

The Character of Jesus 9
Healing a Nobleman's Son
John 4:46 - 54

- Characteristic: Challenging
 - Jesus' reputation for healing was well established. The challenge was deciding what it meant.
 - (48) Jesus' comment likely was intended for others who were present. The nobleman came a goodly distance (~22 miles), so he had some level of confidence.
 - How many miracles are enough?
 - Does anyone draw conclusions?
 - (50) Later, Jesus went to the home of Jairus to heal his daughter (Mark 5:21 – 43), but this time challenged the man to raise his expectations.
- Applications
 - Do we challenge people to draw conclusions?
 - How much evidence is enough?
 - If God is real, what should I do as a result?
 - If the Scriptures are true, what difference will that make to me?
 - What is a reasonable reaction to seeing the works of God?
 - Do we challenge people to raise their expectations?
 - First, we need to be sure that their initial expectations are reasonable.
 - Do we turn to God only in emergencies, when all else has failed?
 - Do people in general know what to expect from God?
 - Do they also have unfounded expectations?
 - Encourage people to confirm the details so as not to attribute to God something He did not do.
 - Encourage people to think through their expectations.
 - We cannot manipulate God.
 - God cannot violate free will.
 - God has a bigger perspective and is a lot smarter, so don't insist on the only way you can see it working out.
 - What is best for you may not be what you think you want.