



Daily Reflections

April 1, 2019

Scripture

John 4: 43-54

At that time Jesus left [Samaria] for Galilee.

For Jesus himself testified

that a prophet has no honor in his native place.

When he came into Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him,
since they had seen all he had done in Jerusalem at the feast;
for they themselves had gone to the feast.

Then he returned to Cana in Galilee,
where he had made the water wine.

Now there was a royal official whose son was ill in Capernaum.
When he heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea,
he went to him and asked him to come down
and heal his son, who was near death.

Jesus said to him,

"Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will not believe."

The royal official said to him,

"Sir, come down before my child dies."

Jesus said to him, "You may go; your son will live."

The man believed what Jesus said to him and left.

While the man was on his way back,

his slaves met him and told him that his boy would live.

He asked them when he began to recover.

They told him,

"The fever left him yesterday, about one in the afternoon."
The father realized that just at that time Jesus had said to him,
"Your son will live,"
and he and his whole household came to believe.
Now this was the second sign Jesus did
when he came to Galilee from Judea.

Our Scripture Reflection

John records the fewest number of miracles, only seven, and he uses a technical Greek word for those miracles: Simeon, which means sign. Why? Because for John, Jesus is God and God has no problem doing the incredible, the amazing. But John's concern is for the meaning underneath the miracle. What is the "sign value" of Jesus' act of power? In our Gospel reading, a government official in the service of the Jewish King Herod approaches Jesus and asks that He heal his little boy. And even though Jesus chides the man for only "seeking signs", he is not deterred. He invites Jesus to his home without giving up and his son is healed immediately from a distance. The sign? Jesus performs His miracle when He sees the presence of unshakable, persistent faith and trust in His power to save.

Food for your Journey

A boy and his father were walking along a road when they came across a large stone. The boy said to his father, "Do you think if I use all my strength, I can move this rock?"

His father answered, "If you use all your strength, I am sure you can do it."

The boy began to push the rock. Exerting himself as much as he could, he pushed and pushed. The rock did not move. Discouraged, he said to his father, "You were wrong, I can't do it."

The father placed his arm around the boy's shoulder and said, "No, son, you didn't use all your strength — you didn't ask me to help."

—David J. Wolpe in *Teaching Your Children About God*, as cited in *Spiritual Literacy: Reading the Sacred in Everyday Life*, ed. Frederic Brussat and Mary Ann Brussat (New York, Simon & Schuster, 1996), 447.

Dear God, Increase my faith. Help me during my times of trial to know that You can and will rescue me. May my faith remain unshakable. Amen