

Bible Study - Following Jesus Series - Faith That Stops Jesus

Text: Mark 7:24–30; Mark 10:46–52

Introduction: The Bible is filled with examples of great faith, yet Jesus only specifically commended two people for having "great faith." One was a Roman centurion, and the other was a Gentile mother. In today's lesson, we also meet Bartimaeus, whose persistent faith caused Jesus to stop. Faith is not about forcing God to do our will. God is sovereign. Faith positions us to receive what only Christ can give.

1. Faith That Refuses to Quit - Mark 7:24–30

Jesus intentionally entered Gentile territory, demonstrating that God's love reaches beyond every cultural and ethnic barrier. The Syrophenician woman faced numerous obstacles, yet she refused to give up. Jesus' response was not rejection but an invitation to deeper faith. Instead of becoming offended, she trusted His heart. Her greatest act of faith was intercession. She stood before Jesus on behalf of her daughter.

Discussion Questions

1. What obstacles did the Syrophenician woman overcome in order to come to Jesus?

2. Why is God's silence sometimes one of the greatest tests of faith?

3. How does this woman demonstrate the power of intercessory prayer?

2. Faith That Refuses to Stay Silent - Mark 10:46–52

Bartimaeus lived in poverty and depended upon the compassion of strangers. When he heard Jesus was passing by, he recognized this as his opportunity. Although physically blind, he saw Jesus more clearly than many who could see. When the crowd tried to silence him, he cried out even louder. Then Mark records one of the most beautiful statements in the Gospel: **"So Jesus stood still."**

Discussion Questions

1. What does Bartimaeus teach us about responding to discouragement?

2. Why is the phrase "Jesus stood still" so significant?

3. What does Bartimaeus' decision to follow Jesus teach us about true discipleship?

Three Responses

1. Don't Quit Praying - Luke 18:1, "Men always ought to pray and not lose heart."

Never underestimate the power of persistent prayer. Continue praying for your children, grandchildren, spouse, friends, and those who have wandered from God. You may not be able to change their hearts, but Jesus can.

Who has God placed on your heart to faithfully bring before Him every day? _____

2. Don't Let Discouragement Silence Your Faith - Mark 10:48, "He cried out all the more..."

There will always be voices that tell us to stop believing, stop praying, or lower our expectations. Faith chooses to trust God's promises over the voices of discouragement.

What obstacle or discouraging voice do you need to stop listening to so you can continue trusting God?

3. Come Boldly to the Father Through His Son - Hebrews 4:16, "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace..."

Because of Jesus, we have direct access to our Heavenly Father. We do not approach Him because we deserve it. We come because Jesus has opened the way.

What burden do you need to bring boldly before God today?