

THE HEALING OF THE ROYAL OFFICIAL'S SON

INTRODUCTION

How did the Jews respond when they first met Jesus? Did they believe in Him as a whole? No. John 4:48 says that Jesus exclaimed “Unless you people see signs and wonders, you simply will not believe.” However, there was someone who was different. We never learn his name because he is simply called “a royal official” (verse 46) and we are going to study his story today by looking at “4 Phases to the Healing of the Royal Official’s Son.”

1. The Royal Official Goes to Jesus (Verses 46-47).

Verses 46-47 says, “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.”

Discussion Question A: What was a royal official?

Discussion Question B: What does it mean to that this royal official was “imploring” Jesus? Was it normal at the time for a royal official to do something like that? Why or why not?

2. The Royal Official Talks to Jesus (Verses 48-50).

Verses 48-50 says, “So Jesus said to him, ‘Unless you people see signs and wonders, you simply will not believe.’ The royal official said to Him, ‘Sir, come down before my child dies.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go; your son lives.’”

Discussion Question A: Why did Jesus say “Unless you see people signs and wonders, you simply will not believe?”

Discussion Question B: Why did the royal official respond to Jesus’ statement by bringing up his son again? How did this demonstrate how desperate he was?

3. The Royal Official Believes in Jesus (Verses 50-53).

Verses 50-53 says, “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.”

Discussion Question A: Did the royal official “believe the word that Jesus spoke to him” before or after he saw that his son was healed?

Discussion Question B: What does this say about his faith?

4. The Royal Official’s Story Marks the Second Miraculous Sign that Jesus Performed in the Gospel of John (Verse 54).

Verse 54 says, “This is again a second sign that Jesus performed when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.”

Discussion Question A: List the 7 signs that Jesus performed in the Gospel of John in order and give the Jews’ reaction to each one of them.

Discussion Question B: How does this make the royal official’s response so unusual?