

Luke 7:1-35 – 19 March 2023

“Expectations Of Faith”

Introduction

*Since Chap 4 Jesus has been teaching of His identity & His mission to bring the Kingdom of God to people

*In Luke 4:43 Jesus said, “I must preach the Kingdom of God...for therefore am I sent.”

*John 3:3 Jesus said, except a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God

*Finally, in I John 5:4 it's said, whatsoever is born of God overcomes the world, and this is the victory that overcomes the world, even your faith

*Connect the dots: By faith believing in Jesus' death & resurrection we enter the Kingdom of God

*Many times, we have the wrong expectations of what a life of faith is all about – today Jesus will adjust

Today, we'll see 4 expectations of true faith

1st expectation of true faith: Faith may come when you'd expect doubt (Vs 1-10)

Read Vs 1-2 – *Centurion's Faith*

1. Being stationed at Capernaum, centurion would have already heard & seen many things of Jesus

Read Vs 3

1. Notice he's a man that keeps a humble role
 - a. He's not asking for a personal visit, only the effects of a personal relationship
 - b. He goes thru Jesus's kin as if he's not family
 - c. He's not asking for something for himself

Read Vs 4-5

1. These Jews beg of Jesus based on merit & the worthiness of man

Read Vs 6-7

1. He recognizes the enact separately between himself as unholy and Jesus the holy & divine
2. 'Just say the word' – such faith to not confine Jesus to a specific method

Read Vs 8

1. There are two of his virtues listed here:
 - a. Knows his position in chain of command
 - b. Functions by hearing, believing & obeying

Read Vs 9

1. Only one word for this kind of virtue, FAITH
2. Only other time it says that Jesus ‘marveled’ is in Mar 6:6 at his own kin of Nazareth’s unbelief
3. W/o faith not possible to please God (Heb 11:6)
4. This is still the challenge to us today – Do we believe His Word (John 11:23-26, John 6:29)
5. This’s still what’s required to enter Kingdom
 - a. Matthew adds (8:11-12) – faith determines entrance to the Kingdom or outer darkness

Read Vs 10

1. Did you notice? Centurion & Jesus never met
 - a. He walks by faith, not by sight
 - b. Has relationship w/ Jesus, yet never saw Him

2nd expectation of true faith: New life may come when you'd expect death (Vs 11-17)

Read Vs 11-13

1. Her name & lineage had just eternally ceased
2. Jesus has great compassion for our grief

Read Vs 14

1. 'Arise' - same thing He said to the paralytic
2. Healings are all done in a great variety of ways
 - a. This time He touched coffin, not the man
3. Notice this miracle wasn't even asked for
 - a. Who could think to ask for life from death!

Read Vs 15

1. As a gift given to the mom straight from grace
2. God knows what we need before we even ask

Read Vs 16-17

1. Indeed God was visiting His people very directly
2. Notice that results are reverence & glory to God

3rd expectation of true faith: Doubt may come when you'd expect faith (Vs 18-23)

Read Vs 18-19 – *John the Baptist's Doubt*

1. John had already confessed faith in Jesus at Jesus' baptism, why doubt now?
 - a. Maybe time was just going on
 - b. Maybe he's getting impatient in prison
 - c. Maybe he doesn't see Jesus fulfilling the "ruling" part of Messiah's prophetic ministry

Read Vs 20-23

1. John the Baptist didn't just need more words
 - a. Anything someone can talk you into, someone else can talk you out of
 - b. You need actions – Jesus' actions are in agreement w/ the Word of God regarding God's plan for Messiah
2. The cure for doubt is to believe the already eternally established Word of God (Rom 10:17)
3. We are blessed to wait and trust Jesus' timing

4th expectation of true faith: Path of the faithful may be different than you'd expect (Vs 24-35)

Read Vs 24-35

1. Jesus knows that they were out looking for a revolutionary that would overthrow Rome
2. Most of John's disciples were discouraged & losing their faith b/c John's now in prison

Read Vs 26-28

1. Jesus reaffirms that **EVEN THOUGH** John is in prison (& going to die), he's yet the greatest of all prophets
2. Jesus is preparing His own disciples for the time when He'll be smitten and they'll be tempted to scatter
3. Everyone in the Church age is in an even better position than John
 - a. The darkest day in the Kingdom is still brighter than the brightest of nights here on earth

Read Vs 29-30

1. Those that recognized their own sin accepted God's counsel & those that justified themselves rejected God's counsel against themselves

Read Vs 31-34

1. The messenger & method that the Gospel is given shouldn't matter, but that the gospel is given
 - a. Some people can only focus on the method of delivery or the messenger - what a shame
 - i. Messenger/method is just wrapping paper
 - b. Substance of the message is all that matters
2. They complained about John AND Jesus who have very different wrapping paper
 - a. B/c their heart was closed to the message

Read Vs 35

1. You'll know that it's the right messenger & the right method when their wisdom bears fruit
2. Read Col 4:5 – Learn how to deal w/ the people God's placed us around

Conclusion

So...expect the unexpected! A life with Jesus may not act out the way you initially expect

1. **Have you seen faith come from a person you didn't expect to see it in?**
2. **Have you seen new life come from the death when you least expected it?**
 - a. Don't overlook ANYONE coming to faith
3. **Have you seen doubt flare up when you didn't expect to see it?**
 - a. God isn't on our timetable, be patient
4. **Is the path of the faithful different than you expected it to be?**
 - a. Expect that some people would appreciate your methods...that's ok
 - b. "Hast thou faith? Have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemns not himself in that thing which he allows" Rom 14:22

We walk by faith in the Word of God and not by sight