

## **“How to Find Help”**

John 4:46-54

Hello friend and welcome to *Hope for Today*. My name is J. Mark Horst; I'm your friend and Bible teacher. The program you're listening to is produced by Heralds of Hope, an international Gospel radio and literature ministry.

My friend, do you have hope? Or is your heart filled with disappointment, fear, and despair? I know, life can be hard, and people can sometimes be cruel in the way they treat us. But if you and I know Jesus, we can have hope because we know that this life is not all there is to our existence. Our bodies are mortal, that is, we will all die. But our spirits are immortal, they will live on forever.

Furthermore, we know that Jesus is preparing a place for everyone who loves Him. He told us that in John 14, verses 1 to 3. Listen. *“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions (or dwelling places); if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”*

Now, my friend, that is hope. That is assurance. That is a promise that can encourage you in the dark and difficult moments of life. Jesus is planning to come and take us to be with Him!

In just a few moments, Dr. Yoder will present today's teaching from the Gospel of John. But before he does that, let's pray.

Gracious Heavenly Father, we thank you and praise you for this promise of Jesus that He is preparing a place for us with you. Father, we long for that day when sin will be forever banished and righteous rule in the earth and in the hearts of all humanity.

And now, Father, as Dr. Yoder comes to open the Word for us, I pray that you will open our hearts to the truth. I pray for my listening friend to understand where he or she can find the help they need to walk the pathway of life. I pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Now, here's Dr. Yoder with today's teaching.

We are all dependent creatures. We cannot make it on our own. Nobody is completely independent. All of us need the help of those around us. Some of us seem to be more helpless than others. All of us are dependent upon those around us, but sometimes even they cannot help us.

One of my African friends told me this experience. At one time during our radio broadcast as I was bringing the program to a close, his sister who had been sick with tuberculosis picked up the radio and held it to her bosom, and, as I was praying at the close of the program, God healed her. Praise the Lord!

Sometimes people around you can't help you, then God can! When there seems to be no one to help you, where do you turn? Do you have a place where you can go? Do you have a person you can go to? In John 4:46-54 I want you to notice carefully what this nobleman did when he had a problem.

46 *So, Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum.*

47 *When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judea 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.*

48 *Then said Jesus unto him, except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.*

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

50 *Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way.*

51 *And as he was now going down, his servants met him, and told him, saying, Thy son liveth.*

52 *Then inquired he of them the hour when he began to amend. And they said unto him, yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.*

53 *So, the father knew that it was at the same hour, in the which Jesus said unto him, Thy son liveth: and himself believed, and his whole house.*

54 *This is again the second miracle that Jesus did, when he was come out of Judea into Galilee.*

Here was a man who had a very deep problem. By looking at this experience, we shall be able to see the EXAMPLES which will show us how to get help. Because this nobleman had his problem and found a solution for it, we are going to be able to find the examples which will show us how to get help, too.

Example number one: **The Nobleman's Purpose.**

His son was very sick. The father had done all he could possibly do. He told Jesus his son was at the point of death. So when he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee he set out for Cana on foot. I measured the distance on the map and it would be 30 kilometers. That's a day's journey, especially in that particular part of the country. Capernaum is down by the sea side and Cana is up in the mountains. He would have walked uphill 30 kilometers to get to Cana.

But he had heard that Jesus was in Cana and he would not be turned aside. He set out to find Jesus and he found Him. He would not change his course. He would not be diverted; he kept on going until he came to Jesus.

I call this a consuming purpose. The nobleman's need developed a consuming purpose. He would not give up until he had found Jesus, the source of help. How will you find help? Let that kind of consuming purpose possess you and you will find help.

Here is a second example from this experience of need: **The Nobleman's Prayer.**

When he came and asked Jesus to heal his son, Jesus said to Him, "Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe." I call that a test because Jesus put it to him quite straight, didn't He? He wanted to be sure this nobleman had examined his heart. Jesus wanted to be sure the man was not there just for some great sign or wonder. So, the Lord put it that way to him; He said, "Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe."

The man by his reply expressed his honest motive. "Sir, come down before my child dies." Please dispense with all this extra and let us get down to the urgent need that I have in the life of my son. Jesus said very simply, "Go thy way; thy son liveth."

Watch that man! Watch that nobleman! If you want help watch him. "And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way." Do you get it? The man prayed to Jesus, "Come down before my son dies," and when Jesus responded and said, "Go, your son lives," he believed it and he went! There were no doubts in his mind, not one.

If you want help when you really need it, take this nobleman's example and pray like he did. That's what I call a pleading prayer: "Come down before my son dies." This nobleman prayed that kind of a pleading prayer and he got help. When Jesus spoke to him, he believed. He is a good

example. Pray a pleading prayer and believe the answer to your prayer. That is the way to get help when you need it just like this man did.

A third example we get from this experience of Jesus meeting need: **The Nobleman's Persuasion.**

It is already reflected in the fact that he just believed Jesus. That is why he was persuaded. For all practical purposes he had no evidence; just the word of Jesus, that's all. But he was persuaded and went.

Whom should he meet on the way but his servants coming to find him. They said to him, "Your son lives!" What a joy that must have been for him. He heard it right from home. You might say he believed it before he had left Cana, but now he has the assurance of it by the word of his servants. So he began to ask, "When did he get better? When did he start improving?" And they said, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." He figured a little bit and realized it was exactly the time when Jesus spoke the word.

Wasn't that a tremendous confirmation? He was thoroughly persuaded. That proof was convincing for him and he believed on Jesus and all his house.

That's what I call forcible persuasion. That kind of forcible persuasion will find help. It found help for this nobleman. Surely, it did! He believed and all his house. Take this man's example and you can find help. Be persuaded that what Jesus says is absolutely true and you'll have the evidence to go with it just like he did. Such forcible persuasion will find help.

My friend, when you need help, let me commend to you this nobleman's example: set out with a consuming purpose to find Jesus; pray a pleading prayer to Jesus; adopt a forcible persuasion about Jesus and you'll find help.

Seek Him out with consuming purpose; let nothing hinder you. Present your need to Him with pleading prayer; let no doubt confuse you. Accept the answer with forcible persuasion; let no barrier stop you! My friend, help is available! Praise God!

Thank you, Dr. Yoder for showing us so clearly how to find help.

Now, if you were blessed by this teaching and would like an audio CD or a printed copy of it, just write and ask for the teaching "How to Find Help." We would be happy to send a copy to you as soon as we receive your request.

The quickest way for you to contact me is to send an e-mail to [mail@heraldsofhope.org](mailto:mail@heraldsofhope.org). That e-mail address is [mail@heraldsofhope.org](mailto:mail@heraldsofhope.org). Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember, you can request a printed manuscript or an audio CD of this teaching, "How to Find Help." I'd be happy to send one to you.

If you have questions about the Bible or how to live as a Christ-follower, we invite you to send those questions to us. We will take your questions to the Holy Scripture and find an answer. We want to help you grow in your understanding of God's Word and in your relationship with Him. So, write to us today. Here's the contact information again.

The quickest way for you to contact me is to send an e-mail to [mail@heraldsofhope.org](mailto:mail@heraldsofhope.org). Or write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember; you can request a free copy of this teaching, "How to Find Help." It's available in print or on an audio CD.

Now, I urge you to tune in next week as Dr. Yoder continues our study in John's Gospel with a question, "Faith that Acts." And until then, keep looking for that blessed HOPE.