

FAITH'S WORKOUT

Introduction: The disciples cried out: *“Increase our faith!”* (Luke 17:5)

1. Faith's Potential:

- What got the disciples so uptight?

Luke 17:3-4 *So watch yourselves. If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, “I repent,” forgive him.*

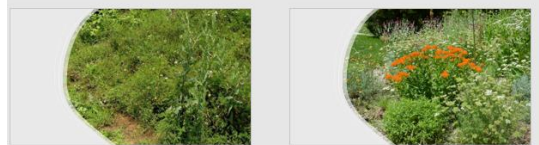
- Someone has been wronged.
 - Jesus' response to their question:

Luke 17:6 *He replied, “If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘be uprooted and planted in the sea’, and it will obey you.*

- All life starts with a seed.
- What comes out of our mouth starts with something sown into us.
- Soil condition determines how quickly the seed germinates.

ILLUSTRATION:

2 gardens:



- One with weeds illustrates before being born again.
- One with flowers – showing good seeds planted gradually pushing back the weeds.
 - Seeds of love
 - Seeds of hope
 - Seeds of faith.

- Jesus said – small seed all that is required
 - He does not let us off the hook.

Luke 17:7-10 [Jesus said] *“Suppose one of you had a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Would he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, ‘come along now and sit down to eat’? Would he not rather say, ‘Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink’? Would he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.’”*

- Don't give away your authority.
- Take responsibility.
- With faith, you speak into the situation.
- Remember to do what Jesus has told you – that's your duty.

2. Faith's Thankfulness:

Luke 17:11-14 *Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance, and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”*

When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.

- Cleansed as they acted on their faith.

Luke 17:17-19 *Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?”*

Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”

- Can we get stuck on one answer to prayer?
- Samaritan displayed:
 - Thankfulness
 - Desire for more
- He was well – not just physical, but spiritual as well.

Luke 17:20-21 *Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observations, nor will people say, 'Here it is' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is within you.*

- Kingdom reign within.

3. Faith's Persistence:

- Jesus asked a question at the end of Luke 18:1-8 parable:

Luke 18:8b *...When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?*

- "Faithfulness" (alt reading)
- Context Luke 18:1-8 – prayer in a crisis.
- What can rob us of faith-filled prayer?

QUOTE: *"If the dark is not peopled with a loved face, our busy imagination will fill it with horrible ones."*¹

- A revelation of Jesus can bring faith.
 - OR turn to unbelief
 - OR turn to superstition.

ILLUSTRATION: story of persistent widow of Luke 18.

- Persistent prayer comes from persistent faith.

Luke 18:7-8a *And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly...*

Luke 17:6 *He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'be uprooted and planted in the sea', and it will obey you.*

¹ McClaram Expositions

