

long before he will see himself, as he is brought in contact with Christ.

You may write with (invisible ink) on your paper, and it is as though you wrote in water,--no stain or record is left. But bring your paper in front of a fire, and silently but certainly, all that has been written will be seen. You let a man come into the (presence of Christ) and there he will express himself. Let a man come into the presence of Christ, and all that is in his nature will be easily recognized. What a man is in the (deepest depths) of his being gets itself expressed when he comes close to the son of God in faith. It was so here in Jerusalem. Jesus did not commit himself to them because he knew right through his life, his quality of discrimination and discernment. For instance, (1) (not everyone) that saith unto me Lord, Lord shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my father which is in heaven.

Once again, (2) they brought (little children) to him, and the disciples would drive them back but Jesus rebuked not those who brought them but those who would exclude them. And he rebuked them for their action, saying, "Forbid them not."

Once again, (3) "Master, (we saw one casting out devils in thy name and we rebuked him.)" "Rebuke him not," said Jesus. Jesus was able to know the heart.

Intro: Our text tonight is Have faith in God. George W.

(Cruet) once said in a sermon, "The supreme need in this hour for all men everywhere is faith in God." That is the supreme need of all men now and always.

The (greatest appeal) an infinite God ever made to a living creature is his appeal in the Bible set out in Mark 11:22, have faith in God. Here is a sentence of four words which tells us of something which if we could just possess it, would solve every problem. Faith in God is a guarantee of victory for every person that ever lived from Adam until the last child that will be born before the end of the world.

The (Bible) was given to us in order to help us have faith in God. The (birth) of Christ and his life in the flesh were for one purpose, namely, to help mankind have faith in God. The (purpose) of every sermon and every lesson taught from the scripture is for the same purpose,--to help us have faith in God. Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Without faith it is impossible to please God. Faith is the foundation grace of God. (1 Cor. 13) tells us that faith hope and love, these three, but the greatest of these is love. That is true, but without faith there would be no hope, and without faith, the love of God would be unknown to man.

The achievement of every believer in this world is measured by his faith. Two blind men heard Jesus passing by. They followed him into a house crying, "Thou son of David, have mercy on us." Jesus knew they wanted him to open their eyes, so they could see. He asked, "Do you believe I can do this?" They answered, "Yea, Lord." Then he said, "According to thy faith, be it unto you." When your life is ended and the tale of it is told, remember your faith in God will determine your achievement here and your destiny there.

I. What is faith?

If someone should ask us the question, "What is your definition for faith?" what would you answer? Well, we would probably give the Bible answer, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." But who would know just what you meant. Jesus knew this. He knew how difficult it is for man to have genuine faith in God. Therefore he taught lessons. He used examples of heroes of faith to illustrate. He preached sermons on faith. He performed miracle after miracle, and yet few believed. He knew but difficulty.

II. Jesus can discern our faith

In John 2:23 & 25, a large company gathered around our Lord expressing their attitude to him, and revealing his responsive attitude to them. And if I am right in drawing this analogy, these are words of very solemn import for every one of us, who have come hither at his own invitation to meet with himself. Christ has no faith in some men's faith. It is a startling consideration that many believe in him which he had no belief in them. It is a strange and solemn truth in its implication of warning to everyone of us, that there is a faith to which he makes no response and does not believe in.

These words come to us with a strong message of warning, lest we gather together when we are around him, anything of this kind should be the record of our conviction, as far as we are individually concerned, that many believed on him, but Jesus did not commit himself to them.

We see how discerning Jesus is, and how characteristic this is of his entire dealing with men. He draws men and then divides them. He wins men to a hearing of his message, and then the chaff will be turned aside and he will find himself at the judgment seat. There is that in the Lord Jesus which causes all men to come in contact with him to reveal themselves. No man can long be insincere in the presence of Christ, because he penetrates and pierces every disguise. And it will not be

3. Committal - There was a lad standing in the crowd near the presence of Jesus and he had five barley loaves and two small fishes. That was his lunch, just enough for one boy. Jesus asked for his loaves and fishes. The little boy asked no questions. He committed the entire lunch into the hands of Jesus. When any person regardless of how wicked he may be commits the destiny of his soul into the hands of Jesus, that moment, his name is written in the lamb's book of life. The spiritual birth that makes him a new creature takes place, and that moment, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God.

Here is a lesson for us. Many people attend church and hear the gospel, but go no further. They die without God and without hope. There may be some who pray without ever being saved, but they're unwilling to risk their eternal destiny with Christ.

There are countless others who take the third step and are saved. They are saved, but they do not grow spiritually. As a rule, they're almost as unhappy as the unsaved people are, for there is little joy in the great salvation.

4. Obedience - This element, I believe Jesus is seeking, that is, a full and complete surrender of one's life and all to the will of God. That is as far as anyone can go in faith. That is all that God requires of any man.

Once again, when our Lord stood before his questioners, and answered them not a word, we find the same quality in him which we are to find in these gatherings, revealing itself. Many believed on him in that day, but Jesus did not commit himself of

Christ regards faith as the only adequate supporting and sustaining power of all moral enthusiasm and energy. Christ's gets to the (root) of the whole tree of life when he discerns the difference between faith which is true and faith which is not true. Therefore one may submit his mind to a thing and he may draw near unto Christ, and he may know a lot of things and he may the handicaps or the circumstances. Now Christ knows you better than you know your self, and you know (if the world) knew your heart and you as an individual, would they love you more or love you less? Is there full faith in your heart, or are there (some hindrances) that Christ knows about that you'd never be able to draw near to him because he is able to discern it.

III. What are the true elements of faith? MK 6:1-13

As we think about the kind of faith that Christ seeks, let us note the (feeding of the multitude). We have a demonstration, a simple lesson of the true elements of faith

that Christ is interested in.

1. Venture - 5,000 men not counting the women and children left their homes and their places of employment, and ventured out into the desert place with Jesus. The reason for this first step is faith, that they (had a hunger) that needed to be satisfied. Some were curious, of course, to see what Jesus would do. That is the reason (unsaved people) attend church, occasionally, or they will wilfully listen to the gospel preached by the radio. There are very few lost people, -- sinner, who come to church in order to be entertained. The unsaved people do not come to church for that purpose. However, attending church does not save anyone, but here is a first step in faith, it's a venture.

2. Prayer - The second step in faith is prayer. Here is a great throng of people without food. There were no market places or eating houses where the people could buy food. Here was a hungry milling mob, these disciples discovered the predicament. The thing that (brings a sinner) to a state of conviction is that he discover his shortcomings, his helplessness, and his need of God.

(Not until then will he pray.) Neither does a believer pray until he takes inventory of his helplessness without God. You remember the first time you ever prayed? When a sinner prays

he's getting close to salvation.

I remember (C. E. Matthews) who told once how that he came to know Christ, and at this point ~~in~~ his life there's a good illustration of this. For he said, two weeks he had been under conviction of his sin. He left his wife and baby with her mother and went to church. At the close of the service the minister asked those who were unsaved and wanted to be remembered in prayer to stand. He said, "I stood, that was the first time I ever moved toward God. It was the first step.. That night he said, when we arrived home, they placed the baby in bed, and he said to his wife, I'm going to join the church next Sunday, and she answered, "I will." Then we read from the little Bible and knelt together in prayer. It was the first time that either of us had ever prayed aloud. The prayer did not save us. God does the saving. I do not believe, he said, that salvation is possible to anyone without the asking. We know that in (Acts 2:21), "And it shall come to pass that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Now I believe that Jesus is interested here in individuals turning their hearts and voices to him in prayer. Now these disciples said, "Master, send these away that they may buy bread." That's the way most of us pray. We tell God what to do instead of seeking his will.

been committed unto thee. When I commit myself entirely in a simple faith to Christ, Christ commits himself.

We know what it is for one to be committed to his friends, and we know that we can trust each other, we love each other, we are committed mutually, and we open our hearts, we disclose our aims, our purposes, we join in interests, we commit ourselves. Now Jesus commits himself to men as friend to friend.

He commits himself to us for the protection of his reputation in the world. And we are charged with the reputation of Jesus, to guard it and to honor it.

Think of it. This is what Christ does in response to simple faith. He makes his word vital, and vitalizing influence in our lives. Therefore we should use day by day this life that has been entrusted to us in his great work. This is what it means for Christ to commit himself to men, that men may bear his name, before the world. We must see to it that there is nothing in the nature of our faith which makes it impossible for Jesus so to commit himself to us.

How is it effected? How is it possible? Our limitations, our stained record, our violation of his laws. How is it possible. He commits himself to us not only for this life, but for a and completion and it is supported by faith. These are the kind of men and women whom our Lord commits himself to. It is of supreme importance to you and

Jesus gave thanks to the father, and breaking the loaves and likewise the fishes, and giving them to the disciples to feed the hungry multitudes. Did you ever hear of anything like that? Not one of his disciples murmured, hesitated or asked a question of the master. They carried out his instructions to the letter. That is obedience. That is faith in its highest function.

We know that faith of this kind, that Christ seeks, can move mountains. This is the course of the heroes of faith. It was by faith Noah built the ark. No one had ever built an ark before. It was a new and unheard of venture. And yet there was a committal to the task, and obedience on the part of Noah.

By faith Abraham when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed, and he went out, not knowing whither he went. That is the kind of faith that is needed by Christians everywhere. As we stand face to face with a world of unbelieving and frustrated people, of every nationality under the sun, only God can give that which will satisfy. The hungry multitudes were seeking bread that day when the disciples came to Jesus with only five loaves and two small fishes belonging to a little boy. Jesus, so the scripture says, knew what he would do.

IV. Untrusted faith

Now Jesus is seeking faith that can be trusted, I return to what Jesus said concerning that group,--that he did not commit himself to them. Why, mark you, this is of the utmost importance to us, standing where we do. Many believed on him when they saw signs. That is the kind of faith that Christ does not respond to,--sign supported faith. The faith so-called which (refuses) to believe him unless it sees signs and wonders. Faith which is not the sincere kind which will consent to the will of God.

Of course, I am aware that the (devil) makes many times, faith hard and difficult and unnatural, but if only we can get back to the simplicity that is in Jesus Christ. What is Christ's ideal of faith?

Read the (record of his dealing) with men for answer. True faith begins in the stimulation of conscience which we call conviction of sin. It recognizes the utter impossibility of meeting God's standard. It expresses itself in penitence,--in sorrow for sin. It realizes an utter sense of emptiness, and it means the utter and entire surrender to Christ who is revealed as meeting all the sin created need of life. As any one who can do helpless sinners good. Faith is just not merely an act, or a series of acts. Faith is a maintained attitude of

the heart, an unquestioned obedience.

Faith is established loyalty at all costs. Faith to which Christ always responds, a faith which works by love. A faith which is responsive to his every call. A faith which will obey. How simple is it. Faith which is just entire heart sympathy with Christ as he reveals himself.

There is great need for us to exercise that sort of faith. Too, essentially in our own present age, that there is a faith that is created by curiosity seekers who seek signs. There are large numbers of people who will believe in him today if their faith can only be backed up by some visible signs. There are many who attempt to ask for signs from heaven.

Jesus said, "Many shall say in that day, Lord, Lord, open to us."

Sir Robert Anderson said, "No one may limit what God may do in answer to faith, but he will yield nothing to the demands of unbelief."

Therefore we come to the consideration of an all-out commitment of oneself which these words record,--that Jesus will withhold himself. And Jesus will commit himself however, unto us, as we are committed unto him. (Paul writes to Timothy, "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him." Keep that which has

deemed of the Lord say so.

No preacher ever lived who was more given to relate his experiences with God than the apostle Paul. He did not hesitate to tell his remarkable experience with Christ on the Damascus Road. The world is waiting to see and to know about the miraculous and supernatural power that God gives abundantly to those who will accept it.

For example, Dr. Truett used to tell about the conversion of Big Jim during a revival in Texas. Dr. Gambrell was present when Big Jim was saved. He published an article in the state paper. "The greatest conversion I ever witnessed." The story was told from coast to coast for years. There is no telling how many lives were affected by it.

I heard Dr. Matthews, who was at Travis Avenue church in Fort Worth, tell of making an appeal at the close of the message. A woman came forward to unite with the church by letter. Her husband, in his 60's, came with her on a profession of faith. There was also another couple that came on profession of faith. When he baptized the men, one of them pulled out of his pocket, a clipping from a paper, and he said, "Read this." It was Dr. Gambrell's story of Big Jim's conversion, written 24 years before that night. He asked him did he know Big Jim. He answered "I am Big Jim's son." And the woman who came by letter tonight is Big Jim's daughter.

me. It is possible that you are saying that I am the kind of man whom Jesus will trust. Whose faith Jesus will recognize as being genuine, sincere and well-founded. Listen, take his word again. Read through the record of the days of his flesh, and you will find that the kind of men and women to whom he committed himself are these men of unstayable resolve, but fervent love, women of stained reputation, but earnest devotion men of secular habits, but simple trust, men of slow understanding, the poor, the broken, the stained.

We know that we might test our own individual faith, as to whether or not we are sleeping, and whether or not we have a zeal for his glory. (Have I in my life a dominating passion for holiness?) Have I an increasing impulse to win souls? Is it because Jesus has never committed himself to me? We must search our heart.

V. The fruits of an obedient faith

As we think about the kind of faith that Christ seeks, we cannot help but mention one or two things that will result if we truly find this faith.

1. Prayer life one of the fruits of faith is that one will be obedient in the matter of prayer. This is the richest experience and the happiest communion known to man. It's

found in a consistent prayer life.

(Daniel) was untouched and unharmed in the lion's den because of his consistent prayer life. (Elijah) because of his consistent prayer life, heaven sent fire, to consume the sacrifice on Mt. Carmel.

(John the Baptist) preaching in the wilderness, realized great power, in that people left the cities and gathered in the valley of Jordan to hear his sermons. And no wonder they followed. (Lord, teach us to pray) as John also taught his disciples to pray," some of the followers of our Lord said later on. The multitudes would never have de-populated the cities, and left their comfortable synagogues of worship to have gone in the wilderness to listen to a man preach, had John not been a great man of prayer and of power.

If there is one thing lacking today in the lives of the (members of our church), it would be prayer. Wherever there is failure in winning the unsaved to Christ, or in growing a congregation of fruit bearing Christians, it is due to the lack of prayer. We may have our air-conditioned churches, trained people, organizations, money, up-to-date programs, educated ministers, but the one thing we lack is praying churches. A real prayer meeting where people fervently and sincerely pray, is absolutely unheard of.

It is impossible for any person to live a victorious life

as Christ would have it, unless he has the faith that Christ seeks. Multitudes never would have been fed with the loaves and fishes, had not the disciples not gone to Jesus and learned from him what to do. The multitudes would have been sent away empty. The (richest person) on this earth is not the one with the largest bank account, or the one with the greatest amount of real estate. The richest person in this world is the one who has the most consistent prayer life. And we should thank God that it is within reach of the humblest person.

2. Experiences with God - I believe at this point as often we ask in (prayer Meeting) Are there those who would share with us some rich blessing of experience in the way God has blessed them in the past week. This miracle of feeding the multitudes is recorded in all four gospels. There is a reason for this, God wanted his people in all generations to know about it.

The disciples had (something to tell people) when they got up to preach, and when they witnessed to a believer.

(Do we have anything) in the way of an experience with God worth telling, or do we use worn out experiences? It is perfectly legitimate to tell how God used other people. But how much more effective it is for us to do as the disciples of old who stood and told what God had wrought in their lives. If we have an obedient faith, God expects us to do this. Let the re-

What is faith doing for you? Are you laying hold of the promises of God by faith today? God is blessing our efforts. And faith is the way, with God all things are possible to him that believeth." Mark 9:23

Ray Harold McClain
Young man this week - 3rd or 4th operation -
not long to his -
"I'm weak" - I mean weak in
body, physically, but not in faith"

End of page - June 4, 1961 - P.M.