

Faith Part 7 – Faith for Others (4-28-2019)

Faith Series: Seeing our way Home

Key Verse: “For we walk by faith, not by sight.” (2 Corinthians 5:7)

Review: First 3 weeks - God moves towards us, we believe & take Him at His Word, & we pursue Him back.

Last 3 Weeks: Faith to Fight giants, Faith to Endure difficulty, & Daily Faith – finding purpose in the mundane

This Week: “Faith for Others”

Main Passage: Luke 5, also found in Mark 2 and Matthew 9.

Setting the scene . . . This story happens early in Jesus’ ministry.

Luke 5:15-17 (ESV)

(15) But now even more the report about him went abroad, and great crowds gathered to hear him and to be healed of their infirmities. (16) But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray. (17) On one of those days, as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with him to heal.

Notes: Crowds gathered, people in need came, and the religious leaders of the day wanted to see what the buzz was about. Word had even reached Jerusalem!

1) Four Faithful Friends

Luke 5:18 (ESV)

And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus,

Notes: There are people in our life that we need to help & carry. Don’t carry them forever, & don’t try to fix them by yourself. The key is to get help, and then know where to carry them – bring them to Jesus.

- **Having faith to help others doesn’t mean you have to have all the answers!**
- Deals with my pride (I like having the solution), & anxiety (my fear of not having answers cripples me)

Luke 5:19 (ESV)

but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus.

Notes: Faith for others, is persistent. Fight for other people the way you would want someone to fight for you!

- **Persistence is not abandoning your friend, and tearing through obstacles – Faith to Fight & Endure!**

Luke 5:20 (ESV)

And when he saw their faith, he said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you."

Notes: Having faith to help others – isn't always going to bring the answer you were looking for. Let Jesus answer for himself – He knows what people need. Carrying them for a while doesn't make you an expert!

- **Lift people up, hold Jesus close, but hold your opinions loosely!**

Matthew's gospel records this just a bit differently . . .

Matthew 9:2 (ESV)

And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And **when Jesus saw their faith**, he said to the paralytic, "**Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.**"

Notes: Jesus saw the paralyzed man's heart, and spoke to his core issue!

The sick were judged unworthy (so they were often cast out and ignored), and more than just unworthy, they were considered guilty and deserving of their illness – it was either a result of their sin or their parents.

- **We all carry some form of guilt & shame – and that's exactly what Jesus longs to heal . . .**

2) What Jesus is up to in the story

Luke 5:20-26 (ESV)

(20) And when he saw their faith, he said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you." (21) And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" (22) When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, "Why do you question in your hearts? (23) Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? (24) But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the man who was paralyzed—"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home." (25) And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God. (26) And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, "We have seen extraordinary things today."

- Jesus healed the man's true wound. He let an outsider know that he was allowed in!
- This is why Jesus get's so excited at the faith of the man's friends – they are literally ripping the roof off to let an outsider in!
- Jesus addresses the questioning hearts of the Pharisees. **Listen:** don't assume you aren't like them. Many of us have forgotten that we are outsiders who have been brought in.
- There is a good chance that I am becoming like a Pharisee – if I can't remember the last time I carried someone to Jesus feet. The longer we are on the inside the more likely we become like a Pharisee – we stop seeing those on the outside that need the roof lifted to allow them in!

Luke 5:27-32 (ESV)

(27) After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, "Follow me." (28) And leaving everything, he rose and followed him. (29) And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. (30) And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" (31) And Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. (32) I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

- To lift others up and bring them to Jesus, I have to be willing to go where they are!
- Am I more interested in hanging out with the well off – or am I going to join Jesus at the table of sinners & outcasts?
- Jesus calls sinners to repentance – yes he desires change. But he doesn't do it aloof and from a distance. He invites them as a friend at their table.

This story is teaching us what Jesus is like, and therefore how we can join him: Jesus noticed & responded to - not the insiders - but those who ripped off the roof to bring outsiders in!

- **We can rip off the roof to make room for those outside & in need**
- **We can stop settling for being insiders, and go out to reach those in need**

We know what he's like & what he's here to do, but we don't always know what he's up to!

That's why it takes faith:

- 1) **To act:** Get out of my comfort zone, be willing to carry a burden for awhile
- 2) **To trust:** Let Jesus do what he's going to do – he's in charge & he's what they need.

After years of following Jesus, and seeing him do this sort of thing, Jesus asked his disciples who people thought he was. And then, Jesus put the real question to them . . .

Matthew 16:15-19 (ESV)

(15) He said to them, "**But who do you say that I am?**" (16) Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." (17) And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. (18) And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (19) **I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.**"

Notes: Who is Jesus to me? How then will I use the keys (access) he has given me to his kingdom?

Conclusion: 2 questions to consider . . .

- What if you lived like the keys of the kingdom of God relied on who you ripped off the roof for?
- Who are you going to bring to Jesus feet – what outsider can become an insider because of you?

Looking ahead: We are building off of this next week talking about Faith to Forgive – the power of boundless compassion! Do this by linking this concept of binding & loosing to . . .

John 20:21-23 & Matthew 18:15-35

Sunday Announcements (4-28-19)

- 1) **Mozambique** – Continued prayer for the storm damage & flooding. Also, we have a unique opportunity to bless our friend’s family.
 - **Manuel to share**
 - **Raising - \$2,000 to finish Fatima’s house** – you can give in the offering box & online.

- 2) **Kid’s schedule & Setup team** (May-July) – Just a couple spots to fill

- 3) **Women’s Dinner** - May 14th

- 4) **Mexico Trip** - last chance!

- 5) **Worshipping in our Giving** - you can tithe in the box or online!