

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What did the nobleman expect when he asked Jesus to come down and heal his son?
2. Do you think the face to face encounter with Jesus increased his faith?
3. Is it permissible to look for signs and wonders?
4. Is it better to believe without seeing?

### SUMMARY:

Our faith can be rewarded when we reach out and take a step in faith, knowing that God is the only one who can help and that without Him, this particular venture has no chance of success. We need to place ourselves in this position in our work for the Lord, so that He may be glorified and we at the same time can recognize our nothingness.

God gives us signs and wonders to confirm our faith, but He also wants us at times to trust Him without seeing, to increase our faith in Him.

### NOTES:

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #6

February 6, 2005

First Quarter

### FAITH REWARDED

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**LESSON TEXT:** John 4:43-54

**LESSON SETTING:** Jesus confronted by a nobleman in Cana of Galilee.

**TIME:** Approximately 30 A.D.

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#### I. FAITH CHALLENGED. John 4:43-48

- A. Called Into Question (vs. 48) Luke 8:25; John 6:5-6;  
1 Thessalonians 3:4-5

#### II. FAITH DEMONSTRATED. John 4:49-50

- A. To Take Him at His Word (vs. 50) Matthew 8:8; Luke 8:50;  
John 4:42
- B. To Believe Without Seeing (vs. 48-49) Hebrews 11:1

#### III. FAITH REWARDED. John 4:51-54

- A. Healing the Body. Matthew 8:5-13; 9:20-22; Mark 2:3-12
- B. Saving the Soul. John 6:40-47; 20:31; Galatians 2:20; 1 John 5:1

**GOLDEN TEXT: *BLESSED IS THE MAN THAT TRUSTETH IN THE LORD AND WHOSE HOPE THE LORD IS.***

Jeremiah 17:7

**NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON:** John 6:1-14, 22-69

**SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES:** Exodus 16:1-31

**QUARTERLY THEME:** Christ, the Son of God

**TOPIC:** THE GREAT PROVIDER

**INTRODUCTION:**

Jesus had taken the little boy's loaves and fish and fed the multitude. He had provided for their body's needs and the people readily and thankfully accepted these. But when He explained to them their need for spiritual food, they rejected His teaching and would not accept Him. How we are like these people of old. We do all we can to provide for our earthly body's needs and neglect our spiritual needs.

We spend many hours for our temporal needs and so few for our spiritual needs. We marvel that the people in Jesus' time could not comprehend what He was teaching them, but are we not like them? Earthly wants seem to be so very important and come first. How this must grieve our Heavenly Father's tender heart.

**CENTRAL TRUTH:** Only Christ, the Spiritual Bread from Heaven, can satisfy the hungry soul of man.

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE: HE THAT COMETH TO ME SHALL NEVER HUNGER: AND HE THAT BELIEVETH ON ME SHALL NEVER THIRST.*

John 6:35

Jesus supplied the physical bread to the multitudes for many reasons, one being as He said, "I have compassion on the multitude." (Matthew 15:32) However, a greater reason was that He could reveal to His disciples their need of God for that inner hunger and thirst. He wanted to help them and us to know God as the Giver of Life, Jesus as the Restorer of Life, and the Holy Spirit as the Sustainer of Life. May we ever praise and thank God for supplying our temporal needs, but how much more for those which pertain to our salvation!

"Labor not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you, for Him hath God the Father sealed." (John 6:27)

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF February 7 - 13**

- M. The Impotent Man Healed. John 5:1-17
- T. The Healer Bears Witness. John 5:30-39
- W. \*The Saviour Provides Bread. John 6:1-14
- T. \*The Living Bread Declares Himself. John 6:22-40
- F. \*The Source of the Bread. John 6:41-50
- S. \*The Nourishment from the Bread. John 6:51-63
- S. \*The Rejection of the Bread. John 6:64-71