

Increase Our Faith! (Part 3)

Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 17:7-10



Big Idea

With faith should come humility. It's a package deal. But often, we attempt to sever the one from the other. We try to take credit for that which God has done in and through us by faith. We grow proud in our spiritual accomplishments. In this quasi-parable Jesus aims to restore us to our humble place and with it to restore our wonder at the gospel and free grace of God!

If faith really is turning away from ourselves and trusting in the strength and help of Another; if faith really is a gift of grace to me from God; if faith in Jesus' word and power really is the way we accomplish great feats in the Christian life . . . then it follows that the person of faith, the Christian, as it were, should also be a man or woman of great *humility*. Because the whole thing is not about me. It's *His* grace, *His* Spirit, *His* power at work in and through me. If you see anything good in my life, it's because of *Him*. Here is why we see it all over the Scriptures—this connection between faith and humility (Eph 2:8-9; Rom 3:27; Matt 15:21-28; Rom 11:20; Rom 12:3; 1 Cor 4:7). And yet, sadly, though faith and humility ought always to be a package deal—and you truly can't have one without the other—too often, in our flesh, we attempt to sever that connection. We start to think that things done by faith, things truly done in the Spirit's power, have been done simply by us. We start to take credit for that which is truly God's.

(1) What I Deserve

Question #1: Does the Servant Deserve His Master's Service?—The disciples knew the answer to Jesus' question. The servant would not come in from the field and expect the master to serve him a meal. O no, serving his master food would also be part of his job. And only after the master has eaten will the servant eat, and, even then, they certainly would not be reclining at table together.

Question #2: Does the Servant Deserve His Master's Praise?—He wants us to serve and work for Him not just because it gets us some payoff, but because it is what we've been created and called by God to do. And that is enough.

Now the point of this parable is to move the disciples and us towards that confession that comes out in v. 10. Regardless of whatever work we do for God, whatever feats of faith we accomplish, whatever obedience we render, He wants us to have this humble self-understanding. I am an "unworthy servant."

(2) What I Receive

There is more to the story than what is right in front of us in this text. You see, if we read the gospels carefully, what we find is that all of these things Jesus here says a Master would never do for His servants are precisely the things He Himself is busy doing for us. So why all this talk about us being unworthy servants, not deserving His company, nor His service, nor His thanks, if He plans to give it to us anyways? What's He trying to accomplish here? Well, I think it's actually quite simple: He never wants us to lose sight of what we *truly deserve* so that we are always in awe of what we *actually receive*. What I deserve and what I receive are worlds apart. And the space in the middle is where awe and worship and joy can grow.

Reflection Questions



- Why should faith and humility be a "package deal"? Why can you not truly have one without the other? What Scriptures come to mind to support your understanding? How have you experienced this to be true in your own Christian life?
- On first read, be honest, how did you receive the words spoken by Jesus here? How did they land on you? How did you react to them? Why do you think?
- Why is what Jesus is saying to us here truly loving us well? Why is it important for us to know that we are "unworthy servants"? What shifts in our hearts and lives when we forget this? What changes when we remember and receive it? What would your week look like if you were living in this place of humility?