

Sermon Discussion Guide



Signs: Real Faith


John 4:39-54

Ray Cortese, February 24 & 25, 2018



Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read the sermon scripture(s) listed above. What stood out to you? What do you find interesting and/or important? What is challenging or causes you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 How do people use the term "faith" in different ways? What is your default definition of "faith"?
- 2 What was your one main/big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

REAL FAITH RECEIVED

- 3 *Surprising recipients.* Who were the surprising recipients of faith in John 4? God delights to give faith to the foolish, the left out, the outsiders, the unpopular. Do you feel like you are in any of these categories? Do know someone in one of these categories?
- 4 *Sad resistance.* Who resisted Jesus in John 4? Growing up in the church, what is the difference between getting a weak strain of Christianity versus getting the real thing? Familiarity with the things of God can breed boredom – has this ever been true for you?

REAL FAITH DEFINED

- 5 *Real faith begins with reason.* What is wrong with the term “blind faith”? Do atheists have faith? What intellectual reasons led you to believe?
- 6 *Real faith moves to trust.* Why was it significant that Jesus refused to go to the official’s home to heal his son? How would you complete the following statements?
In the place of God, I am most tempted to put my faith in _____.
In the place of God, I am most tempted to trust _____.
- 7 *Real faith is forged in adversity.* Have you ever had a moment when you said, “God where are you”? When you’re not walking in faith, how do you complete the following statement?
The greatest thing I need in my life is _____.
- 8 *Real faith’s strength is in its object, not its quality.* What happens when the statement is reversed: real faith’s strength is in its quality, not its object? What does it look like to have “faith like a mustard seed”?
- 9 *Real faith’s aim is to get Jesus.* What kind of benefits do people typically try to get from God instead of getting God himself? Have you been guilty of this?
- 10 Ray asked throughout the sermon, “Do you have real faith?” Do you?

Step 3: Final Reflections

- ✠ How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?