



## The Ministry of the King in Matthew: According to Your Faith!

October 28, 2018

**Text: Matthew 9:27-31**

### Understanding the Text: A Few Questions & Observations

1. First, how do blind men follow anyone? (v27)
2. These men were using a title that recognized Jesus as the Messiah and King of Israel: Son of David. (v27)
3. Perhaps their effort to “follow him” was because the Messiah would give sight to the blind!

***Luk 4:18-19 (KJV)** The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, 19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.*

4. Jesus’ question in verse 28 may have been a test of faith.
  - The men were following the true King and used the true title, but did they truly believe what they were saying?
  - God often tests the faith of His people.
  - From Noah being asked to build a huge boat nowhere near water, to Abram being called out of his father’s house to an uncertain land, to David being anointed King and still having to run from Saul, to the many and varied tests of the apostles by Jesus, testing faith is one way God uses to grow and sanctify His people.
  - Their answer was immediate. They trusted Jesus!
  - Think about the life of the two blind men in this day. Surely they had endured many trials and disappointments.
  - No commentary is given on the strength of their faith, or the boldness of it. Might they have doubted a bit? Might they have uttered, “yea Lord” with trembling lips? Mustard seed faith perhaps?
  - Nevertheless, what they had was enough. It pleased our LORD to heal them.
  - An obvious question for us might be: “Do you believe God is able?”
5. Apparently, some good things come after the faith test is passed!
  - The LORD touched their eyes and healed them AFTER their faith was tested.
  - Although a healed person’s faith isn’t always mentioned in the ministry of Jesus, sometimes it is (see Matt 8:13, 5:28; Mark 10:52).
  - Just like humility, our LORD loves when His people trust in His goodness, regardless of what circumstances look like.
  - I believe there are some things we want from God that are on the other side of action!

### Understanding Biblical Faith, (Last reviewed March 2012 and July 2015)

1. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. Why? For he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. (Heb 11:6)
  - Faith is a non-negotiable of the Christian Way, and our God love it.

- It's akin to coming to Him as little children, believing, hoping, trusting, and knowing that our Father loves us and wants the best for us (Matt 18:3).
2. We must also remember that we are fighting a **spiritual war**. And this war is ugly, vicious, and out to blaspheme Christ's name and destroy Christian foundations. This too requires we fight the good fight of faith (1 Tim 6:12). Sadly...
- Too many people trivialize the nature of faith. It has become too personal and less Kingdom-oriented. What I mean is much of our believing God is for us, not against demons and devils and for the advancement of God's truth.
  - As John MacArthur rightly put it, "To ask in Jesus' name does not mean to tack such an expression on the end of a prayer as a mere formula. It means: 1) the believer's prayer should be for God's purposes and Kingdom and not selfish reasons; 2) the believer's prayer should be on the basis of God's merits and not any personal merit or worthiness; and 3) the believer's prayer should be in pursuit of His glory alone."
  - Of course there is nothing wrong with laying our petitions before God, but the key is our **motive**. Is it for His glory? Is it for the Kingdom? Is it to display His wonder before unbelievers?
  - Without this understanding of faith, God becomes our personal waiter instead of the King of Kings who commands an advancing army for His own glory! Look at a primary direction for faith:

*Eph 6:10-13 (ESV) - Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. (11) Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. (12) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (13) Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.*

3. We must understand our own **limitations**.
- In fact, understanding this is key to living a life of faith. Why?
  - Have you every bumped into your own limitations? Have you ever realized that you couldn't do it (whatever "it" is) on your own? Are you honest enough to admit that you need in your life each day, "the power of Jesus Christ?"
  - I know this is contrary to popular teaching, but understanding your own frailty is **fundamental** to biblical faith!
  - **Understanding that we are nothing and that He is everything is fundamental to biblical faith, and as a result, pleasing and glorifying our Lord!**

*John 15:5-8 (ESV) – I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, **for apart from me you can do nothing**. (6) If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. (7) If you abide in me, **and my words abide in you**, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. (8) By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.*

4. From the place of limitation, we can rightly embrace **biblical** faith.
- We must first understand that "we are NOT, yet HE IS." ☺ This is the first step of faith.
  - True faith towards God is rooted in brokenness, in humility, in a desire for His will. Then we can approach Him with right understanding...

*1Jn 5:14-15 ESV And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. (15) And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.*

5. So, Biblical Faith **asks, believes,** and **trusts!**

- Here is the process, and you'll find this totally true if you are honest:
  1. *We ask God for what we desire of Him...*
  2. *We believe that God can do anything...*
  3. *And we trust in His complete and total sovereignty over any situation!*
- Questionable faith stops at the first two points: asking and believing. Amazingly, it negates the “trusting” of God, and many times unknowingly says, “Lord, I don’t trust you to do what is best for me. Therefore, Lord, do what I want!”
- Unbiblical faith refuses to acknowledge that in our asking and believing, sometimes God says **no** (this friends, requires trust!!!).
- **Even our Lord prayed, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." (Mat 26:39 ESV) How can that then be an unbiblical prayer?**
- Unbiblical faith often finds its impetus in selfishness or in more difficult cases, pain and desperation. But here is a clue: even in one’s pain, *you know a thought is trending away from Scripture when it exalts the desires of man over the desires of God Himself.*
- **Therefore biblical faith is not a trust in anything worldly or man-centered; biblical faith ultimately finds its root in a firm trust in a loving, sovereign God.**

6. Biblical faith embraces the **sovereignty** of God.

- The truth is that faith is "the assurance of things hoped for; the conviction of things not seen" (Heb 11:1). The word "assurance" is from the Greek *hypostasis*, which simply means "a confidence." True faith simply knows that God has a plan, agreeing that His plan is best, and trusting in Him fully for the execution of His plan, not ours. I love the way Solomon put it:

*Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. (KJV)*

- This is critical, because many times, we ask “wrongly, to spend it on our passions” (James 4:3).
- So it is not what we want, but what He wants. That is faith. Living a life of complete surrender requires extreme levels of faith. Interestingly, when we read the rest of Hebrews 11 and examine what the heroes of faith trusted God for, we find without exception that God’s will (not their own) was their priority.
- And just as interesting, we find that although some prospered in their circumstances, some “*died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.*” (Heb 11:13).
- Others “*were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated-- of whom the world was not worthy--*

*wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.” (Heb 11:35-40 ESV)*

**Applications:**

1. Pray through any areas you need to surrender to God by faith, then do it!
2. Pray through any direction that God has given you that you need to obey by faith, then do it!
3. Pray through any areas where the Spirit has directed you to forgive others and by faith, do it!
4. Consider areas where you need to be healed, and by faith declare, “yea LORD, I believe you can do this!”
5. Continue through the third level of faith: trust. It’s a tough one!