

FAITH, THEN ACTION

Mark 6:1-56

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Ever close your eyes and "step out on faith?" Movies have been made with scenes where someone steps out with his/her eyes closed upon some "supposed to be" surface but can't be seen, depicting some sort of faith that even though it can't be seen, there is something real out there. Faith must come before some actions are taken in many situations. If a person says he/she has faith, are there ever any actions taken that required faith first in that person's life? Remember the disciples and Jesus in a boat when a storm came up, they got Jesus up in their fear but they had no faith. The woman who made her way through the crowd to reach out and touch Jesus believing that just by touching His clothing she would be healed. Then the messengers coming to Jesus and Jairus to tell him that his daughter had died and there was no need for Jesus to come and try to heal her and Jesus replied, "Don't be afraid, just believe." Some have faith and some don't. The faith of some causes them to take action and the faith of others doesn't produce any action - why not?

I. THERE ARE THOSE WHO JUST DON'T HAVE FAITH IN THE LORD

1. *Mark 6:1-6*

2. Jesus went to His hometown of Nazareth where His family lived and where He had grown up.
 - Some said that Jesus wasn't raised to act like He was acting now (teaching, healing, etc.)
 - Where did Jesus get all those ideas He was teaching about?
 - What kind of wisdom had He been learning?
 - What are the miracles He was doing?
 - Aren't these His sisters and brothers here?
 - Jesus' own hometown people were offended by what Jesus was doing.
 - His townspeople thought Jesus was just acting.
 - Nobody believed, nobody had any faith in Jesus.
3. Jesus chose to leave His hometown and go somewhere else because of their unbelief.
 - His own people should have welcomed Him with open arms, yet they missed the opportunity of a life time.
 - Here was the Son of God right in their midst, performing miracles and teaching with authority, wanting to share with His family and friends, to do miracles among them but they laughed at Him. They had absolutely no faith in Jesus whatsoever.
4. Jesus' hometown people lacked faith in Jesus and therefore prevented the Son of God, Jesus, from doing what He wanted to do for them.
 - If God wanted to do something miraculous in YOUR life, do you have the faith required for Him to do so? Or do you suffer from unbelief? Ever think of what you might be missing out on because you just don't have the faith in Jesus needed?

II. THERE ARE THOSE WHO HAVE DEPENDENT FAITH

1. *Mark 6:7-13*

2. Jesus sends His disciples out in pairs to preach, teach, do miracles.
 - They were to depend entirely, totally upon Jesus for all things, even expenses, supplies, places to stay, etc.

- They are told that they would not be accepted everywhere but to accept whatever hospitality that is offered to them.
3. The disciples knew Jesus and were followers of Him before ever attempting to get others to follow Jesus.
 - Jesus sent them out in pairs, two believers, two followers of Jesus, two going out in faith together.
 - Jesus stressed the necessity of depending, relying on God for every need.
 - Jesus prepared the disciples for rejection. Doors would be slammed in their faces as they tried to present the Gospel message.
 - When their mission trip was over, they came together to share their experiences.
 - It is important for "missionaries" to work together but also to celebrate and share together.
 4. What kind of "mission" trips have YOU been involved in? Have you gone out door to door to witness?
 - Have YOU ever shared the Gospel message with anyone?
 - Have YOU ever given your testimony before other believers about where your faith in Jesus has taken you?

III. THERE ARE THOSE WHOSE FAITH SOMETIMES WAVERS

1. *Mark 6:14-29*
2. John the Baptist, who introduced Jesus and baptized Jesus had been put in prison for a comment he made about Herod and his new "wife" as it was not a legal marriage.
 - While in prison John sent a messenger to Jesus asking if He were really the Messiah for his faith in Jesus was wavering.
 - John the Baptist started well by preparing the way for Jesus (the Messiah), then he had some questions, his faith slipped a bit, but he finished just as well as he had started.
 - John the Baptist was beheaded and became a "hero" for his death.
 - John the Baptist was not afraid to die, his faith in Jesus was now solid and therefore he remained full of faith to the end of his life.
3. How is YOUR walk in faith today? Is your faith as strong now as it was when you first believed?
 - Have you had some questions come up that made your faith waver a bit?
 - Is perhaps your faith like John the Baptist's, you started out strong, had a moment of wonder, but your faith picked back up and became even stronger.
 - Can YOU be counted among the strong in faith believers in Jesus?

IV. FAITH IS TO DEVELOP AND GROW IN FOLLOWERS OF JESUS

1. *Mark 6:30-44*
2. When Jesus fed the multitude, it was not just to give the people something to eat.
 - Jesus used His disciples to find food for the crowd, serving the food Jesus had blessed and multiplied, then they collected the left overs.
 - Jesus had sent the disciples out previously in pairs to feed people spiritually, share the Gospel, now Jesus is using the disciples to feed the people material food.
 - Jesus fed the multitude to teach faith to the disciples.
3. Jesus fed the 5,000 plus people in order to cause people to have faith.
 - He did it for the development of the disciples' faith but they just couldn't see it yet.

4. How developed is YOUR faith in Jesus? Do you trust Him for EVERY need? Do you think that Jesus can meet your every need, no matter what? Do you try to meet your own needs by yourself first and then when you can't do it, you then go to Jesus?

V. FAITH MUST GO IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

1. *Mark 6:45-56*
2. The miracle of Jesus feeding the 5,000 plus by multiplying the small amount of food the disciples had found was intended to show the disciples ONCE AGAIN that God was working through Jesus.
 - The disciples just didn't get it.
 - Their faith just wasn't going in the right direction yet.
3. Once again in a boat, the disciples, without Jesus, were rowing against a very strong wind.
 - Jesus appeared to them in the darkness and they became afraid thinking it was a ghost.
 - Jesus called to them to not be afraid, it is "I."
 - The disciples still did not realize that it was Jesus because their faith just wasn't aimed at Jesus.
4. Every believer in Jesus Christ has exercised some degree of faith aimed in the right direction toward Jesus.
 - What good is a lot of faith if it is aimed in the wrong direction?
 - Where is YOUR faith aimed?
 - Doctors, Lawyers, Stars, Fate, etc.
 - What about aimed at YOURSELF?

CONCLUSION:

1. What kind of faith do you have?
 - Deficient faith?
 - Dependent faith?
 - Lasting, durable faith?
 - Developing faith?
 - Right direction faith?
2. Do you think that perhaps, just perhaps the Lord is telling you to aim your faith in HIM and nobody else or no other place?