John 4:46-64 - 5:1-9

Practical Deliverance from the Principle of Sin & Law

By Faith, Not By Sight

Recap of Chapter 4

- 1. In the story of the Samaritan woman, we learn there is grace for the sinners (worst of sinners).
- 2. In the instruction about the harvest to the disciples, we learn there is on every hand a world of needy sinners.
- 3. In the city of Samaria, we learn that Christ is "the Saviour of the world".
- 4. When the men of Sychar had received the Lord, they said, "We have heard Him ourselves". (by faith) In contrast, the Galileans received Him "having seen all the things that He did at Jerusalem". (by sight)

5. in chapter 4: 46-54, we learn that the blessing can only be received by faith.



- From the Lord's words it seems that the nobleman was putting the Lord to the test; and If the man could see Christ come down to his house and heat his son, then he would believe.
 - The Lord rebukes this thought by saying, "Unless, you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe", then, ,"Go thy way, thy son lives". Thus the nobleman is tested. Will he believe the word of Jesus apart from seeing signs and wonders?
- Very blessedly he answers to the test. We read, "The man believed *the word* that Jesus had spoken." Having believed, he gets the sign as a confirmation of his faith.
 This Jewish nobleman did not exhibit the strong faith that marked the Gentile centurion of Matthew 8. His tendency as a Jew was to demand signs and wonders before believing and belief of that sort is not genuine faith. Still, though feeble, faith was there in this man's heart for he obeyed the command of Jesus.

What Do We Learn About Christ Here?

Christ has the power to arrest death and grant life even at the point of death. This is just what man in general needs and Israel in particular, not just healing but *life. He is the Source and Giver of life.*

What Can We Learn From This Story?

Our faith does not rest upon our sight or of some miracle but upon our Lord Jesus.
Any amount of signs cannot add to our faith, but, as we believe in Him and receive His Word in simple faith, He confirms us His faithfulness with signs and miracles.
Blessed are we as we believe our Lord Jesus and His word apart from seeing signs and wonders.

Thought To Chew On:

• Israel as a nation (like the Nobleman's son) was at the point of death and Christ was present with power to arrest death and heal the nation but to receive the blessing called for faith in His word. Alas! the nation proved their lack of faith by looking for signs.



- (John 4) The story of the well of Sychar shows us God's way of deliverance from the power of sin.
- (John 5) The pool of Bethesda is used to present God's way of deliverance from law.
 - Two things can noted here
 - 1) There was blessing to be obtained from the pool
 - 2) The blessing could be obtained by the effort of a sick man stepping into the pool
 - That one thing (the effort to step into the pool) was wholly lacking in this sick man and the blessing from the pool required that a man steps into the pool when stirred.
 - When The Lord says to him "Do you want to be made whole", he owns his utter weakness and the futility of all his efforts "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool", and recognizes the need of another if he is to be delivered from his sad condition.(verse 7)
 - As he looks to a deliverer, he meets his deliverer. The Lord's word to him is, "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk". Believing in the Lord he is made whole.
 - The man was now not only able to walk by himself but was also able to carry the bed (which witnesses to to his helplessness to prior condition)

What Do We Learn of Christ Here?

 Christ shows that He helps a man who owns that he is utterly helpless. The power is in Christ and deliverance depends upon the Deliverer.

What Can We Learn Here?

- The case of the sick man by the pool aptly sets forth the state in which every man lies iif tested by the law. Sin has destroyed our power to do the necessary thing which the law demands. This man made no reference to his own powers, which had vanished, but only acknowledged that no one was available to do for him what he could not do himself "I have no man," he said
- The principle of the law = we overcome by what we do
- Under law man is asked to act on by his own effort
- Deliverance from law in a practical way = we are *delivered from our own efforts* the struggle to overcome the flesh and the power of sin. It is not simply deliverance from our evil nature and desires that we need, but deliverance from our own efforts to overcome them, and in place of struggling with our evil nature and desires, and continually suffering defeat, to look to the Lord, and find in Him a Deliverer.

Thought To Chew On:

Did Jesus break the Sabbath?

Man is ignorant of the true meaning of the sabbath. We insists on the outward rituals to acquire a religious reputation. While insisting on its outward observance, man is wholly indifferent to the sin that broke into the rest.

The blessing of the sabbath rest is for a people who keep the law, not for a people who break the law. Man may be content to rest in the presence of sin and the misery it brings.

God cannot rest where sin and misery exist. His holiness demands that He should deal with sin; His love compels Him to work for the relief of the sinner. Therefore He says"My Father has been working until now, and i have been working".

The purpose of Sabbath was rest and Lord did so by giving rest to the suffering man and also to us He gave a Sabbath life by freeing us from the suffering of sin and death. Doing so Jesus honored the true Sabbath law.