Bloomington, IN March 27, 2019

Wednesday

Faces of Faith

Great Faith

Introduction: Mark 4:35-41

* The words of Jesus are so powerful.
* To rebuke the wind and it ceases to blow, to rebuke the sea and it settles down and becomes calm.
* There is something else that Jesus says that is even more powerful I think especially as it pertains to our study of faith “How is it that you have no faith?” (40)
	+ Luke 8:25 “Where is your faith?”
	+ Where was their trust and confidence in the things of God? Did they really believe that the Messiah had come to save them only to die asleep in a boat out on the sea of Galilee?
	+ Matthew 8:26 “Why are you so fearful, O you of little faith?”
* Matthew 14 - Peter has gotten out of the boat to walk to Jesus on water.
	+ He is doing great until he began to notice how strong and powerful the wind was and then he began to sink. (verse 30) “Lord save me”
	+ Verse 31 - Jesus’ powerful words to Peter “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”
* Matthew 16:5-12
	+ A huge obstacle that the disciples had to overcome (therefore us as well) is discerning and understanding spiritual things verses carnal things.
	+ Jesus wasn’t talking about physical leaven and bread, He was talking about how quickly the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees would spread.
* I don’t know about you, but I want to know what Jesus identified as little faith.
	+ I want to know what He says is a lack of trust, a lack of confidence a lack of belief.
* I don’t know about you, but I also really want to know what Jesus identifies as “great faith”
* And, I want to know who He said had great faith.

As we continue our study tonight of the great cloud of witnesses that surround us, let’s see if we can find some men and women who had a great faith.

I. Slide Great Defined

 A. Great

 1. Click Vast much large

 2. Click remarkable or outstanding in magnitude

3. Click superior in character, noble

II. A Great Faith

 A. **The Centurion**

1. Luke 7:1-10

 a. “I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel.” (9)

 b. Did you catch the fact that Jesus marveled at him. (9)

 1) He heard what the centurion was saying and He marveled!

 c. What was it about this man that made his faith so vast, so large, so

remarkable, so great!

 d. The elders of the Jews identified his faith as one that met their

needs. (verses 4-5)

 1) The centurion was worthy of Jesus’ healing because he loved

the Jews and had even built them a synagogue.

 e. Is this what moves the heart of the Son of God?

f. Showing Him what we have done?

 g. Today, a lot of folks, even Christians believe that those of power

and influence are men and women of great faith and are worthy of

special treatment.

h. Is this what Jesus marveled at? No

 2. The centurion’s great faith

 a. The Roman centurion understood authority and he easily saw a

parallel between his authority and Jesus’ authority.

 1) Verse 8- “for I also am a man placed under authority”

 a) His authority was given to him by the Roman

command above him.

b) Both Jesus and he were subordinate commanders.

2) Where did Jesus’ authority come from? His Father

a) John 12:49

b. Click A Great Faith recognizes Supreme Authority

 1) The centurion also recognized that he and Jesus had

authority over those under their rule.

 a) The centurion ruled over 100 men.

 b) verse 8 - go and come and men must obey.

 2) Jesus’ was given authority over heaven & earth - Mt. 28:18

 3) The centurion’s line of reasoning led him to confidently

believe that Jesus had authority over disease and the power to heal.

c. A Gentile had figured out what the Jewish leaders had not.

d. This man’s faith was a great faith.

 1) He humbly asked Jesus in his own unworthiness to heal his

servant from far away.

 2) He understood that all Jesus had to do was speak the word

and His authority over the disease would go into effect.

e. Matthew 5:13 “Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be

done.” And his servant was healed that same hour.”

 B. **The Canaanite Woman**

 1. Matthew 15:21-28

 a. Again we find Jesus identifying great faith.

 b. What would you have done in that day and time if your daughter

was severely demon possessed?

 c. What made this Canaanite woman’s faith great? (again a Gentile)

 d. It begins with her understanding of who Jesus was, who Jesus is.

1) “O Lord, Son of David” (22) - clearly she understood Jesus to

be the Messiah.

a) His own people were rejecting this about Him.

2) She is persistent even though Jesus is being encouraged to

shoo her away.

3) She worshipped Jesus - (25)

 a) Power in her words “Lord, help me!” - Lord!

e. Probably the greatest testament to her faith is the answer she gave

Jesus when He said “it is not good to take the children’s bread and

throw it to the little dogs”

f. Click May I suggest to you that a great faith is wise

1) She quickly and humbly accepted the position of the little

dog in Jesus’ analogy and wisely honors Jesus as the Master and

her willingness to accept whatever crumb Jesus the Lord would

give her.

 2) To which Jesus replies “O woman great is your faith”

g. She was persistent, she was humble; she was wise. She knew Jesus

was the Son of David, the Messiah.

 D. **Ezekiel**

1. Ezekiel 4:1-17

 a. Ezekiel is instructed to construct a model if you would of the city of

Jerusalem and then act out a siege against the city. (1-2)

 b. He is to lie on his left side for 390 days to bear the iniquity of the house of

Israel. (4-5)

 c. He is to lie on his right side for 40 days. (6)

 1) He would be restrained from turning from one side to the other (8)

 d. He is given specific instructions regarding his food. (9-11)

 1) Verse 12 he was bake his barely cakes over human waste.

 a) The reason verse 13

 2) Ezekiel respectfully does not want to defile himself and the Lord

allows him to prepare his bread over cow dung.

 e. Ezekiel’s obedient actions would signify what God was going to do to

punish Israel and Judah.

 2. Ezekiel 5 – he is instructed to cut his hair, weigh it and divided it into 3 parts and

then given instruction as to what to do with each part.

 a. What Ezekiel did with his hair would signify God’s execution of judgment

upon Jerusalem. (verse 5).

 3. Ezekiel 24:15-27

 a. Ezekiel “son of man” I am going to “take away from you the desire of your

eyes with one stroke; yet you shall neither mourn nor weep, nor shall your tears run down. “sigh in silence, make no mourning for the dead; bind your turban on your head, and put your sandals on your feet; do not cover your lips, and do not eat man’s bread of sorrow. So I spoke to the people in the morning, and at evening my wife died: and the next morning I did as I was commanded.” (verse 16-18)

 b. How could Ezekiel do that? Faith! Great Faith! God needed Ezekiel to be

strong and unafraid and show the people just how serious their transgressions were against the great I AM.

 c. Could you do that?

1) You can if your faith is great.

 2) Click May I suggest to you a great faith is full of faith!

 a) Your belief, your trust, your devotion, your willingness to do

the Lord’s commands are so great your faith runs over.

 d. Take your son Isaac, your son of promise and offer him up as a sacrifice.

1) How do you do that? You have a great faith, full of faith!

 e. How do you stand before a mob who are angry with you because tell them

the truth and tell them they are “stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart

and ears”

1) Your Stephen and the Bible says in Acts 6:5 you are a man full of

faith. (Acts 6:5)

Conclusion: Have we become so weak in faith that we will not do the hard things that God has

 called Christians do?

* To assemble with the saint faithfully?
* To go to the house of worship instead of the ballfield or fishing hole.
* To speak without vulgarity, brashness and cruelty?
* To dress modestly?
* To work hard but not to the neglect of our family.
* To refrain from seeing a movie because there is nudity, vulgarity and profanity.
	+ There are filtering services out there, it will cost you.
		- Will have to watch it way after the movie came out.
		- You will have to pay for the service.
* To find an alternative to the high school prom because you are a Christian and the kids are there to dance, then drink, then sleep around.
* To vacation, but vacation knowing where you will worship the Lord. To attend a congregation to encourage brethren you may never met again on this side of heaven.

Brethren are the things I am talking about hard? Really hard compared to what God asked of some of these men and women of the Bible?

Shame on us for not having a great faith with all of these witnesses who surround us to show us the way.

Let me encourage us all to grow. To increase and grow our faith.

Invitation: You may be a Christian tonight who is not walking, talking and thinking as you should, can we encourage you to come forward and make your life right with God. We serve a loving Father who wants His erring child to come home.

It may be hard for you to step out from the pew tonight and come to the front to confess the name Christ before all of us, to make up your mind to turn from you sins and to obey the command of baptism to wash your sins away…

But let me invite you now to do right thing, though it may be hard and please respond to the Lord’s invitation right now.