

John 4:43-54

Jesus stays in Samaria for two days. John says so twice in verses 40, 43. What is significant about John's repeating this period of time? (Remember that John has been good about giving us a timeline of days in the ministry of Jesus. He gives time periods in 1:29, 35, 43; 2:1, 12. There is a conspicuous absence from then until 4:40, where John uses only vague periods of time in verses 2:13, 3:22.)

John 4:45 says that the people of Galilee welcomed Jesus and that they saw what he did in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast. John records these events in 2:23-25. What do you think Jesus did that the people from Galilee remembered?

It is assumed that Royal Official had already known about Jesus from the miracle Jesus had performed there in John 2. Since the text strongly indicates this is the case, what does it say about Jesus' popularity that a Roman Royal Official would believe Jesus was able to heal his son from a fatal illness?

The Royal Official takes Jesus at his word in 4:50 and his son is healed. In a sense, his son is raised from the dead, a miracle that will reoccur in 11:38-44 and also with the resurrection of Jesus Himself. When do we have this kind of faith: where we take Jesus at his word and only his word?

When are some other times we could take Jesus at his word?

What prevents us from taking Jesus at his word?

Jesus' disciples now include Jewish men from various regions in Israel, possibly Nicodemus (a Pharisee and Jewish ruler), a Samaritan woman, and now a "royal official" (Roman). Since leaving Judea after the Pharisees heard that he was growing in popularity, Jesus has not directly called any Jewish men to be his disciples, concentrating on Samaritans and Romans. What is significant about this?