

Faith in Action

Luke 17:1-19

11/26/00

Intro

This is a collection of teachings given to those were closest to Christ, His disciples.

Specifically, Jesus is giving them instructions about the importance of faith in their daily lives as those who would be men of God.

This lesson is about the importance of putting faith into action.

I. Forgiveness is a Part of Faith.

Vs

A. Unforgiveness will keep us from growing in Christ.

- There is a place for confronting sin.
- But forgiveness keeps our hearts free from bitterness.
- It's a lot easier to forgive if you take no offense.

Illus- The young boy at camp who had his cookies stolen...

B. Faith is what makes forgiveness possible.

Illus- "We all agree that forgiveness is a beautiful idea until we have to practice it." C.S. Lewis

- We often try to punish people with our anger or alienation, but faith trusts that God is able to take care of it all.
- "Lord, increase our faith!"
- In Christ we have.

- 1) Strength to forgive
- 2) Maturity to forgive

Illus- As babies our world is totally "me" centered. The more mature we become the more others centered we become.

It's being "me" centered that causes us to take offense so easily.

II. It's Not the *Amount* of Faith That's the Issue.

Vs

A. It's putting what faith we have into action.

- "If you had faith like a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree..."
- The mulberry tree was said to have such roots that it could live for six hundred years.
- On another occasion Jesus said they could throw a mountain into the sea.

- He wasn't suggesting they start a new type of landscaping service, but rather that they understand the significance of faith to their daily lives.

B. Faith is not a magical or mysterious power.

C. Faith is the operation of God in those who believe that God works through people.

Illus - Gladys Aylward, missionary to China more than fifty years ago, was forced to flee when the Japanese invaded Yangcheng. She led more than a hundred orphans over the mountains toward Free China.

III. Faith is What God Expects For His People.

- A. We should not take on a messiah complex.
- B. Rather, we should stay humble and keep operating in God's name.

Conclusion

Illus- The story of Ruby Bridges. "There are a lot of people who talk about what's right and who argue about what's right, but some people just have to stand up and do what's right." God simply wants our faith to be something we out into action everyday.