

Sermon Guide



"Childlike vs. Cynical Faith" May 29th, 2022

"But Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household.' And He did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief."

Matthew 13:53-58

In this Sunday's teaching, RD shared about the difference between cynicism and childlikeness. Children maintain a posture of awe and wonder. Yet, as we grow older, we often develop a cynical posture towards the world as we experience disappointment and heartache. Childlike faith says, "He is good, and He is able." RD challenged us to consider if our cynical posture towards God's work hinders our faith and prayer life, ultimately keeping us from seeing more of His power displayed. "Jesus goes where He is wanted."

Read through this week's passage, asking the Holy Spirit to speak to you. He illuminates Scripture and sheds light into our hearts. Then, spend some time prayerfully reflecting on the questions below.

As you have reflected on this week's teaching, how would you characterize your faith? Childlike or cynical? (You likely see some of both in your life.)

The people of Nazareth did not believe Jesus was the Messiah. RD asked us to consider the question, "What was left on the table in Nazareth because of their unbelief?" As you reflect on this week's teaching, are there areas of your life that you have "left on the table" rather than believe that God might do "many mighty works" in your life? What are they?

RD gave us several criteria to help us identify whether we walk by childlike faith. Read through the following and reflect/share what God stirs in you:

- Predictability vs. What is Possible
- Drudgery vs. Delight
- Resigned vs. Persistent
- Critical Question vs. Curious Questions
- Cautiousness vs. Fearlessness

At Fellowship, we often talk about taking your next step of faith with Jesus. As you reflect on this week's teaching, what is the next step of faith you'll commit to? Maybe you identify with the words "I believe, help my unbelief." If so, perhaps He invites you to more honesty with Him about that. Perhaps the idea of Jesus doing mighty works in your life feels foreign or hopeless; maybe you need to invite a trusted friend into working through your cynicism. Maybe your faith feels only intellectual, and you want to understand what RD meant when he said faith is "the mind and heart alive together." He has more for you.