



Life Group Notes: 'Revisiting the "Royal Visit"'

Tuesday 7th August 2018

READ JOHN 4:43-54 (NIV)

Jesus Heals an Official's Son

43 Therefore after the two days he left for Galilee. **44** (Now Jesus himself had pointed out that a prophet has no honor in his own country.) **45** When he arrived in Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him. They had seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, for they also had been there. **46** Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. **47** When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death. **48** "Unless you people see signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe." **49** The royal official said, "Sir, come down before my child dies." **50** "Go," Jesus replied, "your son will live." The man took Jesus at his word and departed. **51** While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. **52** When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, "Yesterday, at one in the afternoon, the fever left him." **53** Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." So he and his whole household believed. **54** This was the second sign Jesus performed after coming from Judea to Galilee.

INTRODUCTION:

Last Sunday, Pastor Phil preached on "The Royal Visit" and went through the story of Jesus's encounter with a nobleman whose son was ill. He highlighted some fundamental truths in terms of faith, perseverance, obedience but most importantly on our attitude which needs to be right before God. Extravagance is required on how we honour Christ, how we humble ourselves before Him and how we hope in Him. Today we revisit some key notes from the sermon to understand how the pre-requisites will shape our attitude toward God and help us in our daily walk with Him.

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE:

- 1) Like the Nobleman, we all face life's challenges and approach God for answers and breakthrough. Please, briefly share with the group a couple of points that you recall from the sermon you heard on Sunday.
- 2) Pastor Phil mentioned that Jesus always respond to "hunger" and "thirst". Please, explore the above statement and share your own understanding on it. Please, confirm why you would agree or disagree.

- Guide: Jesus knows where we are at and sees the state of our heart at any time. (I the Lord see deep in the hearts of men)
- He is always clear about where we stand before we even approach Him in prayer. (Behold, God is not mocked)
- 3) Why do you think Jesus was welcomed by the Galileans in v45? Is this contradicting v44 where Jesus pointed out that a prophet has no honour in his own country? Please, explain.
- 4) In verse 47, the royal official asks Jesus to come and heal his son. To our surprise (and on face value), Jesus seems to rebuke him at first in verse in v48 ("Unless you people see signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe.") Please, explain your understanding of the situation and why this is the case.
- 5) What does it tell us about the do's and don'ts on the way to approach Christ?
- 6) Pastor Phil mentioned that our attitude is primarily a matter of the heart. Do you agree? –In the same vein, please explain why God would be looking for changed hearts and changed attitudes towards Him (Any example in the bible?)
- 7) Many Christians are happy to welcome God, but they do not always honour Him. Why is your view on this statement?
- 8) What do you define as "Extravagant Honour" and do you feel Christ is receiving such honour from you? If not, what will it take for you to honour Him that way (After all, King David danced to the point of nakedness in honour of His God – not that we would ask this of you of course!!)
- 9) Please review James 4:6 "...God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble" and advise why humility is a pre-requisite to please God? Where can we see the humility of the nobleman in the text?
- 10) What do you define as "Extravagant Humility" and why it has the power to shift God's attention?
- 11) Pastor Phil talked about the need for "Extravagant Hope" and verse 50 states that "...The man took Jesus at his word and departed". Please, can you explain why Hope and Faith work hand in hand and are of so much value to God?

CLOSING REFLECTION & PRAYER

Proverbs 23:18 "There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off."