

Rescued

July 18, 2026

Last night watched “the making of the movie – JAWS”

A giant white shark was terrorizing an entire beach

Fell upon a couple of men to rescue the people from the shark

Man vs Nature

John 4:46–53

“Once more Jesus visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum (about 20 Northwest of Cana). When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death.

“Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders,” Jesus told him, “you will never believe.” The royal official said, “Sir, come down before my child dies.” Jesus replied, “You may go. Your son will live.”

The man took Jesus at his word and departed. While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, “The fever left him yesterday at the seventh hour.” Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” So, he and all his household believed.”

1. The man who came to Jesus was a **royal official**
 - a. He served in Caesar’s court
 - a. that he is of royal blood
 - b. **or** that he is a commanding officer of the military
 - i. attached to the royal court.
 - b. Whichever one he was,
 - a. this was a man that commanded respect.
 - c. when people saw this man
 - a. probably envied him
 - i. because of his wealth and position
 - d. Here is a man who when people spoke,
 - a. they did what he told them
 - e. **He had it made** – top of his game
2. Interrupts Jesus while He is teaching.
3. Up until this time
 - a. this royal official was a man
 - b. who probably did not know

- c. what it meant to be in need.
- 4. How **many of us are** just that way.
 - a. We have a good job,
 - b. we are respected
 - c. **and on the outside**
 - i. we seem to have it **all together**.
- 5. THE DILEMMA WAS
 - a. This man's world was about to **come crashing down** around him.
 - i. **Verse 46** says that this man's son
 - 1. was sick back in Capernaum.
 - ii. This **boy must have been** terribly sick
 - 1. for this royal official to make the 22-mile trip
 - a. to through the mountains
 - b. to Cana of Galilee.
 - b. What is it - that brought this man to a carpenter?
 - i. Something that doctors of that day
 - 1. **couldn't** help him with
 - ii. **No** medical cure for
 - 1. whatever causing his son to die
 - iii. This man is facing something that his
 - 1. money,
 - 2. power
 - 3. or respect
 - 4. could do **nothing** about.
 - iv. DESPERATION
- 6. **Can you imagine** what is going through this royal official's mind!
 - a. as he taking this 20 plus mile journey
 - b. on foot
 - c. to come to Jesus?
- 7. This man was going to go to Jesus
 - a. so that he could **rescue** his son.
- 8. This man understood his need for Jesus to help him
 - a. and he did **not** care what anyone thought of him.
 - b. He did **not** care if begging Jesus in front of people

- i. would **not** make him look “cool” to the other people.

c. He could care less

- i. what the people thought
- ii. because he knew that **without** Jesus,
- iii. his son was going to die.

9. **Isn't** it sad - that for many people

- a. it takes something drastic
- b. to get them to see
- c. their need for Jesus to rescue them.

10. **OUR** DILEMMA

- a. We face problems that we **can't** fix.
- b. many people are seeking signs and wonders from God
- c. and in the meantime,
 - i. their **relationship** with Jesus is **weak**
 - ii. because it is **based** solely
 - iii. on God performing for them.

11. There are **other people**

- a. who because of their own pride
- b. or preconceived ideas about Jesus
- c. will reject Jesus trying to rescue them
- d. because He does **not** do it
 - i. the way they want Him to.
 - ii. He **doesn't** fit their picture of God
- e. Too many of us [even in the church]
 - i. want Jesus to rescue us
 - ii. with little to **no strings attached**.

12. Jesus offers his solution (**vs50**)

- a. Jesus replied, “*You may go. Your son will live.*”
- b. If you were this man in his situation,
 - i. how would you respond?**
- c. Would you demand proof?
- d. Would you doubt?
- e. Would you walk away discouraged?

13. **Here is his response:** “*The man took Jesus at his word and departed*”

14. THINK ABOUT THIS:

How do you respond to statements Jesus makes?

Mark 11:24

“Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”

John 15:7

“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.”

Mark 10:29–31

“I tell you the truth,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

15. GET REAL – DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE THIS?

16. This man chose the faith route!

“The man took Jesus at his word and departed”

17. This royal official’s dilemma was his son’s condition

HERE IS WHERE THE GREATER DILEMMA STANDS:

1. **WE** ARE ALL IN NEED OF BEING RESCUED

You and Me

Colossians 1:13–14

“For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

What is that dominion of darkness he is talking about?

2. Our sins have created a barrier between us and God
 - a. Without forgiveness we are entrapped in the dominion of darkness
 - b. slavery to sin
 - c. There is no other way out
 - d. And when we go to stand before God on Judgment Day – we will be found lacking
 - e. And the destiny of those found lacking is the what the Bible describes as Hell
3. All of Mankind is in need of being rescued
 - a. The world,
 - b. the enemy,
 - c. our own brokenness –

- a. all these leave us beaten up
 - b. and in need of rescue.
4. Rescue going from a bad place to a good place

“For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves

- -From slavery to sin, to freedom in Christ.
 - -From condemnation to forgiveness.
 - -From the power of Satan to the Power of God.
5. This transfer gives us ...
- -A new identity as God’s people
 - -A new mission to reach out into the dark world
 - -A new reality as forgiven and saved
6. Rescue involves a price

Colossians 2:13–14

“When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.”

7. This was not a self-rescue.
- a. The rescue operation was planned
 - i. It was **not** reactive;
 - ii. it was intentional
 - b. Someone entered the darkness **to bring you out.**
 - c. **the cross was the price** for our redemption
8. Without the Cross
- a. We were without hope,
 - i. now we are a people with hope
 - b. Without purpose,
 - i. now we have a purpose
 - c. No direction for our lives:
 - i. trial and error
 - ii. and turns out to be mostly error
 - d. We have the Bible to provide for us direction
9. The grace of God is our rescue line.
- a. God is holding it out for you and me.

- b. Are you willing to take the life-line
 - c. God is throwing your way
10. Are you committed to taking Jesus at his word
- a. If we can't take him for his word,
 - i. how can we truly trust
 - ii. that his death on the cross
 - iii. can wash away all our sins
 - iv. Now let's revisit the Colossians passage and see its full context

Colossians 2:11–15

"In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."

- 11. It's in **baptism**, that the power of the cross is magnified in our lives
- 12. In baptism is where **we come into contact** with the forgiveness of sin.
 - a. **Doesn't** come through saying some kind of prayer
 - b. Asking for forgiveness
 - c. **Doesn't** come through just cleaning up our lives
 - d. **Doesn't** come through some priest praying for us
 - e. **Or** sprinkling some water over our heads
- 13. It comes through TOTAL IMMERSION
 - a. Which is what the **word actually means**
- 14. Now, that is what the word of God says
 - a. You can either believe it (like the royal official)
 - b. Or **not**
- 15. The royal official witnessed the power of God
 - a. On his way home
 - i. He was **met by some of his servants**
 - b. He realized it was at the exact time
 - i. Jesus said to him *"Your son will live"*
- 16. **What else** did his belief bring about
 - a. Besides the healing of his son?

John 4:53

“So, he and all his household believed.”

- a. His entire household believed
- b. His faith inspired others

17. THE FINAL DILEMMA

- a. We live in a lost world
 - i. People are clueless about
 - ii. being ensnared by
 - iii. the dominion of darkness
- b. And the consequences which accompany that destiny
- c. Is your faith inspiring others to the power of Jesus?
 - i. To rescue them
 - ii. Bring them into the Kingdom of Light
- d. How do you do that?
 - i. Let the people around you know
 - ii. how Jesus changed your life!
 - iii. And what he is currently doing in your life.
- e. The royal official didn't have much to go on
 - i. Other than what Jesus did in his life

18. JESUS RESCUED YOU

- a. Will you go to the rescue of others?**