



Faith Through Faithfulness  
Luke 17:5-10

## Numbers 21:4-5 MSG

- 4-5 They set out from Mount Hor along the Red Sea Road, a detour around the land of Edom. The people became irritable and cross as they traveled. They spoke out against God and Moses: “Why did you drag us out of Egypt to die in this godforsaken country? No decent food; no water—we can’t stomach this stuff any longer.”””

## Numbers 21:4-5 MSG

- The detour around Edom was difficult, stressing the Israelites
- They failed to enter the Promised Land and now they started to wander in the desert for about 40 years
- The people forgot all God had previously done for them, forgot God's promise, and they forgot their sin
- We are here not because of God but me, our sin

## Numbers 21:4-5 MSG

- Blasphemy - “the act of insulting or showing contempt or lack of reverence for God”
  - Speaking evil of God, to slander God’s name or character
- **Luke 12:48b NLT** When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.

## Number 21:6-9 MSG

- **VS. 6-7** So God sent poisonous snakes among the people; they bit them and many in Israel died. The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke out against God and you. Pray to God; ask him to take these snakes from us.” Moses prayed for the people.
  - They did not ask God to forgive their sins, but get them out of their circumstance which was their own doing, take the snakes away

## Number 21:6-9 MSG

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  - I wonder what Moses prayed for

## Number 21:6-9 MSG

- **Vs. 8** God said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it on a flagpole: Whoever is bitten and looks at it will live.”
- There were two conditions that had to be met
  - They had to be bitten, they would know that
    - ❖ The problem with sin is it is not as overt as a snake bite, but it will bite and destroy
  - They had to know to look at the snake on the pole to live

## Number 21:6-9 MSG

- **Vs. 9** So Moses made a snake of fiery copper and put it on top of a flagpole. Anyone bitten by a snake who then looked at the copper snake lived.
- Did the bronze snake on the pole save the people?
- No, it was faith in the Word of God that whoever looked at the snake believing in His promise will live



## Number 21:6-9 MSG

- **Vs. 9** So Moses made a snake of fiery copper and put it on top of a flagpole. Anyone bitten by a snake who then looked at the copper snake lived.
- They had to be convinced in the promise of God before their look worked the healing God promised
  - Looks or looked in Hebrew = to understand intellectually, to examine, to experience

## Number 21:6-9 MSG

- Jesus used this example of His healing of sin
- **John 12:32 NIV** “And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”
- Mankind has been bitten by the snake we call sin and there is only one cure
- To be drawn to the cross of Jesus, to understand our sinfulness and His payment for our sinfulness

## Number 21:6-9 MSG

- When we truly understand this, then **Romans 10:13** **NIV** "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." becomes alive in us
  - Look to the cross believing, will be saved
- This begins our faith walk but we are called to mature this faith as we walk this life
- The disciples of Jesus knew they were lacking in faith and asked Jesus to increase their faith

- **Luke 17:5-10 NIV** 5 The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” 6 He replied, “If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it will obey you.

- **Luke 17:5-10 NIV** 7 “Suppose one of you has a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, ‘Come along now and sit down to eat’? 8 Won’t he rather say, ‘Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink’? 9 Will he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do?

- **Luke 17:5-10 NIV** 10 So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.’”

**Jesus had just taught them about forgiveness, and it seemed like something impossible for them**

- I'm going to have to have a lot more faith than I got now to even hope doing this
- It is impossible Jesus without massive amounts of faith so give it to us
- You want us to obey you in this, then you should give us the faith to do it

**Jesus tells them, “Your faith focus must come off of you and onto God.”**

- I hear so often, “I need more faith so I can do this or I can endure this or I can overcome that.”
- It is not the size of your faith or the amount of your faith but the power of God that matters most



**Jesus tells them, “Your faith focus must come off of you and onto God.”**

- **Luke 17:6 MSG** But the Master said, “You don’t need more faith. There is no ‘more’ or ‘less’ in faith. If you have a bare kernel of faith, say the size of a poppy seed, you could say to this sycamore tree, ‘Go jump in the lake,’ and it would do it.
  - If God wanted it done and if God wanted you to say it

**Jesus tells them, “Your faith focus must come off of you and onto God.”**

- Small faith in a great God is sufficient
- Get your focus off you and your faith
- Place it on God and His character, His power, His promises, His timing, His authority

**Jesus tells them, “Your faith focus must come off of you and onto God.”**

- The nation of Israel complained to God for taking them around Edom
- They thought God should just hand Edom over to them militarily

**Jesus tells them, “Your faith focus must come off of you and onto God.”**

- God knew they would be destroyed and they must grow in trust and obedience, so he exercised His grace and took them around their problem
- They needed to be convinced that God loved them and had the best for them even if they had refused to obey Him
- You don't need more faith in and of yourself but a greater trust in God Almighty

**Your faith does not grow and remain in the wonderful events of life, but in the consistency of normal living**

- The problem with mountaintop experiences is they must be repeated periodically to continually keep its effect on your life
- **Ephesians 2:18 NLT** Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled (continually and effectively) with the Holy Spirit

## **Your faith does not grow and remain in the wondrous events of life, but in the consistency of normal living**

- Lasting faith grows strongest in the mundane, the common, uneventful periods of day-to-day life where we are faithful
- No great revival going on in soul, just a constant dedication to what God has given us to do at this time
- Even during a COVID-19 pandemic

## **Your faith does not grow and remain in the wonderful events of life, but in the consistency of normal living**

- We all want to be David defeating Goliath
- But that will not happen without the time shepherding and allowing the things that happen when life seems boring and uneventful
- He had been faithful to his father taking care of his father's sheep
- He had seen God active in the simplicity of everyday things

**Your faith does not grow and remain in the wonderful events of life, but in the consistency of normal living**

- **Vs. 7** “Suppose one of you has a servant plowing or looking after the sheep.” **Vs. 8** “Prepare my supper”
  - Remember, Jesus is giving an illustration of increasing faith
  - He just described common, everyday things
  - Taking care of what God has blessed you with
  - Taking care of your personal responsibilities God has given you



## **Your faith does not grow and remain in the wonderful events of life, but in the consistency of normal living**

- Today it might be taking care of God's property given you
  - Taking care of your marriage and children God has blessed you with
  - Being faithful to your work and the resources God has given you
  - Being faithful to your Master

## **Your faith does not grow and remain in the wonderful events of life, but in the consistency of normal living**

- What does this have to do with increasing faith?
- It is learning to see God in the face of our children and spouse, these belong to Him and just on loan to us
- It is learning to see God's mark of ownership on everything you think you have earned, or control and they are available to Him to use and disperse of as He desires

## **Your faith does not grow and remain in the wonderful events of life, but in the consistency of normal living**

- It's in knowing God has me here for a purpose even if it is difficult now and I see Him
- I'm here to learn and do my Master's good pleasure
- Why was the servant plowing – the master told him to because it is important to the master
- Why was the servant shepherding – the master told him to because it is important to master

## **Your faith does not grow and remain in the wonderful events of life, but in the consistency of normal living**

- Why making His meal – it was the duty of the slave to serve the master first then himself
  - He was just being obedient to the master's desires
- It is in the being faithful that we learn that God is faithful to us and this increases our faith in Him

**Your faith does not grow and remain in the wonderful events of life, but in the consistency of normal living**

- **Colossians 3:22-24 NIV** 22 Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. 23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

## **Faith will work itself into your life in greater depth and beauty as you take your place as servant of God Almighty**

- It is a slow growth of faith when you are constantly thinking of yourself rather than your Master
- Can you imagine the miserable life this servant would have had if he did not want what the Master wanted

## **Faith will work itself into your life in greater depth and beauty as you take your place as servant of God Almighty**

- We proclaim Jesus as Savior and Lord and both are correct positions of authority He holds in our lives
  - Yes, He showed His love for us by taking our place on our cross
  - Yes, He made a way where we could be reconciled to a holy, righteous God
  - Yes, He has made a place in God's family for us for an eternity

## Faith will work itself into your life in greater depth and beauty as you take your place as servant of God Almighty

- But never forget, He is also our Lord, our Master, our King and we are His slaves
- **1st Corinthians 6:19-20 NLT** 19 Don't you realize that your body (every part of you) is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, 20 for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.



# Faith will work itself into your life in greater depth and beauty as you take your place as servant of God Almighty

- So you must honor God with your body
- How?
  - **John 14:15 NLT** If you love me, obey my commandments.
  - ❖ Obey carries the idea of longing to do what is instructed out of our love and appreciation for Christ

## **Faith will work itself into your life in greater depth and beauty as you take your place as servant of God Almighty**

- Faith works its way into our lives when we want what our Master desires of us more than what we desire or expect
  - I'd rather not plow your field today God, but because you desire me to plow your field, I will plow your field with great joy

## **Faith will work itself into your life in greater depth and beauty as you take your place as servant of God Almighty**

- Faith works its way into our lives when we want what our Master desires of us more than what we desire or expect
  - I'd rather not be lonely God and I'm a bit scared to take your sheep out, but because you desire me to watch and protect your sheep, I will watch and protect your sheep with great joy

## **Faith will work itself into your life in greater depth and beauty as you take your place as servant of God Almighty**

- The disciples were looking for special places of honor next to Jesus
  - Jesus put a towel around his waist and became a lowly servant by washed their feet then instructed them to do likewise

## Faith will work itself into your life in greater depth and beauty as you take your place as servant of God Almighty

- **Vs. 9-10 MSG** Does the servant get special thanks for doing what's expected of him? It's the same with you. When you've done everything expected of you, be matter-of-fact and say, "The work is done. What we were told to do, we did."

**This servant was not comparing himself or his master to any of the other servants or masters**

- What is the favorite phrase of children?
  - It's not fair! Right next to I didn't do it or it wasn't me
- Have you ever said that to God?
- Nowhere in scripture does it say God is fair when compared to some human method of measuring

**This servant was not comparing himself or his Master to any of the other servants or masters**

- If God was fair every one of us would be bound for hell for eternity
  - **Psalms 103:10 NIV** He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

## This servant was not comparing himself or his Master to any of the other servants or masters

- King David learned a lot about God in the wilderness taking care of his father's sheep
- **Psalms 23:1 MSG** God, my shepherd! I don't need a thing.
- **Psalms 23:4 NIV** Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.





*Glory, Glory Halleluiah He  
Reigns!*