

Monday, March 28th
John 4: 43-54

“Jesus replied, ‘You may go. Your son will live.’ The man took Jesus at his word and departed.”

The reading today is a very visual reading. There is excitement in the air, as Jesus was welcomed back on his return to Cana in Galilee. This is where he turned the water into wine at the wedding. People had seen what Jesus had done at the Passover Festival in Jerusalem. People were talking. The excitement and anticipation of what might be next is palpable in this reading. The royal official was desperate when he came to seek out Jesus. He made the 20 mile journey as he left his sick and dying child in Capernaum. He was hoping for a miracle. He believed that if Jesus came to his son, he would be healed.

How many of us have sat with sick or dying family member? It may have been a grandparent, a parent, a sibling, a child, or even grandchild. Even when the death is expected, there is a feeling of helplessness. We feel the need to do something. We want to change the situation. This royal official must have felt very helpless as he sat by his child feeling that he was going to die. He knew that Jesus had performed other miracles, and saw Jesus as the only way to save his son. He traveled a distance to get to Jesus. He had faith that Jesus could heal his son. The scripture says that the official begged Jesus to save his son. He came hoping that Jesus would follow him back to Capernaum. He believed that this was the only way that his son could be saved.

Jesus sent him away and told him that his son would live. The official took him at his word and left to make the 20 mile journey back home. He did not insist on actually seeing the miracle. He did not complain that Jesus would not come with him. It was later the next day when he neared his house. His faith was strong. He had faith that even across the miles, Jesus could heal his son.

As we pray, we often ask for God to answer our prayers immediately and in the way that we want them to be answered. We need to be more like the official and trust God to answer our prayers in his way. Come to God in faith. Take God at His word.

Kat Dailey