

8. Why is it sometimes hard to take Jesus at His word?

9. When have you exercised a “believing without seeing” type of faith in Jesus?

**Let's Pray:**

Are you in a position like the royal official's? If so, speak your desire to Jesus with the same persistence and faith, and trust His word of response. Ask God for this trust, and meditate on 4:50.

# Sermon Notes

“Believing Without Seeing”

John 4:43-54

June 12, 2016

**Introduction:**

**1. Some confusing statements**

**2. The Text**

**3. The Takeaway**

## Conclusion:

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of 6-12-16

Questions adapted from Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., John: Life Change Series, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1987, pp. 59-62; Douglas Connelly, John: The Way to True Life, Intersivity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 2002, p. 20; James Galvin, ed., et al., New Testament Lesson Maker, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, p. 163.

## Getting Started:

1. What are some things that people believe in that they either haven't seen or can't see?

## Digging Deeper:

2. Read John 4:39-48. How did the "welcome" (4:45) of the Galileans (Jesus' own countrymen [4:44]) differ from the welcome of the Samaritans (4:39-42)?
3. What is wrong with the kind of belief that is based only on seeing signs and wonders (4:48)?

4. While we are not told the name of the royal official, his title implies connection with a king. The only king-like character in the region would have been Herod Antipas, tetrarch of Galilee, a wicked man who married his brother's ex-wife and had John the Baptist executed. Some scholars postulate that the royal official is to be identified with the manager of Herod's household, mentioned in Luke 8:1-3. If so, what does this passage in Luke add to our understanding?
5. Read John 4:49-54. How does the royal official's response (4:50) differ from the response Jesus anticipated (4:44, 48)? How does 4:46-54 exemplify 20:29?
6. A sign points toward God, reveals the nature of Jesus' mission and character, and demands a response. How did this second sign at Cana do each of these things?
7. When do we usually find ourselves asking God to help us?