

John 4:49

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die.

Analysis

The nobleman's persistence ('Sir, come down ere my child die') shows both admirable faith and lingering limitation—he still thinks Jesus' physical presence is necessary. His address 'Sir' (Greek: kurie, can mean 'Lord' or 'sir') and repeated request demonstrate humble urgency. God honors persistent prayer even when our theology is incomplete.

Historical Context

Parental desperation transcended social barriers—this royal official humbled himself before an itinerant teacher. His repeated plea echoes many biblical examples of persistent faith (the Syrophenician woman, the importunate widow).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus distinguish between persistent faith and lack of trust in His power?

2. What does this nobleman's example teach about bringing our urgent needs to Christ repeatedly?

Interlinear Text

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|--------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|---------------------|------------|------------------|------------|
| λέγει | πρὸς | αὐτὸν | ὁ | βασιλικός | Κύριε | κατάβηθι | πρὶν |
| saith | unto | him | G3588 | The nobleman | Sir | come down | ere |
| G3004 | G4314 | G846 | | G937 | G2962 | G2597 | G4250 |
| ἀποθανεῖν | τὸ | παιδίον | μου | | | | |
| die | G3588 | child | my | | | | |
| G599 | | G3813 | G3450 | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Mark 5:23 (Parallel theme): And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live.