

LIVING BY FAITH

“Increase our Faith”

Luke 17:1-10

Aim: To encourage believers to *live by faith*.

Introduction

= We live in a world that always wants *MORE* – We’re a people who are not satisfied.

We want more time – money – possessions

= Jesus’ disciples had a similar problem – But what they wanted was more *FAITH*.

They asked Jesus to increase their faith.

What had caused them to make such a request?

Have you ever thought you needed more faith?

What is faith? (Heb 11:1)

What does faith do? (James 2:24-26 – it works)

By faith we *are justified* (Rom. 5:1)

By faith we *are counted righteous* (Rom 4:2,3)

By faith we *walk* (2 Cor 5:7)

Romans 1:17 says *The just shall live by faith* – **What is it to live by faith?**

1. THE TEACHING OF JESUS – Luke 17:1-4

Then He said to the disciples, It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.

Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, ‘I repent,’ you shall forgive him.

Living by faith is something to be *learned*, not mysteriously acquired.

If we’re living by faith, we are FORGIVING others.

- a. Temptations to sin are a certainty (Luke 17:1a)
- b. Warning to the offender (Luke 17:1,2)
- c. Warning to the one offended (the one sinned against) (Luke 17:3)
 - 1) “little ones” – little child (vs. 2)
 - 2) “sins against you” (vs. 3)
- d. Instruction – *Forgive* (v. 3,4)

The temptation is not to forgive a repentant brother.

Jesus required the disciples to:

- 1) Rebuke the brother (expose the fault to him in person)
- 2) Forgive him if he repents (regrets his offense)

There was no alternative – “You shall forgive him.”

Our message is forgiveness – Eph 4:32 *Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”*

2. THE REQUEST OF THE APOSTLES – Luke 17:5,6

And the apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith.”

So the Lord said, “If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

If we’re living by faith, we are SHARING what we’ve learned.

They recognized what it takes to give out the message – faith (v. 5)

They expected Jesus to increase (add to) their faith (v. 5)

Jesus explained that the quantity of faith was not the problem but the quality and that they needed only to exercise real faith. (v. 6)

3. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A SERVANT – Luke 17:7-10

And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, ‘Come at once and sit down to eat’?

But will he not rather say to him, ‘Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink’?

Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not.

So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, ‘We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.’

If we’re living by faith, we are SERVING others.

Serving selflessly - *afterward you will eat and drink* (v. 8)

Serving obediently - *he did all the things that were commanded* (v. 9)

Serving unconditionally (not for recognition) - *Does he thank that servant? I think not.* (v. 9)

Summary

Living by faith is demonstrated in every area of our lives.

Forgiving, sharing and serving are just three examples:

Proverbs 3:5 and 6 encourages us to live by faith:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”