

Letting God Out of
the Box You've Put

Him In

John 4:43-54



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Main Point:



- **Jesus goes out of His way to be in our way**
- **A millisecond in His presence will change your life forever**
- **We all drink from the wells of life that do not satisfy**
- **Jesus offers living water**
- **God is looking for those who will love all of Him with all of themselves**

Main Point:



- **Jesus sets us free from the sin of our past; we make the choice to not carry it anymore**
- **A relationship with God is about being obedient, not comfortable**
- **The world is ready, and looking for, the Good News – we must be urgent in sharing it**

Main Point:



**We need to give God permission
to work in our lives as He sees fit,
not as we do.**

John 4



43 – After the two days He went forth from there into Galilee.

44 – For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country.

45 – So when He came to Galilee, the Galileans received Him, having seen all the things that He did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they themselves also went to the feast.

John 4



46 – 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.

47 – 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.

48 – So Jesus said to him, “Unless you people see signs and wonders, you simply will not believe.”

John 4



49 – The royal official said to him, “Sir, come down before my child dies.”

50 – Jesus said to him, “Go; your son lives.” The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and started off.

51 – As he was going down, his slaves met him, saying that his son was living.

John 4



52 – So he inquired of them the hour when he began to get better. They then said to him, “Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.”

53 – 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.

54 – This is again a second sign that Jesus performed when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.

Go where the fishing is good



- **To love Father God is to be obedient to Him, and to be obedient to Him sometimes means taking extraordinary steps**
- **He spent two days with people who were outcasts**
- **He bypassed His own hometown**
 - **The best bait on the best line on the best pole in the best weather conditions won't mean a thing if the fish aren't biting**
 - **“And as for those who do not receive you, as you go out from that city, shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.”
(Matthew 10:14, Mark 6:11)**

Go where the fishing is good



- **Lots of fish to catch in Cana!**
- **When God does good things, the word gets out**
 - Capernaum = @26 miles away (on foot)
 - A “royal official” - i.e. of the governor of Judea: Herod (*Mark 6:14*)

The extraordinary response



- ***“Unless you see signs and wonders, you will not believe.”***
- **Is Jesus upset that someone asked Him to do a miracle?**
 - ***“This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.”*** John 2:11
 - **Miracles result in belief (John 4:53)**
 - **Miracles reveal a portion of God’s character: His authority, His mercy, His judgment, His power**

God can, and wants to, do the miraculous!



- ***Exodus 15:11 – “Who is like You among the gods, O Lord? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in praises, working wonders?”***
- ***Psalm 40:5 – “Many, O Lord my God, are the wonders which You have done, and Your thoughts toward us; there is none to compare with You. If I would declare and speak of them, they would be too numerous to count.”***

God can, and wants to, do the miraculous!



- ***Acts 2:22 – “Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know...”***

What is Jesus trying to tell us?



- Not a question of if He can or if He wants to
- He had performed no miracle in Samaria (the outcasts), other than a word of knowledge
- He constantly performed miracles for the Jews (His own people), yet they continued to ask for more as proof of His claims
- *The official does believe; he came to Jesus for what He could do, not for who He was*

What is Jesus trying to tell us?



- The issue is not that he asked for a miracle; it's that he was insistent Jesus had to do it his way ("Come to my house.")
- Mark 9:22b-23 – *"...But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!"* And Jesus said to him, *"If You can?"* All things are possible to him who believes."
- *Do you know Who you are talking to?*
- *Don't allow familiarity with Jesus to diminish His power!*

Matthew 8



05 – And when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, imploring Him,

06 – and saying, “Lord, my [boy] is lying paralyzed at home, fearfully tormented.”

07 – Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal him.”

08 – But the centurion said, “Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just say the word, and my boy will be healed.

Matthew 8



09 – “For I am also a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, ‘Go!’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come!’ and he comes, and to my slave, ‘Do this!’ and he does it.”

10 – Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled and said to those who were following, “Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel...”

Matthew 8



13 - ...And Jesus said to the centurion, “Go; it shall be done for you as you have believed.” And the servant was healed that very moment.

“Go...”



- **Two separate approaches, two separate expectations**
- **One believed he would see/one believed without seeing**
- **One came asking, understanding what Jesus could do**
- **One came asking, understanding who Jesus was**
- ***Which one are you?***

Psalm 66



16 – Come and hear, all who revere God, and I will tell of what He has done for my soul...

19 – Certainly God has heard; He has given heed to the voice of my prayer.

20 – Blessed be God, who has not turned away my prayer, nor His lovingkindness from me.

John 20



**What are you asking Jesus to do for
you right now?**

**Will you have the faith in who He is
to offer that prayer with an open
hand?**

