

20th Sunday after Pentecost EF 2021

[John 4: 46-53](#)



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](#)



*He heard that Jesus had come.
Unless you see signs and wonders, you do not believe.
Your son lives.
The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him.
And his whole household.*

Belief

How does one come to believe?

Our story of the royal official and his dying son chart such a faith discovered, embraced and shared.

Our official is a dad and heart-sick over his son's life-threatening sickness. He heard from others about this wonder-worker, this healer having just come into his country. He seeks him out with hope beyond hope.ⁱ He seeks without anything else to cling to. He's praying for a miracle.

Jesus rebukes the official and indeed all who seek the miracle for their own sake and not the truth for God's sake.

Jesus does not go with the official to his home as requested to perform the healing miracle.

Jesus shares the Word: "Your son lives."

Remember, we are in the Gospel of John. This is the Gospel that starts with, "In the beginning was the Word... And the Word became flesh." This is the Gospel proclaimed at the end of every Mass.

Our official, our anxious father, hears the Word from the very one who is the Word made Flesh.

And the man believes.

But our story isn't over quite yet. As the official heads home, he's met by his servants looking for him to tell him that his son had miraculously recovered. They compare notes on the timing. The official is able to share that his son's recovery was dependent on the Word whom we know as Jesus Christ. And his whole household came to believe.

*He heard that Jesus had come.
Unless you see signs and wonders, you do not believe.
Your son lives.
The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him.
And his whole household.*

Is this a model for our faith development?

We've come here today having travelled many different paths. We arrive here at different times of our lives: young, old and in the middle.

We may have come looking for consolation in tragedy. We may come in hope for a destiny that transcends our earthly lives. We may come to share a faith with our children that will help ensure their health and happiness in this world and in the next.

We come, because we heard Jesus has come. We come to hear his Word in Revelation and his Word transubstantiated, body and blood, soul and divinity, in Holy Thanksgiving.

We hope. We seek. We hear. And we believe.

The official's whole household came to believe. As we have come to believe, we are called to share the saving Word to all whom God has given to each of us.

As you head home today from your encounter with the Word Made Flesh, think of your “household”, whether it be at work, school, family or play. Share the Word and keep your eyes open for wonders, wonders that will spark curiosity, wonders that will inspire others to seek, and hope that leads one to hear and believe.



ⁱ Francis J. Moloney, S.D.B., *The Gospel of John, Sacra Pagina vol. 4*, pp. 153-155