

Text: - "The man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way."

Introduction: - In this miracle are mentioned three persons; the child, the Master, the father. The child is the unconscious receiver of his blessings, the Master gave the giver of the blessing and the father one who believed the word the Master had spoken. It is the father that we are concerned with this morning. We have but few facts to follow as we endeavor to read the splendid character of this extraordinary man. We know that he was a giant in faith; he was a genuine father in paternal love toward his family. He was endeavoring to fashion his life and that of his family to the new found benefactor he is of strong will and very courageous. Take him for all that he is, he is a true man and a worthy father.

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I. Who is He? He is a prince, probably belonging to Herod's court. He was of the well-to-do class. It is thought by some that he was Chuza. In St. Luke 8: 3, we read, "And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Suzanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance." It may well be that he was Chuza. But it was neither his wealth nor his position which made him seek Jesus, but his boy, whose life was fast ebbing away.

II. Why did he come to Jesus? He had heard of Jesus. He had heard of his healing. He was aware that his reputation was spread far and wide. It was slightly more than a year since he had been baptized of St. John, yet in that short space of a year new miracles had added to his ever growing fame.

He had confidence in the ability of Christ to heal. It was great confidence in Jesus and in the reports he had heard.

He wanted his boy to live. He would go anywhere, he would do anything. This father was as we are; his child was precious and he

wanted his to live. He would move heaven and earth for help. He wanted his boy with him in the world and so he came to Jesus.

What did he see and hear? We cannot tell what his expectations were. He had high hopes. But what did Jesus mean when he said, "Ye will not believe unless ye see signs and wonders". He was simply testing the man's faith. But the man cried out, "Sir, come down ere my child die!" When he cried out thus the appearance of Jesus changed. He then said, "Thy son liveth; go thy way". No word is spoken to him afterward. He was on his way. To speak would no doubt have meant tears for him.

A man that could arouse conscience. No one had ever spoken to this man that so aroused him as Jesus had done. He felt that his own religious condition was longing for something he did not have. Christ did more than heal the body, he lodged arrows of conviction in the conscience. This man had his conscience pierced and here he stood.

A man who could through ordinary experiences convey spiritual truth. Christ could make the daily rounds of life, do the trivial task, to convey godly truth he was a spiritual genius. Jesus by his presence, by action, by attitude, by atmosphere, by influence impressed himself upon this man. "he believed the word that he had spoken".

How did he go away? The account simply says, "He went his way!" Was he the same as when he came? Had he not passed through spiritual experiences, through intellectual experiences, so that he would never be the same again as when he had been before meeting Jesus?

He was thoughtful. There was a strange jumbling of thoughts in his mind. Things temporal and things spiritual seemed to take thought of him. As he went his way there was the feeling of personal responsibility to God and the necessity of living the Christian life. He was perplexed by the problems of his own relationship to this new religion and was stirred to the depth of his nature.

He was hopeful. Jesus had said that his son was alive. He believed that. He was certain in his own

hopes that his great faith would be rewarded.

He was prayerful. He had met God face to face. No soul ever met Christ but that his spirit was drawn upward. Zacchaeus desired to look at Christ, he did and worshipped him; Thomas; Mary looked at the tear stained face of the Lord, and prayed. When one truly sees and talks with Jesus he cannot be other than a devout spirit.

What occurred after he departed? Had he only the restoration of his child to health? I believe he had much more. He came for the healing of the body of his son, but he found the cure of his soul. He was lifted up from the temporal to the spiritual. His family also made the change from the temporal to the spiritual. Yes, this man received the blessings of Christ's power and glorified his life's service the Messiah of the world.