (v. 44) than strangers like the Samaritans (4:39-42)?
4)	In v. 45, the Galileans welcome Jesus because they are impressed with the miracles he performed earlier. How common is this kind of (selfish) interest in Jesus today?
5)	The father of the sick child travelled 25 difficult miles to ask Jesus to heal his son. Why does the text give us that information, and what does it communicate to the reader?
6)	How should Jesus' statement to the royal official in v. 48 be interpreted, and how does the plural "you" give us guidance?
7)	What in the royal official's response to Jesus' rebuke made Jesus see his request as properly directed at the person of Jesus and not simply his ability to perform a miracle?
8)	What are the details in vv. 51-53 about the timing of the miracle supposed to communicate to the reader?
	How can a person know if they are interested in God for selfish reasons (for his power – the wonders he can perform) or for solid reasons (for his person – the wonder that he is)?
10)	What truths to believe or actions to obey does this passage of Scripture teach us?

Further study this week: Mark 6:14-29 on King Herod, the Royal Official's boss (Mon); Revelation 4 on the worthiness of God (Tues); Jeremiah 10 on false worship (Wed); Psalm 147 on praise to God (Thurs); Psalm 145 on the greatness of God (Fri).