

Luke 18:1-34 – 30 July 2023

“Will Jesus Find Faith In You?”

Introduction

*From Chap 10-19a until they enter Jerusalem, Jesus' messages have a time urgency to them

*In Chap 17:20, Pharisees interrupted w/ a demand of to know when the Kingdom would come

*Jesus then taught His disciples to stay vigilant with an urgency to always be ready

*In Chap 18, every account is related to driving deeper into our trust and faith in God

*Not just do we have a base-level of faith but...

*Are we driving deeper into the details?

*Are we trusting God in ALL areas of our life?

*When He returns, ‘Will Jesus find faith in you?’

So today, let's look at 4 ways to check if your faith is continually deepening

#1 – Are we persisting in prayer? (Vs 1-8)

Read Vs 1

1. Two qualities to this word ‘always’
 - a. Lines of communication always open unblocked by sin (Read Isa 59:2)
 - b. Communications never cease until God answers (Read Rom 12:12)
2. Trained on radio language for the military
 - a. ‘Over’ means “I have finished speaking for the moment, but I’m expecting your reply”
 - b. ‘Out’ means “I have finished speaking and the conversation is finished, don’t reply”
 - c. We always end our prayers with “over”

Read Vs 2-5

1. So this judge isn’t interested in morality or even humanity, just himself
 - a. Even just for this selfish reason he will help
2. Notice this woman in affliction doesn’t turn another way

- a. She doesn't turn to crime to avenge herself
- b. She doesn't give up and suffer loss
- c. She simply persists the right way

Read Vs 6-7

1. It's not that God will answer, it's that God will avenge when we have persistent faith in Him
2. We're often not receiving for 3 reasons
 - a. #1: B/c we're telling God how to answer and not simply what needs answered
 - b. #2: B/c we're asking for something selfish, instead of something just (Read Jam 4:3)
 - c. #3: B/c we're living in sin otherwise (Read Jam 5:16)

Read Vs 8

1. Notice God "will" avenge them
2. Leave the 'making it right' part up to God
3. Our part is to remain faithful believing that He will (make it right)
4. It's like a kid getting to sit in front seat of the car for the 1st time thinking dad needs help driving

#2 – Are we decreasing while Jesus is increasing? (Vs 9-14)

Read Vs 9-12

1. The Pharisee trusted himself
2. Doesn't need faith in God, he has faith in self
 - a. It's not that he doesn't have faith, it's that placement & substance of his faith is all wrong
 - b. Read John 3:30 – Not worthy but He is
3. Faith in self is a wrong view of our goodness

Read Vs 13

1. This tax collector was believing that God alone could make him righteous by his mercy
2. This isn't sad suicide, this is hopeful humility

Read Vs 14

1. Righteousness comes when we accept 2 things
 - a. Our worthlessness
 - b. God's willingness to give it to the worthless
2. Just how valuable is Jesus to you?

#3 – Are we coming toward Jesus? (Vs 15-30)

Read Vs 15-17

1. The Kingdom consists of people that what?
 - a. Have child-like faith to come to Jesus
 - b. Have nothing to offer Jesus but themselves
2. In fact the weaker we are, then the easier it is for Jesus to be glorified when great things happen!

Read Vs 18-19

1. First thing Jesus does is correct his understanding of ‘good’
2. He’s not saying that He’s not good, but He simply needs the man to understand what good is
 - a. Good is morally perfect and pure

Read Vs 20-21

1. So Jesus points him to the 2nd half of the law regarding man & he says he’s good to go
 - a. Rather than arguing finer points here, Jesus presses further into the Law about God Himself

Read Vs 22-23

1. 1st half of Law was designed to say, Love God above ALL ELSE
2. Jesus puts His finger on this man's true god (which is money)
 - a. Not that we all have to sell everything
 - b. He's trusting his money not trusting God
 - c. In a bind, what or whom do you 1st turn to?

Read Vs 24-25

1. It's not hard for this camel, it's impossible
2. Being rich is a relative term, so we know Jesus means one who trusts in his riches instead of trusting God

Read Vs 26-30

1. Peter thinks the main point is selling possessions, but it's not (he's thinking earthly)
2. Jesus isn't asking us to transfer our possessions, He's asking us to transfer our dependency

#4 – Are we choosing God's will? (Vs 31-34)

Read Vs 31

1. At that pause they're thinking great things!

Read Vs 32-34

1. Since they didn't want to accept a hard path, even the simple idea of talking in the 3rd person threw them off from understanding this message
2. You say, but how does dying and rising accomplish God's plan all along?
 - a. Read Hos 13:14 (ie Gen 22, Lev 14)
 - b. How did they think He was to fulfill Hosea?
3. Jesus said the way up is the way down (Read Mar 10:44-45)
 - a. You can't even make an omelet without breaking some eggs
 - b. Following God's path isn't always the easy path, but it always accomplishes great things

Conclusion

In conclusion, trusting Christ in death gains us salvation, but trusting Christ in life is great blessing

Were you impressed in 1 of these 4 ways to deepen your faith and trust in Christ?

1. Are you persisting in prayer?

- a. We will if we believe He's powerful
- b. This is the path to victory

2. Are you decreasing while Jesus is increasing?

- a. We will if we believe He's worthy
- b. This is the path to justification

3. Are you coming to Jesus?

- a. We will if we believe He's a kind father
- b. This is the path of blessing

4. Are you choosing God's will?

- a. We will if we believe He's our destiny
- b. This is the path of life