

**FOUNDATIONS: "THE BEST OF THE BEST"**  
**LESSON 3 "ONE OF THE BEST EXAMPLES OF FAITH  
IN THE BIBLE"**

**Intro.** Tonight we're concluding our series on the *Best of the Best*.

1. One of the things I appreciate most about the word of God is, it tells the "whole truth" about it's heroes
  - a. It doesn't just give us their "*good side*"
  - b. It gives us *every side*, good and bad, positive and negative, their victories and their failures
2. The reason these people are included in the Bible is so we can learn from their successes and mistakes

**1 Corinthians 10:11 (NKJV)** Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, on whom the ends of the ages have come.

- a. We can learn a lot from the people recorded in the Bible
  - b. A Roman Centurion prayed one of the best prayers
  - c. Naaman's maid had one of the best attitudes
3. Tonight, we're going to begin with one of my favorites; one of the best examples in the Bible
  - *There are lots of guys who had really big faith*

**Hebrews 11:5 (NKJV)** By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

- *Abraham believed God*

**Romans 4:18-20 (NKJV)**

18 who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be."

19 And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb.

20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God.

- *All of these are great examples of faith but they're not the ones I would choose as the greatest example of faith*
- *So who is the greatest example of faith in the Bible?*
- *To answer that we have to know how faith is revealed*

## I. TRUE FAITH IS REVEALED WHEN IT SEEMS \_\_\_\_\_

### A. THE BIBLE TELLS US OUR FAITH IS GOING TO BE \_\_\_\_\_

#### 1 Peter 1:6-7 (NKJV)

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,

7 ***that the genuineness of your faith***, being much more precious than gold that perishes, ***though it is tested by fire***, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

1. Our faith is going to be \_\_\_\_\_

- ***Barnes' notes on the New Testament*** says *the trying of our faith by fire is "the process of showing whether it was or was not genuine"*
  - a. Unfortunately, this "genuineness" is best seen when the heat is turned on
  - b. The reality is, every one of us will have the heat of circumstances test our faith

#### Job 1:7-11 (NKJV)

7 And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."

8 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?"

9 So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing?"

10 "Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.

11 "But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"

- c. The reality of Job's faith came through when it faced the fire and testified to the faithfulness of God

**quote**, "A faith that is not worth testing is a faith that is not worth having."

**1 Timothy 6:12 (NKJV)** *Fight the good fight of faith*, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

- *The reason it's called "the fight of faith" is simply because faith is a real fight*
- *There's a struggle involved in our endeavor to trust completely in God.*
- *We need to learn this important truth, faith is revealed when it seems hardest to believe*

**Hebrews 11:17-19 (NKJV)**

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,  
18 of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called,"  
19 concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

- *Abraham's faith was seen when it seemed hardest to trust God. He believed that if necessary, God would raise Isaac from the dead*

**Daniel 3:16-18 (NKJV)**

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter.  
17 "If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king.  
18 "But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."

2. The greatest faith is seen in the worst of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. When we're facing a financial or health crisis
  - b. When we feel like our prayers aren't being heard
  - c. When someone else gives a testimony about God meeting their need and we're waiting for the same kind of answer
  - d. When our mind is bombarded with negative thoughts about ourselves and God, "You're not going to make it, you're not the 'believing kind', God doesn't care about you," etc.

- *True or genuine faith is revealed when it seems the hardest to believe*

- *This is why I chose the guy we're going to talk about as the greatest example of faith in the Bible*

## II. ONE OF THE GREATEST EXAMPLES OF FAITH IN THE BIBLE IS A

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### Luke 23:39-43 (NKJV)

39 Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us."

40 But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation?"

41 "And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong."

42 Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

43 And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

### A. I CHOSE THIS MAN BECAUSE HE IS PROBABLY THE \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ TO HAVE FAITH OF ANY KIND

- *He faced several obstacles in believing*

1. One of the obstacles he faced was \_\_\_\_\_

- He had been a thief
- As he is on the cross, he wasn't even making excuse for himself
- By his own confession he was guilty and deserved punishment

v. 41 "And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds..."

- One of the obstacles we can face in believing God for answered prayer is guilt over past failures

ex. *How can I expect God to hear and answer me after what I've done?*

- When we've failed, we have to learn to respond to one of the greatest invitations God has given us

**Isaiah 1:18 (NKJV)** "Come now, and let us reason together," says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

**Romans 8:1 (NKJV)** There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

- *This thief's faith saw beyond his failure to the forgiveness Jesus offered*
- *We have to learn to let go of our failures by receiving and believing in the power of forgiveness*

2. The second obstacle he faced was his own \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. He was dying on a cross; crucifixion is one of the most painful deaths a person can experience
  - b. He looked beyond his own personal pain and expressed faith in Christ

**ex.** *One of our greatest obstacles to believing is when we're in pain; whether it's physical or emotional. We can wonder, "Why is this happening to me."*

*We can get so focused on our pain that we forget or neglect to ask for God's help.*

**1 Peter 5:6-7 (NKJV)**

6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

7 **casting all your care upon Him**, for He cares for you.

- *This thief saw beyond his own pain and looked to Christ*

**B. HE IS ONE OF THE GREATEST EXAMPLES OF FAITH IN THE BIBLE BECAUSE OF HIS \_\_\_\_\_**

1. We need to think about the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Jesus was dying on a cross next to him; He had been beaten, the beard pulled from his face, and left to die
  - b. Jesus was an object of ridicule; others were mocking him, "If you're the Son of God come down from the cross"
  - c. Jesus wasn't at this point in a position of strength; if anything He was an object of weakness
  - d. When Jesus was dying, He was an object of weakness and ridicule and yet this thief looked to Him with faith

- *Our faith must be able to see the strength and ability of God to help us in whatever we face*

2. His faith was expressed through the \_\_\_\_\_

**Luke 23:42 (NKJV)** Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

- a. This is one of the most powerful expressions of faith in the Bible
- b. He is saying these words to Jesus while He's a rejected and dying man
- c. The thief believed that even though Jesus was dying now, He was Lord and would come into His Kingdom

- *His faith was revealed in what he said*
- *Our faith will always be revealed by what we say*

**Romans 10:8-10 (NKJV)**

8 But what does it say? "***The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart***" (*that is, the word of faith* which we preach):

9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

**Luke 6:45 (NKJV)** "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For ***out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.***

- *We need to practice speaking the faith we have with our mouths*

**ex.** *It takes a lot of practice learning not to speak words of doubt and unbelief, and instead voicing our confidence in God and His ability to help us.*

*We should practice speaking the faith we have in Christ through the day by voicing our confidence in Him, and by speaking His Word, repeating verses of Scripture that address the need we have.*

**Romans 4:16-20 (NKJV)**

16 ***Therefore it is of faith*** that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of ***the faith of Abraham***, who is the father of us all

17 (as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") **in the presence of Him whom he believed--God**, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;

18 **who, contrary to hope, in hope believed**, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be."

19 **And not being weak in faith**, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb.

20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, **but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God.** (underline)

- v. 20 gives us an important clue into Abraham's faith
- 20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, **but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God.**

ex. *His faith was strengthened as he gave glory (praise and honor) to God.*

ex. *How we can practice this in our lives.*

*"Jesus I praise You that You will never leave or forsake me. I believe You are faithful and won't let me down. I thank You for being my healer, my provider, my comforter, my strength, my hope, my freedom, my happiness, my contentment, my everything. I glorify You!"*

3. This man's faith was \_\_\_\_\_

**Luke 23:43 (NKJV)** And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

- a. This is an incredible ending to his life
- b. At the lowest, most desperate, and humiliating moment of his life, he reached out to Christ and was the first man to receive forgiveness through the blood on the cross

- *Even at the times when we feel weakest and most vulnerable, if we will dare to trust in Christ, our faith will be rewarded*

**Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)** But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that **He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**

**PRAYER AND CONFESSION:** *Jesus, I declare my confidence in You. I am determined to believe in Your word in spite of my circumstances. You are the object of my faith and I trust You. I will be strengthened in my faith as I give you glory. Nothing is impossible with You and I thank You for that in Your name, the name of Jesus. Amen.*

**FILL IN THE BLANKS FROM LESSON #3**

**I. TRUE FAITH IS REVEALED WHEN IT SEEMS (HARDEST TO BELIEVE)**

**A. THE BIBLE TELLS US OUR FAITH IS GOING TO BE (TRIED)**

1. Our faith is going to be (tested)
2. The greatest faith is seen in the worst of (circumstances)

**II. ONE OF THE GREATEST EXAMPLES OF FAITH IN THE BIBLE IS A (THIEF ON THE CROSS)**

**A. I CHOSE THIS MAN BECAUSE HE IS PROBABLY THE (LEAST LIKELY) TO HAVE FAITH OF ANY KIND**

1. One of the obstacles he faced was (guilt)
2. The second obstacle he faced was his own (pain)

**B. HE IS ONE OF THE GREATEST EXAMPLES OF FAITH IN THE BIBLE BECAUSE OF HIS (EXPRESSION OF FAITH)**

1. We need to think about the (object of his faith)
2. His faith was expressed through the (words he spoke)
3. This man's faith was (rewarded)