

The Faith Gift

We've been exploring...

- God's gifts to us
- God's gift of salvation
- God's gift of the Message
- God's gift of repentance

Gift of faith

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.” NKJV

Hebrews 11:1-3

Gift of faith

“Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see. Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation. By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God’s command,
that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen.” NLT Hebrews 11:1-3

Gift of faith

- If only we had more...

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- The disciples had it good...
 - Signs and wonders
 - Miracles and healings
 - Dead people walking and talking

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- It would be easier if we walked with Jesus, wouldn't it?
- The disciples had it good...
 - Signs and wonders
 - Miracles and healings
 - Dead people walking and talking
- And yet...

Mark 8

- Jesus has just fed the 4,000
- He has raised the dead
- He has been healing and setting people free
- He confronts the Pharisees

Mark 8

“When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had arrived, they came and started to argue with Him. Testing Him, they demanded that He show them a miraculous sign from heaven to prove His authority. When He heard this, He sighed deeply in His spirit and said, “Why do these people keep demanding a miraculous sign? I tell you the truth, I will not give this generation any such sign.” So He got back into the boat and left them, and He crossed to the other side of the lake...”

There comes a time...

- “Jesus, I’ll believe in you if...”

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- “Jesus, I’ll believe in you when...”

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Mark 8

“But the disciples had forgotten to bring any food. They had only one loaf of bread with them in the boat. As they were crossing the lake, Jesus warned them, “Watch out! Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and of Herod.”

At this they began to argue with each other because they hadn't brought any bread. Jesus knew what they were saying, so He said, “Why are you arguing about having no bread? Don't you know or understand even yet? Are your hearts too hard to take it in? ‘You have eyes—can't you see? You have ears—can't you hear?’ Don't you remember anything at all? When I fed the 5,000 with five loaves of bread, how many baskets of leftovers did you pick up afterward?” “Twelve,” they said. “And when I fed the 4,000 with seven loaves, how many large baskets of leftovers did you pick up?” “Seven,” they said. “Don't you understand yet?” He asked them...”

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 - We want a sign because we only see with earthly eyes
 - We want a sign because You don't fit what we want
 - We want a sign because believing in You interrupts our lives and plans too much

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 - Each loaf fed over 570 people
 - Each loaf resulted in a basket of leftovers

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 - Each loaf resulted in a basket of leftovers
- There are twelve of them, plus Jesus with one loaf, and now they worry...

Mark 8

- Jesus isn't even asking them to have faith in what He has yet to do

Mark 8

- Jesus isn't even asking them to have faith in what He has yet to do
- He's asking them to have faith in what they just saw Him do

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 - Haven't they seen evidence of what He can do?

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- Jesus is looking at the Disciples and asking why they think the results will be different
 - Why do they doubt?
 - Why do they need more proof?
 - Haven't they seen evidence of what He can do?
 - Hasn't He demonstrated His power?

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 - You are focusing on what you think religion is
 - You are focusing on things of the world
 - You are insisting that God operate the way you want
- All these things will rob you of the faith God has given you which will open your eyes to what He has done and is doing in your life

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- God's signs and wonders are meant to demonstrate His power so that our eyes are opened to truth about Him
- Once we receive truth about Him, if we have faith to allow it to change our hearts, we believe in Him in a way which transforms our thoughts and behaviors

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- There is no strategic way this place exists
- And yet it is

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- Where are you in your own home?

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- First, are you in a place of obedience?
 - Does God really come first?

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 - Time
 - Treasure
 - Talent

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 - If not, then repent and start doing it right
- Do you see His hand of provision, of grace, of mercy, of healing moving in your life?

Mark 8

- The leaven of the Pharisee says
 - Doubt
 - Fear
 - Worry
 - Demand
 - Insist
 - Refuse to believe
 - Insist on doing it your way

Mark 8

- Here's our loaf, Jesus...
 - You know the need
 - You know the opportunity
 - You know the desire

Mark 8

- Here's our loaf, Jesus...
 - You know the need
 - You know the opportunity
 - You know the desire

- Here's our loaf Jesus...
 - Thank You for it!
 - Can't wait to see what You're going to do with it!
 - Whee ha, we have a loaf!

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 - Regardless of what your bank account says
 - Regardless of what the medical report is
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- If Jesus is in the boat with you, if it sinks and you are holding His hand, you'll still be ok
 - It's when we let go of Him to hold onto the boat that we get into trouble

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- Think of faith as a muscle
 - If it isn't exercised, it is weak

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 - But there is a lack of faith if you are asking Him to confirm something that is clearly a spiritual principal

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 - But there is a lack of faith if you are asking Him to confirm something that is clearly a spiritual principal
 - Tithing is the exception listed in Scripture
- We are told not to put God to the test
 - But here in Mark 8, we also see that if He has demonstrated evidence of His faithfulness to us, continuing to doubt or demand leads to a hardened heart

How different would life be...

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- If we asked daily for help in stepping out in faith
- If we asked for wisdom to believe and have faith throughout the day in decisions, conversations, opportunities, etc.
- If we come to a point where we see a loaf and think that with Jesus it can feed 570 and produce a basket of leftovers
 - It would be insane not to...

Challenge of the week

- Ask daily for help in stepping out in faith
- Ask for wisdom to believe and have faith throughout the day in decisions, conversations, opportunities, etc.
- Continue to ask God to search our hearts and reveal anything we need to repent of
- Fast Fridays