

Peoples Church: Small Group Questions

DATE: February 5, 2017

SPEAKER: Pastor Dale Oquist

ACTIVATE: PUTTING YOUR FAITH TO WORK – Normal Faith

1. What is Faith?

LOOKING BACK: Pastor Dale reminded us on the 5 principles of faith:

- A. Believing when you don't see.
- B. Obeying when you don't understand.
- C. Giving when you don't have.
- D. Giving thanks before you receive.
- E. Trusting when you don't get it.

2. What should a community of faith look like in our lives?

Mark 2:1-12 - Pastor Dale spoke about the four men who were determined to take a man who was paralyzed to Jesus for healing. The house where Jesus was speaking was so full that the crowd was overflowing outside the house. There was no way they could get close to Jesus but they had a plan and more importantly, they had faith. Normally, if this place was sold out, people would turn around and leave. These men would not let anything deter them from seeing Jesus. They believed that Jesus would heal this paralyzed man and they had enough faith to lower him down from the roof.

3. Has anything deterred your faith from getting to Jesus?

DIGGING DEEPER:

Mark 2:1-12 - Pastor Dale shared the following observations regarding the scripture –

- Jesus saw their faith: this is found in each of the gospels. Collectively, their faith was put into action that produced results.
- Jesus says “Son, your sins are forgiven”. The 5 guys, community of faith, were not expecting that comment. The man on the mat needed to hear that to prove that God wasn't mad at him.

4. What are examples of abnormal faith?

- Normal faith breeds abnormal action. Jesus honored a prostitute, a tax collector and these four guys who go through a roof to help another man because they had more than normal faith. Feeding 5,000+ with 5 loaves bread and two fish was not normal. We need a new normal. Anything less than big faith should be our new normal.
 - “Maybe our normal is so subnormal that normal seems abnormal. We need a new normal.” (Mark Batterson)
- Belief + Behavior + Humility = Faith
 - We must humbly come to Jesus.

TAKING IT HOME:

In Mark 10: 46- 52, Pastor Dale spoke about Blind Bartimaeus receiving his sight from Jesus' healing. In verse 51, Jesus asked "What do you want me to do for you?" Bartimaeus knew Jesus already knew what he wanted out of him. Bartimaeus answered "Rabbi, I want to see". Blind Bartimaeus came humbly to Jesus.

We must all come to Jesus humbly in strong prayer. Strong prayer does not necessarily mean a long prayer, but strong faith in your prayer.