

FAITH'S WORKOUT # 2

Introduction: All life comes from a seed.

- A seed flourishes according to the soil.
- Illustration of two gardens:

- Good seed produces:

- Attractiveness
- Useful
- Fruitful
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- Bad seed produces:

- Artificial
- Disruptive
- Unfruitful.



- Good seed of faith needs to be attractive, useful, fruitful.

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. Faith's Opportunity

- Jesus has just made a statement about his future – not first time.

Luke 18:31-34 *Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, “We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. He will be handed over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him, spit on him, flog him and kill him. On the third day, he will rise again.”*

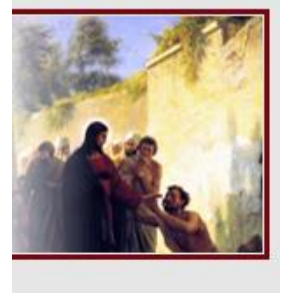
The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what he was talking about.

- Jesus obviously had faith.
- The disciples did not ‘get it’

ILLUSTRATION: Opportunity knocks:

- Blind beggar story – Luke 18:35-43.

Luke 18:36-38 *When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening. They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.”*



He called out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

- Notice TWO titles:
 - Jesus of Nazareth: Jesus had a reputation.
 - Intrigued people because he came from Nazareth.
 - Son of David:
 - Beggar recognised Jesus as the Messiah.
- Why would the beggar think that (Jesus as Messiah)?
 - Family tree was important
 - Mary and Joseph were of lineage of David.

2 Samuel 7:16 *Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before men; your throne will be established forever.*

- Messianic passage in Isaiah 35 which was read in the temple and synagogues regularly

Isaiah 35:5 *“Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped”*

- When Jesus passes by, we should cry out to Him with bold, persistent faith.

Luke 18:42-43 *Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God.*

2. Faith's Reward

ILLUSTRATION: Story of Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-9)

Luke 19:5 *When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today."*

- Jesus knew him by name.
 - In Zacchaeus' culture, that confirmed that Jesus was a prophet from God.
 - How did you feel when you realised God was interested in YOU.
- Zacchaeus' choices:
 - Do I welcome Him into my house?
 - Do I turn from my old lifestyle?

Romans 2:4 *Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realising that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?*

Luke 19:8 *But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."*

- A small seed of faith can lead to a great outcome.

Luke 19:9-10 *Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."*

3. Faith's Works

- Jesus is about to enter Jerusalem (Palm Sunday).

ILLUSTRATION: Story of Ten Servants (Luke 19:11-27)

- Key Points:
 - Servants were given resources to put to work.

- Many people did not want him king.
 - Opposition.
- The wicked servant's excuse was false.

Luke 19:21 *"I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow."*

- His faith in his king was twisted.
- If you don't use it, you lose it.
- Let the seed of faith grow and multiply.

4. Faith's Outcome

- Jesus is about to enter Jerusalem. (Luke 19:28-44)
- People's faith had been restored and challenged.
 - There were miracles and opposition.
 - Life threatened – and lives raised by faith in His heavenly father.

Luke 19:38-40 *"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"*

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"

"I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

- Jesus is going to make peace between heaven and earth.
- But then Jesus wept.

Luke 19:41-42 *As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, "if you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace – but now it is hidden from your eyes."*

- Elusive peace in a city with Salem in its name.
- Do we know what will bring peace?

Matthew 5:9 *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.*

- It takes faith to be a peacemaker.