

**Sermon Overview CEFC**  
**August 27th, 2023**

**Title:** Desperate Distance

**Passage:** John 4:43-54

**Introduction**

**Series Purpose:** What we \_\_\_\_\_ about \_\_\_\_\_ is still a matter of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

**Principle:** No one \_\_\_\_\_ to be put on \_\_\_\_\_ when they \_\_\_\_\_

**Question:** Why does it feel like when we are the most \_\_\_\_\_, Jesus is the most \_\_\_\_\_?

**Main Point:** When we are \_\_\_\_\_ and Jesus seems \_\_\_\_\_, He is really creating \_\_\_\_\_ for our \_\_\_\_\_ to grow.

**When Jesus Puts Us on Hold**

**Our Problem:** We live in an \_\_\_\_\_ but have \_\_\_\_\_ expectations.

**Principle:** Our addiction to \_\_\_\_\_ can \_\_\_\_\_ our growth

**Jesus' Solution:** Jesus will \_\_\_\_\_ in a way that will \_\_\_\_\_ our faith, not \_\_\_\_\_ our growth.

**Principle:** Hard places are the \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_.

**Principle:** Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ is not \_\_\_\_\_. It is an \_\_\_\_\_ of His deep \_\_\_\_\_ for us.

**Conclusion**

**Sermon Based Small Group Questions**

**Message Title:** Desperate Distance

**Passage:** John 4:43-54

**Main Point:** When we are desperate and Jesus seems distant, He is really creating space for our faith to grow.

1. Read John 4:43-54 as a group. What stands out to you?
2. Think of a time that your parents did not step in and rescue you. What lessons did you learn that you would not have learned if they had responded instantly?
3. How might the royal official have interpreted Jesus' initial response for his request for help (John 4:48)? What are some thoughts that go through your head when Jesus does not initially do what you ask Him to do in response to your desperate situation. What did the royal official do?
4. The official asked Jesus to come with him and heal his son. Jesus told the official to go home with a promise of healing. Put yourself in the official's place. Was that step of obedience easy? What is the relationship between faith and steps of obedience? How are they connected?
5. What do you think was going through the official's mind on the first stage of his walk back to Capernaum? Have you ever been on a similar walk with only a promise to sustain you? What was that like?
6. Compare the two signs that Jesus did at Cana (John 2:11 and today's passage) How are they alike?
7. What did this sign reveal about Jesus?