



Sunday February 24, 2019

Faith

Part-3 : Faith And The Ministry of Jesus

Quick review-Last Two Sundays:

Faith Connects Us To God

Faith Is Required To Please God

Faith Is In The Person of Jesus Christ

Faith Is Based On Relationship

Faith Is Of The Heart

God Calls Us To Live By Faith

What Faith Is

How Faith is Conceived And Nurtured

Faith in the Word is Faith in God

Faith Is Like A Muscle - It Grows As It Is Exercised

Several Factors Influence Faith

Faith Causes the Power of God and His Word to be Released

Last Sunday : God's Sovereignty, Grace and Faith

While God may do things sovereignly by grace, the norm is that He requires us to receive by faith, what He freely offers us through grace.

Today: Faith And The Ministry of Jesus

The Eternal Word became flesh and lived, walked and taught us. So everything He said and did was God speaking to us and God being revealed to us. In this message we examine the part that faith held in the ministry of Jesus as He healed, delivered and worked miracles for people. We examine His interactions with people on the matter of faith, to draw some insights on how to exercise faith in God. We realize that the Lord Jesus had many more interactions with people that what is specifically recorded for us in the four Gospels. Also on many occasions, we have records of great multitudes coming to Him and we do not have all details of how He interacted with them. So our insights are drawn based on what is recorded for us by the Holy Spirit, knowing that these were done specifically for our learning.

Next week we will look closely at what He taught concerning faith.

Is Faith Teaching Correct?

Jesus is the Eternal Word. He is absolute, perfect theology. Jesus Himself taught and demonstrated the importance of faith. Jesus Himself walked in faith. For instance after cursing the fig tree in Mark 11, He taught that it was faith that caused that to happen



and taught His disciples how they could do the same. He is the greatest teacher of faith. He has invited us to walk in this kind of faith. We must remember that the Lord Jesus is the Author and Finisher of our faith and therefore He is the best Person and best example to learn how to walk by faith. He has given us His kind of faith, or what we call, the God-kind of faith.

We need to get rid of our own reasoning and rationalism that holds us in unbelief and embrace the teaching on faith as the Lord Jesus presented it to us.

Jesus is the Same

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

We keep in mind that the Lord Jesus is the same through time. Hence as we see Him ministering to people, we need to keep in mind that He has not changed. Although Covenants have changed, and Jesus ministered while the Old Covenant was in effect, Jesus Himself has not changed and faith has not changed. Just as people walked and exercised faith under the Old Covenant, so also those under the New Covenant are called to walk by faith.

Here are some insights concerning faith, that we observe in the ministry of Jesus.

[Pastors, please note - do not read all Scripture references. Please just narrate the incidents and move to the next point.]

#1, Jesus recognized and responded to faith in those who came to Him

The Roman Centurion

Matthew 8:10

When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!"

The Paralytic and his four friends

Matthew 9:2

Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you."

The woman with the issue of blood

Matthew 9:22

But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, "Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that hour.



The Woman of Canaan

Matthew 15:28

Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

The Lord Jesus still recognizes and responds to faith in our hearts as we look to Him for healings and miracles.

Similarly as we minister to people, we should take time to teach them God's Word and share with the God's promises so that faith can rise in their hearts, so that they can look to Jesus in faith.

#2, Jesus asked people if they had faith in order to receive

Two blind men

Matthew 9:28-29

28 And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord."

29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you."

The man whose son was demon possessed

Mark 9:23-24

23 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."

24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

As we will see later there were times Jesus ministered to people independent of faith. But most often He required for them to come to Him in faith.

So once again we understand that when we come to Him, we must come to Him in faith. Similarly, as we minister to others, we must help build faith in the hearts of people so that they can come to Him in faith.

#3, Jesus encouraged faith even in hopeless situations

Jairus

Mark 5:35-36

35 While He was still speaking, some came from the ruler of the synagogue's house who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?"

36 As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not be afraid; only believe."



Lazarus

John 11:39-40

39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days."

40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?"

What would Jesus tell us in situations where things seem to go from bad to worse. He would tell us exactly what He told Jairus or Mary and Martha - to not be afraid, but just believe. Just have faith. We must be strong in faith even when things seem hopeless. As we minister to others, we do the same, encourage faith in the midst of hopeless situations. We do exactly what Jesus did.

#4, Jesus encouraged people to act their faith

There were times when the Lord Jesus instructed people to do something in faith. Of course at times people acted their faith on their own and Jesus responded to their faith in action. Here are a few examples when Jesus instructed people to act in faith.

The ten lepers

Luke 17:11-19

11 Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.

12 Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off.

13 And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

14 So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.

15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God,

16 and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan.

17 So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?"

18 Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?"

19 And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

The nobleman's son

John 4:49-50

49 The nobleman said to Him, "Sir, come down before my child dies!"

50 Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your son lives." So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way.

The man born blind told to wash in the pool of Siloam

John 9:6-7

6 When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay.

7 And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.



We must also learn to act on our faith. Let our believing affect our thinking, speaking and doing.

Similarly, as we minister to people, we encourage them to act in line with their faith in the promise of God.

#5, Jesus demonstrated that faith could affect nature

Jesus calmed the storm and cursed a tree and taught that faith could do so.

Jesus calmed a storm

Luke 8:22-25

22 Now it happened, on a certain day, that He got into a boat with His disciples. And He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side of the lake." And they launched out.

23 But as they sailed He fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water, and were in jeopardy.

24 And they came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" Then He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm.

25 But He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and marveled, saying to one another, "Who can this be? For He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!"

It is interesting that after Jesus spoke to the wind and the waves, the one thing He asked His disciples was "where is your faith", implying that they had to have had faith in the storm and things would have been taken care of.

Jesus cursed a fig tree and then taught about faith in Mark 11.

Even today, by faith we can affect natural elements (nature). Speak to wind, the storms and other natural elements. Speak to circumstances, situations and other things that we have to deal with. These are inanimate things. They are part of the natural world we live in. Everything in this natural world is subject to faith.

#6, Jesus accommodated people outside of God's agenda, in response to faith

Although during His earthly ministry, Jesus came to minister to the people of Israel, He ministered healing and deliverance to non-Jewish people who came to Him in faith.

The Roman Centurion (Matthew 8)

The Woman of Canaan (Matthew 15)



We must recognize that even today, God will touch people miraculously and do wonders amongst them, even if they are not yet saved through personal faith in Jesus Christ.

#7, Jesus helped people when they struggled in faith

The man whose son was demon possessed

Mark 9:24

24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

Even though this father admitted his struggle to believe, the Lord Jesus delivered his child.

Peter as he walked on the water

Matthew 14:29-31

29 So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.

30 But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

Jesus would do the same for us today. He will help us overcome and push past our unbelief.

Similarly understand that as we minister to people, even if they may be struggling with doubt, we can extend our faith on their behalf, undergird whatever faith they may have and help them receive their miracle.

#8, There were times when Jesus healed and worked miracles independent of the individual's faith

There are several instances where the Lord Jesus healed, delivered or worked miracles where there is no mention of faith in the heart of the recipient(s). So it was Jesus ministering to them independent of their faith. Here are a few instances

Healing of the man by the pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-9)

Healing of the man born blind (John 9:1-7)

Raising of the widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:11-17)



We must also remain open for God to move sovereignly by His Spirit, independent of the faith of people, to touch them powerfully.

#9, Jesus rebuked his disciples for being of "little faith"

The disciples in the middle of a storm

Matthew 8:26

But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

Peter walking on the water

Matthew 14:31

And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

Disciples wondering where they would get bread to eat

Matthew 16:8

But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, "O you of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves because you have brought no bread?"

Disciples when they could not cast out a demon

Matthew 17:17-20

17 Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me."

18 And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.

19 Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?"

20 So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."

Would Jesus rebuke us His disciples for our "little faith" or for being "faithless" in similar situations today? Notice also how Jesus clubbed being faithless with being perverse (morally corrupt). Let's continue to grow in faith and become people of great faith in God.

#10, Unbelief limited Jesus from doing mighty works

As we have seen earlier, Jesus could not do many mighty works when people were in unbelief.

Matthew 13:57-58



57 So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house."

58 Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

Mark 6:5-6

5 Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them.

6 And He marveled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching.

Guard against all forms of unbelief.

MINISTRY TIME
SALVATION CALL



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

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The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: *Mark 5:21-34*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

Reflect on each of these ten statements we have drawn from the ministry of Jesus.

Talk about how you would apply this to your walk of faith, both from the perspective of (A)you having faith in God, and (B)you ministering to others in faith.

#1, Jesus recognized and responded to faith in those who came to Him

#2, Jesus asked people if they had faith in order to receive

#3, Jesus encouraged faith even in hopeless situations

#4, Jesus encouraged people to act their faith

#5, Jesus demonstrated that faith could affect nature

#6, Jesus accommodated people outside of God's agenda, in response to faith

#7, Jesus helped people when they struggled in faith



#8, There were times when Jesus healed and worked miracles independent of the individual's faith

#9, Jesus rebuked his disciples for being of "little faith"

#10, Unbelief limited Jesus from doing mighty works

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.

Close by thanking God together.