

Sermon June 20, 2010

Building a Bridge to a Miracle

John 4:46-54

Summary: Dads, did you know that God has equipped you to be a Bridge-Builder? Every dad knows what it's like to face an impossible barrier – a barrier that only a miracle can overcome. What bridge could your heavenly Father help you build today?

I. A Man Who Needed a Miracle

A. Ever need a miracle – right now?

1. Ever feel like you needed a miracle?

a) I remember a day when I needed a miracle more than anything else in the world:

b) Suzanne was 3 months pregnant with our daughter Ruthie, and she was in grave danger of miscarrying.

c) The doctor told her there was only a 10% chance that she would carry to term.

2. 10% wasn't very good odds for this little life that we were already cherishing!

a) I had a summer job at that time which gave me plenty of time by myself – watering shrubs in a new trailer park.

b) The next day I prayed a very simple but very fervent prayer: Lord, I pray for Life.

c) That was it: it was a prayer of desperation for a miracle that only God could grant.

3. An amazing thing happened that hot sunny day: a felt a peace in my spirit, like God had heard my prayer – my simple prayer for Life.

a) 6 months later I held a perfect little redhead in my arms.

b) And along the way I had experienced what it means to build a bridge to my miracle.

B. A man who needed a miracle

1. John tells us about a man who needed a miracle in a big hurry:

a) John 4:46 NIV Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum.

b) John 4:47 NIV When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death.

2. Here is a man facing the crisis of his life as a father.

a) He has left the side of his dying child to go find Jesus.

b) He has journeyed 20 miles – getting up early in the morning – to find Jesus.

3. And when he does, he asks for his miracle.

C. Cana

1. He finally does find Jesus, and when he does, it is in the little village made famous for Transformation.

a) Cana was the site of Jesus' first "sign," or miracle in Galilee.

b) Cana was where Jesus turned water into wine – an Act of Transformation the stood for the much greater transformation He offers all who put their trust in Him.

2. The royal official came to Jesus so that his son could get better and his family could get "back to normal."

3. But when we come to Jesus, His purpose is much, much greater:

a) His goal is that we change – forever.

b) His goal is that we – like the water turned to wine – be born again through the power of His Holy Spirit.

c) His goal is that we be TRANSFORMED.

II. Building the Bridge

A. A quick fix or a bridge of trust?

1. Jesus' response to the man's desperate plea for a miracle might seem surprising:

a) John 4:48 NIV "Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe."

2. So just what was Jesus getting at?

a) He could see that people came to Him with their problems and wanted that quick fix – a miracle – so that they could go on with their lives.

b) They'd be glad to "believe" that Jesus had power to heal – after they had their proof.

c) But they wouldn't have to change.

3. How like all of us:

a) When we're desperate, we cry out to God for help.

b) But do we want to be changed?

B. The choice to build a bridge of faith

1. The royal official reacts by trying to tell Jesus how to fix the problem:

a) John 4:49 NIV The royal official said, "Sir, come down before my child dies."

2. Jesus, instead, gives HIM something to do – something that ONLY HE CAN DO:

a) John 4:50 NIV Jesus replied, "You may go. Your son will live."

b) Literally: "Go. Your son lives."

c) How is that for a New Reality?

3. Now it's up to the father to make the crucial choice:

a) Is he willing to build a bridge to his miracle?

b) Is he willing to actually put his trust in Jesus?

c) Will he take him at His word with full confidence that Jesus' Word is true and that Jesus' Word gives life?

C. The first step

1. The bridge to a miracle always starts with a first step:

a) John 4:50b NIV The man took Jesus at his word and departed.

2. With that simple act of faith he stepped OUT of being among the many who had to see to believe.

- a) **HE changed.**
- b) **He began to see everything from a different perspective.**
- c) **His mission was accomplished and he was becoming a different person in the process.**

3. He didn't have all the answers; in fact, he didn't have any earthly answers at all – but he had begun to build the bridge of faith to the miracle he so desperately needed.

III. Transformed

A. Finishing the bridge

1. The next step on the Bridge of Faith came a little while later as the man walked home to Capernaum:

- a) **John 4:51 NIV While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living.**
- b) **John 4:52 NIV When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, “The fever left him yesterday at the seventh hour.”**
- c) **John 4:53 NIV Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.”**

2. Imagine that long walk home:

- a) **He couldn't make the journey to Cana and back home in the same day.**
- b) **That meant that he spent the night somewhere along the way.**
- c) ***I wonder what he thought about that long night?***

3. We get a hint, don't we, in the one question he asked his servants:

- a) “When did the fever break?”
- b) He was connecting the dots.
- c) He was discovering just how REAL Jesus is.
- d) He was changing on the inside – changing from a man with a need for a miracle to a man who could put his trust in God.

B. Transformed!

1. John concludes the story with a simple little statement:
 - a) John 4:53b NIV So he and all his household believed.
2. It was in the little village of Cana that Jesus had transformed a family gathering by turning wash water into the finest wine.
3. Now in that same village Jesus spoke a simple word: “Your son will live,” and transformed an entire family forever.
4. John reserves the final appraisal of this man’s actions for the end of his Gospel when Jesus talks to Thomas after proving that He had risen from the dead:
 - a) John 20:29 NIV Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

C. Building a Bridge to Your Miracle

1. Dads, what miracle do you need most right now?
2. Do you just want to fix a problem, or would you dare to build a bridge with Jesus across the impossibilities facing you to a whole new way of living?
3. And what would the biggest miracle be?