



## WAYPOINTS, PART 2: WILL YOU TAKE HIM AT HIS WORD?

March 1, 2020

Pastor Brad Williams

### BIBLICAL TEXT(S)

#### MAIN TEXT(S):

*John 4:46-54*

### SUMMARY

When we see Jesus for who He really is, and come to believe in Him, we enter a quality of life that is unique, tangibly better, insanely infectious, and described as “living water”. Even so, there is a lot of misunderstanding about who Jesus is and what He is about. Sincere “unbelief” is still unbelief. It may be rooted in our broken view of who God is, which could be partially the fault of the church’s religiosity. Or, it might find its source in the bent of our own sin. Either way, Jesus wants to lead us to Himself via the signs, or waypoints, in John.

Along the way, Jesus seems unconcerned about his associations. He meets with a famous Pharisee (Nicodemus), hangs out with hated Samaritans, and shows compassion to suspect political figures. We often see that as a problem because we want Jesus on our side of a divide, to bless our agenda, whatever that is. We want Him to be a part of what we are doing. Meanwhile, Jesus says to us, “No, come be a part of what I am doing.” It’s so easy to miss that invitation. The royal official almost missed it. He wanted Jesus to do his bidding. Jesus told him, no, that He would not come to the man’s dying son. Is Jesus mean? No, he heals the man’s son but He also forces the man take Him at His word, and that stimulates real belief on the part of the royal official and his entire household. When you trust Jesus for what He says, you will see Him for who He is..

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*These questions are designed to help you lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage and the speaker’s message, helping them understand and apply the teaching.*

#### LEAN IN

***These are icebreaker/warm up questions, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.***

1. Have you ever hung out with someone that tarnished your reputation with friends or family? What was that like?
2. What kinds of things divide us from one another? Politics? Sports?
3. Have you ever suffered a loved one being really sick, to the point of death? How far would you go to help them get well?
4. What was your high/low for this past week (or since the group last met)? What was the best thing that happened and the worst thing that happened?

#### LOOK DOWN

***These are questions on the passage and observations about what’s been read.***

***Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max***

1. How do you think the royal official heard about Jesus’ return in a town a solid day’s walk away? What does that imply about Jesus’ reputation?
2. What was Jesus reply to the royal official after hearing that the man’s son was close to death? Does it strike you as odd? If so, why?

*cont.*

3. What about Jesus' dialog with the royal official catches your attention and why?
4. John use the word "believe" or implies some form of belief throughout this story. How would you describe how the royal official believes, or doesn't, throughout this passage a why would you say that?
5. Why do you think his household believed?

### **LOOK OUT**

*These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today.*

*Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max*

1. Where do you see people who are desperate for something? What is it they want?
2. Do you think miracles still happen, and if so, how do the people who witness them respond? Do they "believe"? Do they explain them away?
3. Where do you see "the wrong kind of people" responding to God's overtures, like the Samaritans or the corrupt official in Pastor Brad's message for example?
4. How have you seen passionate belief in something or someone deeply influence others?
5. If you could ask Jesus to fix one thing in the world, what would that be?

### **LOOK IN**

*These are questions that help you consider personal application.*

*Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max*

1. What do you want from God that you don;t feel like you're getting?
2. When God doesn't say, straight up, "Of course, yes, I'll do that for you." What do you do?
3. How does it impact your trust, your belief in God when His answers to your requests seem confusing, or maybe even cruel?
4. Was there ever a time when you had no choice but to take God at His word? What was that like?
5. Describe a time in your life when God pointed you to deeper belief in Him in an unexpected, or maybe even unwelcome, way.

### **LIVE IT OUT**

*These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life.*

*Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. What do you see God doing in your life that seems confusing to you? How can the group be praying for you throughout that experience?
2. How could your response to God in baffling circumstances be a stimulus for others so that they might believe God?
3. What could you do this week to take Jesus at His word?

*Thanks to Steve Mitchell and the ADT team this week for notes and questions, as well as Charissa Burns (@charissaburnsstudio on Instagram) for her illustrated notes on the following page.*

# WAYPOINTS

Will you take Him at His Word?

3.1.2020

JOHN 20:30-31

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John chose these 7 miracles for the purpose of helping us believe in Jesus and that we can have life!

THESE SIGNS SHOW US...

- Who Jesus isn't
- Who Jesus is
- What the implications are for us

## 2nd Miracle

→ JOHN 4 ←

Then they go to Galilee. *- Near Cana*  
 At Capernaum there was an official whose son was ill.  
*- not looked at in a good way by the Jews.*

Between last miracle (wedding at Cana) & this miracle... And cleaned out the temple — JESUS IS NOT ABOUT RELIGION.

Then Jesus tells a story  
 → Then he baptizes with John the Baptist

Then they go to Samaria & talks to woman  
 — THIS WAS SCANDALOUS —  
*- samarians were "less than"*

JESUS BUILT WELLS, NOT FENCES! He built wells of living water and was letting people drink... ANY PEOPLE. All are welcome to the well!

This official worked for Herod Antipas. Officials were considered corrupt.

- The official knows who Jesus is.
- He goes to find Jesus because of his sick child on his deathbed.

Jesus knows the man came because the people there to watch ~~was~~ <sup>their</sup> needs not out of belief.

The man says "Please come before my child dies."

Jesus says "Go, and your son will live."

The man leaves and meets the servants on the way with NEWS THAT HIS SON WAS HEALED...  
 AND HE BELIEVED AND ALL HIS HOUSE BELIEVED.

No one could deny Jesus' power now because the healing happened 15 miles away without Jesus doing anything, but saying he was healed!

"If you are satisfied with an imaginary Christ you must be satisfied with imaginary salvation." - John Owen

This official trusted what Jesus said & left, he walked & moved in faith but when he heard his belief went DEEP!

A TRUSTING RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVING INITIATIVE IS WHAT REVEALS HIS GLORY & GRACE!

Jesus accepts us, even when we don't fully understand.

Are you following an imaginary Christ who fixes your problems, or  
 Are you following the Savior of the world?