

Faith's Encouragement

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

A. Text: John 4:43-54.

B. The Christian life is one of anticipation and adventure.

II. It is difficult to gain acceptance in one's own town.

III. God tells us to do what we can do and then adds an ingredient that we cannot do in order to accomplish something great.

IV. Many want to see miraculous events before they believe in Jesus—true faith is not on the grounds of what Jesus can do, but who He is.

A. Jesus is not limited by distance or time.

B. He has power in areas beyond the power and reach of man.

C. When the man seeking help understood this, he not only believed, but he trusted God.

D. Faith is looking unto Jesus. (Hebrews 12)

E. Jesus has come to make our faith grow and complete it. Jesus puts us through circumstances that we do not want to go through in order to achieve what we have wanted all along.

Application questions:

1. Why must faith be centered upon Jesus more than on what Jesus does? What is the difference?

2. What is Jesus' goal concerning our faith? Explain.

3. When has Jesus encouraged your faith personally? How did God make Himself look big in your circumstance?
