

Sermon Notes – Sunday 19th January

‘God – sized answers to God-sized prayers’

- What is the biggest God-sized prayer you have ever prayed?
- Why does John in his Gospel refer to ‘miracles’ as ‘signs’?

The first sign was the one at the wedding in Cana now we are looking at the 2nd sign (v54). Read the account John 4:43-54

There seems to be a contradiction between v44 (Jesus had said a prophet has no honour in his own country) and v45 (When Jesus arrived in Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him).

- What do you think is going on here? A clue might be in the rebuke of v 48.
- What might be the motivation behind a high standing court official, travelling 20 miles to address a village carpenter as ‘Sir’ (v49) risking his reputation and social standing and humbling himself in this way?
- Crisis and desperation can strip away all pretence of self sufficiency and pride. Have you ever been in that place?

Jesus’s response at first sight seems harsh v48.

- What do you think he is trying to draw out from the official? Can you see parallels with Matthew 15:21-28?

The court official is not put off v49.

- What does this suggest to us about perseverance and persistence in prayer? Can you share an occasion when you have persisted on prayer? What was the outcome or are you still in that place?

Jesus responds v50 and the man takes him at his word and departs.

- What evidence is there that his faith is growing?
- What situations in your life have caused your faith in Jesus to grow?

The next day as he nears home the man is met by his servants with the good news resulting in belief for the man and his whole household.

- What is this miracle (‘sign’) all about? Is it just about the healing of a boy or is there something more going on?
- What do we learn about the place of ‘Faith’ and ‘Healing’ and the treasure that Jesus is seeking from each of us? How might He use the circumstances of our lives to unearth this treasure? (Ps 119:71)

Pray for one another, that we might grow in our faith in order to see God sized answers to God sized prayers.

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