

John 4:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judaea into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son: for he was at the point of death.

Analysis

The nobleman's desperate plea for Jesus to 'come down' and heal his dying son demonstrates both faith (he believes Jesus can heal) and weakness (he thinks Jesus must be physically present). His urgency ('for he was at the point of death') reflects natural parental love and creates opportunity for Jesus to strengthen his faith.

Historical Context

Nobles in Galilee served in Herod Antipas's court. The distance from Cana to Capernaum was about 16 miles. That he traveled this far shows desperation—his son's illness had exceeded local medical help.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does crisis drive us to Christ, and how does He use our desperation to mature our faith?

2. What limitations do we place on Christ's power based on our assumptions about how He must work?

Interlinear Text

οὗτος	ἀκούσας	ὅτι	Ἰησοῦς	ἦκει	ἐκ	τῆς	Ἰουδαίας
When he	heard	that	Jesus	was come	out of	^{G3588}	Judaea
^{G3778}	^{G191}	^{G3754}	^{G2424}	^{G2240}	^{G1537}		^{G2449}
εἰς	τὴν	Γαλιλαίαν	ἀπῆλθεν	πρὸς	αὐτοῦ	καὶ	ἠρώτα
into	^{G3588}	Galilee	he went	unto	him	and	besought
^{G1519}		^{G1056}	^{G565}	^{G4314}	^{G846}	^{G2532}	^{G2065}
αὐτοῦ	ἵνα	καταβῇ	καὶ	ιάσῃται	αὐτοῦ	τὸν	υἱόν
him	that	he would come down	and	heal	him	^{G3588}	son
^{G846}	^{G2443}	^{G2597}	^{G2532}	^{G2390}	^{G846}		^{G5207}
ἤμελλεν	γὰρ	ἀποθνήσκειν					
he was at the point	for	of death					
^{G3195}	^{G1063}	^{G599}					

Additional Cross-References

John 4:3 (Parallel theme): He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee.
