

John 4:39-54. the Conversion of the Samaritans, and the Healing of the Nobleman's Son.

by Favell Lee Mortimer

The sermon highlights the importance of personal experience with Jesus, the danger of hardened hearts from hearing the gospel in vain, and the compassion of God towards weak faith.

Scripture: Luke 1:45

Topics: "Faith And Confession", "Personal Salvation"

Description

Favell Lee Mortimer preaches about the importance of belief and confession in Jesus Christ, using the Samaritans' varying responses to encountering Jesus as examples. Mortimer emphasizes the significance of knowing Jesus not just through hearsay but through personal experience, highlighting the Samaritans' bold confession of Jesus as the Savior of the world. The sermon also touches on the rejection Jesus faced in his own country, illustrating how familiarity can sometimes breed contempt, and the danger of neglecting the gospel when it has been preached for a long time. Additionally, the sermon explores the story of the nobleman who came to Jesus in desperation, showcasing the power of genuine yet sometimes weak faith in experiencing God's miraculous interventions and blessings.

Transcript

Some of the Samaritans were longer in believing than others. Some believed on account of the woman's testimony, others--not until they had heard him themselves. We know it is best to believe without hesitation, for Jesus once said, "Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet have believed." You remember how readily Mary believed the angel's message; and Elizabeth said to her, "Blessed is she who believes, for there shall be a performance of the things told her of the Lord." But though some of the Samaritans were slow in believing--after they believed, they were bold in confessing their faith. They said, "We know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world." O what a title that is! The Savior of the "world;" not of Jews only, but of SAMARITANS also, of some of every kindred and of every nation. May we all know him as our Savior. We shall never truly love him until we know him, not only from report, but from experience. How different is the state of that person who only knows Jesus from what others have said of him--from his state who has received answers to his own prayers, and felt that his own sins are forgiven!

Jesus could not stay more than two days with these Samaritans! We perhaps have heard a thousand sermons, and have read the Bible through many times. Is it possible that any one among us does not love the Savior? Would not these Samaritans rise up in judgment against one so much favored and yet so unfeeling!

Jesus did not return to Nazareth, which was his own country. There he was more despised than in any other place, because the people were accustomed to him. Though they had heard his blessed conversation year after year, and beheld his lovely example, they esteemed him not. It often happens that the gospel is most neglected where it has been longest preached. The excellent Baxter said, "I wish to be the minister of a place, either where the people have heartily embraced the gospel or where they have never heard it; but I dread being the minister of a place where the people have heard in vain." Those who have heard without profit become hardened, and are more rarely converted than others.

We find in this chapter an instance of a nobleman coming to Jesus. Not many noble are called, yet some are called. This man was brought to Jesus by his afflictions. In his sorrowful circumstances this nobleman found himself as dependent upon God as a beggar. There was none but Jesus who could relieve his sorrow. The Lord did not favor him more than others, but treated him with the greatest plainness. Had this nobleman been proud, like Naaman, the Syrian, he might have gone away in anger; but he stood the trial of his faith. It was to try him, Jesus said, "Except you see signs and wonders, you will not believe." The nobleman showed by his answer he believed already, for he replied, "Sir, come down before my child dies." Yet he had not such faith as the Centurion had, of whom we afterwards read; for this nobleman did not believe that Jesus could save his child unless he came down to the spot where he lay. But the Lord is compassionate to weak faith, when it is real. Jesus gave a greater proof of his power than the afflicted father had ever thought of--for "he is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or THINK," (Eph. 3:20.) "Go your way," said the Lord, "your son lives." The nobleman's faith was grown so strong, that he believed the declaration. Nor was that faith disappointed--for, while returning home, he learned that his child had recovered at the very hour that Jesus spoke the word.

He now acquaints his family with this great display of the power and love of Jesus. What is the result? The whole family, wife, children, servants, believe. What a happy family they must have become! The master's journey was blessed to his whole household. It is the fervent wish of every master who loves God, to bring his whole household to the knowledge of him. May this family and this household be joined to the household of faith, and to the family in heaven and earth who are named after Jesus the Lord!

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