



Sermon Series: Questionable Cliches, Part 2
Sermon Title: "Just Have Faith"
Speaker/ Date: Cameron Baker, April 18, 2021

Mark 5:35

Today's cliché: "Just have faith."

When we say "Just have faith" it is an abbreviation and a distortion of a very powerful moment in the life of Jesus. **Mark 5:35-42**

"Just have faith" the misapplication is after all - it's what Jesus said: "just believe."

Since Jesus was telling the people to believe - he was encouraging them, [Implied by Jesus] Have faith in ME and MY POWER.

Big Idea: Skip the Cliche; share your faith in the power of Jesus.

In order to eliminate this cliché from your life you need to recognize:

1. There will be A Problem that tempts the cliché

Quickly review the following "life problem(s)" in scriptures

Luke 17.19 - A call to faith in Jesus even for those outside the faith

Luke 7.50 - Faith in Jesus is even for those active in sin

Matthew 9.22 - Faith in Jesus is for you no matter how long you have been struggling or what's come before

The cliché "Just have faith" is empty because it is overtly missing FAITH IN JESUS, HIS SALVATION, AND HIS POWER.

The problems we face in life need the application of God's love in Jesus, the Healing power of the Holy Spirit and spoken truth - through our faith in Jesus, all things are possible.

2. The People involved:

a. Those you bring: In **Mark 5:35-42**, Jesus brought only his closest disciples. The moment of faith was not for everyone following him. The intimate focus was on the daughter and her parents.

b. The Person: The person you are trying to witness to with the "Just have faith" statement is in real need.

For Jairus, Jesus is about to heal his daughter - who is it in your life that you can bring with you to an important ministry moment

c. the witnesses

The effect of Jesus' miracle had an immediate WOW effect on all of the witnesses to the miracle. Those who came to mourn and the mother and father who desperately wanted a miracle.

If you want to be effective with your faith – when you imitate Jesus with your actions, your speech, and your way of life; others will take note.

3. There is a critical action to take: pray

When you are tempted to share the cliché “Have Faith” instead – offer to pray!

1. You can pray for The healing power of our Father

Reject the empty faith – and instead, exercise faith in the power God has demonstrated time and again.

2. Pray for the The healing plan of our Father

Have faith in the way God works His plan through history. Your prayer over someone and God's plan in their life can be powerful.

3. You can pray for The healing personality of our Father

This type of prayer exercises a deep trust in the Character of our God – as creator, sustainer, redeemer, provider, deliverer, teacher, our strength, the one who separates good from evil, and ultimately our merciful Ruler. Speak the truth about God over someone else. They may need to hear it and it will strengthen their faith.

Making disciples who make disciples;
it's the only way we can raise up generations of families that are built to last.

Discussion Questions:

- What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?
- Why is the cliché “Just have faith” common in Christian culture?
- When people say “Just have faith” – what are they saying to have faith in?
- Describe what harm could come from telling someone in need to “Just have faith”
- Explain the difference between Jesus telling Jairus "Don't be afraid; just believe" and when people today use the cliché “Just have faith”
- What do you say to people who are struggling with a deep personal problem?
- Why is praying with them so much more valuable than offering the cliché?

BIBLE VERSES

Mark 5:35-42 NIV *While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher anymore?" Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid; just believe." He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him. After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum!" (which means "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished.*

Luke 17.19 *"Your faith has made you well."*

Luke 7.50 *"your faith has saved you; go in peace."*

Matthew 9.22 *"take heart daughter; your faith has healed you."*