

Sermon ~ Sunday, November 28, 2021

Text: Matthew 13: 31, 32 (Read also, Matthew 17: 14-20)

Title: "What is the Difference between, 'Little Faith' and 'Big Faith'?"

The probing thought this morning is a question for these challenging times.

"What is the *Difference* between, 'Little Faith' and 'Big Faith'?"

[most would say, 'It's the Size'! But is it?]

In the *context* of our *text*, Matthew 13, gives us **JESUS'** parables: *COMparisons* to illustrate **The Truth...** about **The KINGdom of Heaven!**

Question? Why is **JESUS** using parables?

Answer. "*Rebellion*" against **HIM** has reached its peak!

[In Matthew 13, **JESUS** is turning FROM the Nation Israel, **GOD'S** chosen people...]

Matthew 10: 5, 6...

V. 5, These twelve **JESUS** sent forth, and commanded them, saying,

"Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into *any* city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

V. 6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

But in Matthew 13, **JESUS** turns to ALL (*Gentiles*) who will *come* to **HIM**...

Matthew 11: 28-30 is **JESUS'** *Invitation for Salvation*...

V. 28, "Come unto **ME** all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

V. 29, Take **MY** yoke upon you, and learn of **ME**; for I **AM** meek and lowly in heart:

V. 30, For **MY** yoke is easy, and **MY** burden is light."

Note: the *Commands in JESUS Invitation for Salvation*:

- *Come to ME... for Salvation*
- *Come to ME... Take MY yoke... for Service*
- *Come to ME... for Compensation – Learning and Rest*

In our day, right now, as in the *text*, **JESUS** is speaking in parables: *COMparisons* to illustrate **The Truth...** because "*rebellion*" against **HIM** has reached its peak...

The hearts of the people; the ears in the people's hearts, and the eyes of the people, have become so *dull* and *hard* and *blind*."

So, **JESUS** *purposefully* hid (hides) "**The Truth**" from the "*Rebellious*" ...

Matthew 7: 6, "Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again to rend..."

BUT, to those who *want* "**The Truth**," [the born-again, **KINGdom** subjects; those who *submit* and *obey* **The KING**... those who *want* answers, to the Why(s) in times like these] the parable, the "*mystery*" is revealed... and answers are given to questions like these...

- Why is it that *my* Faith don't work?
- How much Faith does it take? A *Lot*? A *Little*?
- Does *my Little* Faith prevent the *miracle* I need right now?
- Do a *Small* amount of Faith work *miracles*?
- What is the Faith that *I* need?
- What is meant by 'Little Faith' or 'Lack of Faith'?

"What is the Difference between, 'Little Faith' and 'Big Faith'?"

Matthew 13: 31,

V. 31, Another parable, put **HE** forth unto them [the public, the multitudes, people-views, even **JESUS** disciples], **The KINGdom of Heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed...**"

That is, *it begins like the smallest of seed and grows into the greatest of movements—CHRISTianity!* It starts with an *individual* and grows to *congregations—The Church*.

[Beware: **JESUS** is not talking about Church-house swelling: meg, megabyte, mega, multitudes. All are no match of **GOD'S** pandemics]

No, **The KINGdom of Heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man—JESUS CHRIST... took** [deliberately; *took* with *purpose* and *thought, fore-thought*] **and sowed in HIS field:**

[the planting of *the seed* was not by chance. **JESUS** deliberately planted *the seed* and nourished the growth] **HIS "field"** means the world, as in v. 24, **CHRIST** owns it ALL.

V. 32, **"...but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs..."**

Point: **CHRISTianity begins as "the smallest of seeds—mustard seed."** **CHRISTianity** begins in the soul of a single person. **CHRISTianity** was born in the womb of Virgin by **The HOLYGHOST**.

CHRISTianity started in a prophet, and confirmed, in his old age named Simeon. Likewise, in a prophetess, and confirmed, in her old age named Anna; **CHRISTianity** found Andrew washing his fisher net and Saved his soul, and *the same* to his brother Peter; *the same* happened to Philip and to his brother Nathanael; James, and his brother John; *from* Bartholomew to Matthew; *from* Thomas to Thaddaeus; *from* Simon the Zealot to Judas Iscariot... **CHRISTianity** grew from just a few persons who had **Faith in JESUS CHRIST WHO** died on Calvary' Cross, was buried, and rose from the dead; *from* 120 persons waiting in an Upper Room as commanded by their **LORD**, to 3,000 more (one by one) baptized believers, on The Day of Pentecost (Acts 2); to 5, 000 Adult men, not including women and children more (one by one) (Acts 4); to multitudes more (one by one) (Acts 5: 14); multiplied (one by one), (Acts 6: 1, 7; 9: 31); many thousands more (one by one), (Acts 21: 20). To **Churches** in Rome, Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus, Philippi, Colosse, Thessalonica, ALL over the world (*from* North, to West, to East and deep South—Beaumont, Texas). In **The Revelation** given to John on the Isle of Patmos, chapter 7: 9, "After this I beheld, and lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before **The Throne**, and before **The LAMB**, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; and cried with a loud voice, saying, *Salvation* to our **GOD** which sitteth upon **The Throne**, and unto **The LAMB**."

The *bush* of **CHRISTianity** grows into the *greatest of bushes*. **CHRIST** did for us just what a *tree* does for a bird(s). Matthew 13: 32,

CHRIST gives us a "rest" as a tree provides rest for the bird(s).

CHRIST gives us a "home" just as a tree provides a *nesting place* or *lodging* for the bird(s).

CHRIST gives us "food," *physically* and *spiritually*, just as **HE** does for the bird(s).

Point: We like they, *must* Come... *lodge (abide), live and walk* in **JESUS CHRIST**.

"Abide in ME, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye (CHRIST'S disciples), except ye abide in ME. I AM The VINE, ye are the branches; he that abideth in ME, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without ME ye can do nothing. If any man abide not in ME, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned."

(John 15: 4-6)

Good morning, Church, What is this Faith we Need? WHO is this Faith we Need?
Matthew 17: 14-20... tells of a father plea to **JESUS CHRIST**, to cast a demon out of his son...

Note:

V. 14, "...he comes to **JESUS**; *kneels* before **JESUS**..."

V. 15, "...he addresses **JESUS** as **LORD**... and asked for *Mercy*..."

[What if the father had not come to **JESUS**? What if the father had *stayed* with the crowd?

What if the father was *arrogant* and full of *pride*? What if the father *demand*ed **JESUS**, to heal his son?]

Note: the father was not asking for help for himself, he *came* on behalf of his son; who was having *seizures*, *suffering*, needed round the clock *supervision*, to prevent him from falling into the fire and water; he was demon possessed?

Note also, the powerlessness of **JESUS** *disciples*.

V. 16, "I brought him to thy *disciples*, and they could not cure him.

JESUS response,

v. 17, "**O faithless** [unbelieving] and **perverse** [twisted, distorted] generation, how long shall I put up with you?"

[**JESUS** is *patient*, *long-suffering*, *forbearing*, *tolerant* with us] One reason **HE** has not returned is, II Peter 3: 9, "**The LORD** is not slack concerning **HIS** promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to *repentance*."

V. 18, "**JESUS** rebukes the devil..." and the demon flees! "and the child was cured from that very hour."

We [**The Children of GOD**; **The Church in The KINGdom of Heaven** here on earth], have that same Authority... James 4: 7, "Submit yourselves therefore to **GOD**. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." [Submit to GOD—*hupatasso'* (hoop-ot-as'-so), *hypo'*-under, *tasso'*-arrange, properly, *under GOD'S arrangement*—we're no match for the Devil! *Actively resist* the Devil and his temptation(s). The Devil and demons *will flee*.]

Note, the perplexity of the *disciples*... V. 19, "Why could not we cast him out?"

V. 20, **JESUS** said, "**Because of your unbelief...**" "**If you have faith**" or "**because of your lack of Faith in ME...**" [**JESUS** had given them Power *against* unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease." (Matthew 10: 1)]

But *why* did their Faith fail? *Why* is it that your Faith fail? The *difference* is not 'the amount,' 'the size,' but "The Object" of our Faith!

- *Little* Faith trust in *little* things!
- *Effective* Faith trust in **GOD**! "**If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove: and nothing shall be impossible unto you." (v. 20)**
- *Little* Faith = Faith in something little, basically *smaller* than **GOD**!
- Our Faith *fails* when we trust *anything* or *anyone* other than **GOD**! (Proverbs 3: 5, 6)

Could they have thought... Oh, we did this before. We got this. The result, FAILURE!

How do we practice True Faith?

1. Believe GOD'S WORD! Psalm 145: 9, 13...
"The LORD is good to all: and HIS tender mercies are over all HIS Works."
[In other words, GOD is FAITHful. GOD'S WORD is True. Point: Believe GOD'S WORD!]
2. Trust GOD'S Character! Hebrews 11: 6...
"But without faith it is impossible to please HIM: for he that cometh to GOD must believe that HE is, and that HE is a rewarder of them that diligently seek HIM."
[Trust GOD'S Goodness, HIS Loving-Kindness towards you and HIS FAITHfulness to HIS WORD!]
3. Submit to GOD'S Will! I John 5: 14-15...
"And this is the confidence that we have in HIM, if we ask any thing according to HIS Will, HE heareth us: And if we know that HE hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of HIM."
[In other words, Faith is not some "Magic Gift Card" ... True Faith does not ask for what you want! True Faith ask, GOD what is YOUR Will? True Faith submits to GOD'S Will!

I will trust in The LORD. (2 x's)
I will trust in The LORD until I die!
I will trust in The LORD (2 x's)
I will trust in The LORD until I die!

I'm goin' to treat everybody right. (2 x's)
I'm goin' to treat everybody right until I die!
I'm goin' to treat everybody right. (2 x's)
I'm goin' to treat everybody right until I die!

I'm goin' stay on the battlefield. (2 x's)
I'm goin' stay on the battlefield until I die.

I'm goin' to stay on a bended knee. (2 x's)
I'm goin' to stay on a bended knee until I die.

I'm goin' watch and pray, (2 x's)
I'm goin' watch and pray, until I die.