

# An Encounter of Belief

May 27, 2018

## Scripture:

So he came again to Cana in Galilee, where he had made the water wine. And at Capernaum there was an official whose son was ill. <sup>47</sup> When this man heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went to him and asked him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. <sup>48</sup> So Jesus said to him, "Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe." <sup>49</sup> The official said to him, "Sir, come down before my child dies." <sup>50</sup> Jesus said to him, "Go; your son will live." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way. <sup>51</sup> As he was going down, his servants met him and told him that his son was recovering. <sup>52</sup> So he asked them the hour when he began to get better, and they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." <sup>53</sup> The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." And he himself believed, and all his household. <sup>54</sup> This was now the second sign that Jesus did when he had come from Judea to Galilee. (Jn. 4:46-54 ESV)

## From the Introduction:

While Jesus' words emphasize the need for signs and wonders (something many today still seek), the official shows us a willingness to move beyond physical to a spiritual experience one can only have in Jesus Christ.

Outline:

- I. The \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 47)
  - A. The official \_\_\_\_\_ in belief.
  - B. The results of requesting should be without \_\_\_\_\_.
- II. The \_\_\_\_\_ (v.50)
  - A. The official \_\_\_\_\_ in belief.
  - B. The results of responding should be without \_\_\_\_\_.
- III. The \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 53)
  - A. The \_\_\_\_\_ in belief.
  - B. The results of accepting should be without \_\_\_\_\_.

**Remember:**

<sup>1</sup> "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. (John 14:1)

**Reflect:**

"A god who would let us prove his existence would be an idol." – Dietrich Bonhoeffer

**Seek:**

Reflect on Bonhoeffer's quote and the "remember" passage above. Think back to when you first believed in Jesus Christ as your Savior. Now, take a moment to reflect on the times in your faith-walk when you doubted in believing what God would do for you. In your own words, why was it easier to give God your spiritual life but not everything else?

**Share:**

Think back to a situation in your life which could only be met by God, and you believed without a doubt that He would meet it. What was the result? Did it turn out like you expected, or did He meet that need in an unexpected way?

**Serve:**

Jesus said, "Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe." This was true in his time and is often true today. How might you serve others in Christ and help them to believe apart from wowing them with "signs and wonders?" What can you do to bring them to believe the truth?

**Pray:**

This week, in your prayer time, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in belief, and to direct you to others in need of that belief.