

Don't dig up
in doubt
what you
planted in
faith.
-Elizabeth Elliot

PLANTED IN FAITH, MATTHEW 28:16-17

Planted In Faith

- There is a PVC conduit running under the floor of the balcony coming up under the soundboard
 - I've never seen it, never touched it, measured it but I know it is there – How?
 - I asked Frank Inman to install it, a couple days later I asked if he had, and Frank told me yes
 - I know Frank's character, word is true
 - I'm so confident it is there I told the video installers about it without ever verifying it is there

Planted In Faith

- This is not blind faith/trust
 - Not, “I hope someone installed a conduit to get new cable in when I tell the video installers it is there.”
 - It is faith/trust planted in the character and word of a sinful man living his life through the promises of God, for the glory of God
- How more secure can our faith be when it is planted in a God who cannot lie, all-powerful, all-knowing, ever present, all-loving
 - Working His plan and will in His creation as a whole and singularly in me and you

Planted In Faith

- Paul tells us this is the proper type of faith when it comes to our relationship with God through Jesus Christ
 - **2nd Corinthians 5:7 NIV**, “For we live (*walk through, hold on*) by faith, not by sight.”
 - **AMP**, “For we walk by faith, not by sight [living our lives in a manner consistent with our confident belief in God’s promises]”
 - **MSG**, “It’s what we trust in but don’t yet see that keeps us going.”

Planted In Faith

- We hear it in the Old Testament
 - **Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV**, 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not (*stop leaning*) on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight (*direct your path*).”
 - **MSG**, “Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don’t try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God’s voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he’s the one who will keep you on track.”

Planted In Faith

- Trust God to do what He said He will do even when you have no idea how
 - Trust God to direct your paths even if you have no idea of the direction, decision, never see how
- What happens when we walk by sight (*us*) and not by faith (*God*)?
 - What happens when we plant our faith too shallow in the word and character of God?
 - We hesitate

Scripture

- **Matthew 28:16-17 NIV**, 16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.

Planted In Faith

- When Jesus really wanted to get Saul's attention the first thing He did was remove his sight
 - **Acts 9:8-9 NIV**, 8 Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. 9 For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.
 - What do you think Saul did those three days?
 - I wonder how many times he asked God to heal him
 - I think he reviewed the testimony of Stephen when being stoned
 - I think he reviewed all the Old Testament Scriptures with spiritual eyes not tarnished by man's interpretation

Planted In Faith

- He confessed his sin, received Jesus as his Savior, and rose a new man with new eyes, eyes of faith
 - **Acts 9:18 NIV**, “Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized”
- His faith was now fully planted in Jesus Christ and the rest of his life demonstrated that truth
- So what happens when we fail to plant our faith fully in Jesus Christ?

We hesitate to receive God's best when we fail to plant ourselves fully in Jesus Christ

- **Vs. 17**, When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.
 - Hesitated may be a better word for what happened here - "Then some hesitated"
 - Some of the disciples responded in full faith and worshipped Jesus
 - While some held back, didn't fully extend their faith, hesitated
 - Some might have hesitated to worship Jesus
 - Some might have hesitated to fully accept His resurrection
- What happens when you hesitate to take an open shot in basketball
 - Or hesitate to swing at a pitch in baseball
 - Or hesitate to accept the perfect opportunity

We hesitate to receive God's best when we fail to plant ourselves fully in Jesus Christ

- Some say they have to see to believe
- Here is Jesus verified by their sight so what is the problem?
 - They were experiencing something their sight/eyes tells them cannot be true
 - Sight is always limited because it is based on our own limitations
 - Where faith has no boundaries because God has no boundaries

We hesitate to receive God's best when we fail to plant ourselves fully in Jesus Christ

- Lazarus has died and had been in the grave for four days
 - Jesus loved Lazarus and his sisters deeply but still allowed them to suffer so Jesus could be recognized, and God glorified
 - **John 11:4 NIV**, When he heard this, Jesus said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.”
 - **John 11:21 NIV**, “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”
 - Eyes of sight – now it is too late
 - **Vs. 37**, But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

We hesitate to receive God's best when we fail to plant ourselves fully in Jesus Christ

- Lazarus has died and had been in the grave for four days
 - **John 11:38-39 NIV**, 38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. 39 “Take away the stone,” he said. “But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”
 - Eyes of sight again
 - **John 11:43-44 NIV**, 43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

We hesitate to receive God's best when we fail to plant ourselves fully in Jesus Christ

- Sight is always limited but faith has no boundaries because God has no boundaries
- **Psalm 138:8 ESV**, "The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me"

We run the risk of being deceived when we fail to plant ourselves fully in Jesus Christ

- **Genesis 3:6-7 NIV**, 6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.
 - 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.
 - They began processing life through sight, themselves, instead of simply trusting God's command

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 - 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.
 - That led to deceiving themselves when they convinced themselves disobedience to God's Word would be worth it
 - They continued deceiving themselves by trying to cover their sin to deceive God

We run the risk of being deceived when we fail to plant ourselves fully in Jesus Christ

- **2nd Thessalonians 2:7-8 NIV**, 7 For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

We run the risk of being deceived when we fail to plant ourselves fully in Jesus Christ

- Listen to what it will be like once the lawless one is revealed
 - **Matthew 24:24 NIV**, “For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.”
 - **MSG**, Fake Messiahs and lying preachers are going to pop up everywhere. Their impressive credentials and bewitching performances will pull the wool over the eyes of even those who ought to know better.

We risk losing our only true peace when we walk by sight

- **Matthew 14:28-29a NIV**, 28 “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.” 29 “Come,” he said.
 - Don’t presume on God’s grace or test the Lord
 - Don’t try to walk on water until you hear Him say, “Come”

We risk losing our only true peace when we walk by sight

- **Matthew 14:29b NIV**, Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.
 - Why would Peter get out of the boat and try?
 - Because Jesus gave him authority to do the impossible and he believed Him
 - If Jesus can do this in Peter's life, then He is more than adequate to handle your life
 - Peter is walking by faith and is peacefully exhilarated

We risk losing our only true peace when we walk by sight

- But something begins to happen
 - **Matthew 14:30-31 NIV**, 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!” 31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”
 - Peter began looking at his circumstances by sight, looking at his lack and not his abundance in Christ
 - He lost his focus in the authority Jesus Christ gave him
 - He hesitated and lost his assurance and began to sink.”

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 - What do we do when we find ourselves walking by sight and sinking?
 - We cry out in faith, “Lord, save me” and immediately Jesus will begin His saving process even if you cannot see it
 - We must be careful that once saved we do not revert to sight again

We risk losing our only true peace when we walk by sight

- Jesus word to us today is, “Why do you hesitate in doubt?”
 - Why do we limit God’s work in our lives simply because our sight tells us it is impossible
 - **Luke 18:27 NIV**, “What is impossible with man is possible with God.”

Planted In Faith

- **2nd Peter 1:3-4 NIV**, “3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life
 - A life pleasing and glorifying God
 - A life fully of joy and peace
 - through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises,
 - so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.”
- **Hebrews 12:2 NASB**, looking only at Jesus, the originator and perfecter of the faith

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