

SERMON OUTLINE John 4:43-54

This Now Was the Second Sign

JESUS' GROWING REPUTATION (43-46A)

VARYING STAGES OF BELIEF AND ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY (46B-53A)

SALVATION AS A RESULT OF JESUS ENTRUSTING HIMSELF TO PEOPLE (53B-54)

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The three main things for us to see are: (1) Jesus' growing reputation, (2) Jesus' absolute authority, and (3) Salvation as a result of Jesus entrusting Himself to people. My hope is that this passage and sermon would cause each of us to move one step (or many steps) forward in grasping the infinite glory of Jesus and that as a result, we'd trust in Him and live more fully in light of it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. What is the furthest you ever walked? Why did you walk that far? Have you ever considered how far Jesus walked to share the good news with others?
3. Of all the stories you've read/heard about Jesus, which one stands out to you the most and why?
4. What is your reputation among your unbelieving neighbors, coworkers, or family members? How much is directly tied to your faith in Jesus? Is any of your reputation based on being misunderstood by them? How does that make you feel?
5. How much of Jesus' reputation do you think was tied to lies?
6. Can you relate at all to the official in this passage? Have you ever been so desperate about something that you were willing to try just about anything to get help?
7. What do you make of the different stages of belief the official went through? Have you gone through any of them? What caused you to move from one to another? Do you know people who are in each of those stages? How can you help them?
8. Prior to Pastor Dave's sermon, had you ever considered the fact that most people who witnessed miracles didn't believe?
9. What does it mean that we are only able to truly trust Jesus when He entrusts Himself to us? Do you believe that?
10. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

11. Do something this week to cultivate amazement at the glory of Jesus.
12. Consider any areas you are holding back from God and ask for His help to surrender wholly.
13. Determine with God's help to go to Him first with every trial you encounter this week.
14. Intentionally remind yourself every time you pray that Jesus is entirely able to grant your requests and that whether He does or doesn't both are for your greater good.
15. Use this passage in John's Gospel to explain to someone in your life the different kinds of belief in Jesus that aren't sufficient.
16. What is one specific thing you mean to do differently in the power of the Spirit as a result of the things you saw or heard in this text or sermon?

PRAYER POINTS

17. Adoration. Praise God for being absolutely sovereign over all creation. Praise God for being merciful. Praise God for being loving. Praise God for being infinitely glorious.
18. Confess. Confess your unbelief. Confess areas in which you doubt God's goodness or power. Confess any areas you haven't wholly surrendered to God. Confess any ways your reputation is for being ungodly.
19. Thanksgiving. Thank Jesus for entrusting Himself to us. Thank God for sending the Son, the Son for coming and dying on our behalf, and the Holy Spirit for illuminating, regenerating, empowering, and persevering us. Thank God for brothers and sisters in Christ who help you grow in faith and obedience.
20. Supplication. Ask God to save a specific person in your life. Ask God to help our church be more faithful in our evangelism.