

FAITH IN THE GOSPELS

Scripture: Luke 7:1-10

SUNDAY JUNE 22, 2008

GREAT FAITH

1. The centurion.

The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, "I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such **great faith**. I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! It will be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that very hour. Matthew 8:8-13 (Luke 7:1-10)

2. The Canaanite woman.

Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession."

Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."

The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said. He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs." "Yes, Lord," she said, "but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."

Then Jesus answered, "Woman, you have **great faith**! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

Matthew 15:21-28

LITTLE FAITH

1. Daily needs.

"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of **little faith**? Matthew 6:28-30 (Luke 12:22-31)

2. Storm.

Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. Without warning, a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" He replied, "You of **little faith**, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. Matthew 8:23-26 (Mark 4:35-40; Luke 8:22-25)

3. Peter on the water.

3. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of **little faith**," he said, "why did you doubt?" Matthew 14:29-31

4. Bread crisis.

Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, "You of **little faith**, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread? Do you still not understand? Don't you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? How is it you don't understand that I was not talking to you about bread? Matthew 16:8-11

5. Ministry challenge.

5. Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" He replied, "Because you have so **little faith**. I tell you the truth, if you have **faith** as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." Matthew 17:19,20

NO FAITH

1. The people of Nazareth when Jesus ministered in their synagogue.

When Jesus had finished these parables, he moved on from there. Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. "Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?" they asked. "Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Aren't all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown and in his own house is a prophet without honor." And he did not do many miracles there because of their **lack of faith**. Matthew 13:53-58 (Mark 6:1-6)

2. The disciples when they heard that Jesus had risen.

When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping. When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, **they did not believe it**.

Afterward Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country. These returned and reported it to the rest; but **they did not believe them either**.

Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their **lack of faith** and their stubborn **refusal to believe** those who had seen him after he had risen. Mark 16:9-14

OBVIOUS FAITH

The four friends of the paralytic.

Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When **Jesus saw their faith**, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." Matthew 9:1,2 (Mark 2:1-5; Luke 5:17-20;

WORKING FAITH

1. The unnamed woman with chronic bleeding.

Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed." Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "**your faith has healed you**." And the woman was healed from that moment. Matthew 9:20-22 (Mark 5:32-34; Luke 8:43-47)

2. Two blind men.

As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" "Yes, Lord," they replied. Then he touched their eyes and said, "**According to your faith will it be done to you**"; and their sight was restored. Matthew 9:27-29

3. Blind Bartimaeus.

Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (that is, the Son of Timaeus), was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see." "Go," said Jesus, "**your faith has healed you**." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road. Mark 10:46-52 (Luke 18:35-43)

FAITH PRINCIPLE

Faith like a mustard seed.

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, **if you have faith** and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer." Matthew 21:21,22 (Mark 11:20-25)

"ACCORDING TO YOUR FAITH"

1. Centurion—Servant healed. Matthew 8:8-13
2. Two blind men—Sight restored. Matthew 9:29
3. Canaanite woman—Daughter healed and delivered. Matthew 15:28

“YOUR FAITH HAS SAVED (HEALED) YOU”

1. Unnamed woman—Healed of chronic bleeding Matthew 9:22

"Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you."

2. Samaritan leper—Healed of leprosy Luke 17:19

Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

3. Blind Bartimaeus—Sight restored Mark 10:52

"Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you."

4. Sinner woman—Forgiven and delivered Luke 7:50

Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

RESPONSIVE READING

Luke 7:1-10

When Jesus had finished saying all this in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum.

There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die.

The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant.

When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, "This man deserves to have you do this, because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue." So Jesus went with them.

He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him:

"Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof.

That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed.

For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel."

Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.