

LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Seven Signs of John Series

These questions are for the **September 24, 2023** message, "That was the hour." Please read the sermon passage (John 4:46-54) together out loud.

Passage Outline

AS JESUS CONFRONTS UNBELIEF . . .

1. He does not give up on those who are curious, but still unbelieving. (43-45)
 - a. Jesus purposefully returns to his hometown, where there was unbelief and doubt.
 - b. Jesus knew that their "welcome" was half-hearted and would be short-lived.
 - c. He came back to confront the unbelief of those who were nearest to him.
2. He has clearly revealed his person, Word and works. He is the Messiah from God. (46)
 - a. The signs that Jesus did were not merely acts of power.
 - b. Water-to-wine was meant to prove that he is the promised Messiah.
3. He is graciously available in the darkest moments. (47-50)
 - a. This "official" was secure, powerful and didn't need Jesus. Until his child was sick.
 - b. Jesus does not owe this man (or anyone) a "sign" to prove himself.
 - c. This man did not need a sermon, he was desperate for his son's life.
 - i. Jesus healed his son in spite of miles of separation.
 - ii. Jesus healed his son by the power of his word.
4. The pathway to true faith in Jesus Christ looks different from different people. (51-52)
 - a. The Samaritans responded to Jesus without signs or miracles.
 - b. This man heard about water-to-wine, but finally believed Jesus' word of promise.
5. There must be a point-in-time when we fully believe Christ, and Christ alone. (53-54)
 - a. This man ("he himself") repented and placed his faith and trust in Jesus.
 - b. He got to "see," but happy are those who have not seen and yet believe. (Jn 20:30-31)

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: How did Jesus persist in chasing you down? How did he confront your unbelief? What were the final factors which drew you to genuine faith?
2. Based on #2, above: Our faith in Jesus is either born in the darkest trials of our lives, or it grows there. The official in John passage today had a son who was near death. How has God used darkness to prove to you that he is the true light?
3. Based on #3, above: Many of us started as half-hearted or reluctant participants in worship services, or "welcome committees" for Jesus. What was your mindset back then? Did you know you were half-hearted? Or did you think you were all-good?
4. Based on #4, above: As you reach out to others, they may or may not need more academic information about Jesus. On application of this message is to admit that we do not know how or when God will draw others to genuine faith, but we all should be ready to testify about what drew us to genuine faith. Talk about this. Who are you praying will come to genuine faith?