

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 ἥκει 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 ἦρώτα
into Galilee he went unto him and besought
G1519 G1056 G565 G4314 G846 G2532 G2065

αὐτοῦ ἵνα καταβῇ καὶ ιάσηται αὐτοῦ τὸν υἱόν
him that he would come down and heal him son
G846 G2443 G2597 G2532 G2390 G846 G3588 G5207

ἵμελλεν 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.

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