

# REFLECTION

## Questions

JOHN 4:43-54

- What comes to mind when you hear the phrase “Desperate Times”? Think of a time in your life (or someone close to you) when you faced a truly desperate situation.
- In your own words, summarize the desperate situation the royal official faced. What made his need so urgent?
- The royal official was a man of status and likely had access to the best medical care available in his day, yet he still reached the end of his resources. What are some “respectable” or “powerful” things people today turn to first in a crisis before they turn to Jesus?
- The official’s son was “close to death” (v. 47). In what ways do people experience different kinds of “death” today — physical, emotional, relational, spiritual, or financial — that can drive us to desperation?
- Jesus said, “Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will never believe” (v. 48). How does desperation sometimes expose the shallowness of our faith or our tendency to want proof before we trust?
- Where in your life right now are you tempted to feel like the situation is hopeless or that it’s “too late”?
- The royal official didn’t argue with Jesus or demand that He come to his house. Instead, he pleaded, “Sir, come down before my child dies” (v. 49). What does this reveal about the nature of desperate faith?
- Jesus responded with a simple word: “Go; your son will live” (v. 50). The man believed and obeyed before he saw any evidence. What does this teach us about the difference between faith that demands sight and faith that takes Jesus at His word?
- The official’s faith grew throughout the story — from seeking a healer, to believing Jesus’ word, to seeing the miracle confirmed, to leading his whole household to believe (v. 53). How has (or how can) a desperate situation strengthen and deepen your faith?
- What are some practical ways we can cultivate “desperate faith” even when we are not currently in a crisis?
- Jesus ultimately wanted more than just the healing of the boy — He wanted the official and his household to believe in Him. How might God be using difficult circumstances in your life right now to draw you (or your family) closer to Him?