

Sermon Notes

**“WHEN  
THE SON  
OF MAN  
COMES”...**

**11-22-09**



**...“WILL HE  
FIND FAITH ON  
THE EARTH?”**



# Reflections

REFLECTIONS

***Faith: ...is the substance of things hoped for, the***

***evidence of things not seen. (Heb 11:1 NKJ)*** Jesus spoke of faith often in His teachings while He walked the highways and byways of earth. As He encountered the sick, the spiritually weak, and especially in addressing His disciples, He frequently commented either on their great faith or on their lack of faith. In His dealings with those whom He healed, He stated often: ***“your faith has made you well”*** or ***“your faith has saved you”*** or, when He calmed the sea and wind, He said to His disciples, ... ***“you of little faith”***. He always acknowledged faith in both Jew and Gentile and blessed them for their trust in Him.

It is explained, in the Bible, that we are saved by grace through faith, that the just shall live by faith, and that having faith in Christ allows us to be reconciled to the Father. In the book of Hebrews we learn of the faithful men and women who, through their faith in God, received a good report and testimony. Their lives exemplified their belief in God’s love for them and they believed God’s promises. They suffered and were even martyred for their uncompromising faith. Even when being assaulted by the enemy and persecuted for their faith in Jesus they did not waver or abandon their faith.

By contrast, when He visited His hometown of Nazareth, Mark records that He marveled at their unbelief and that He could do no mighty work there. ***Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. <sup>6</sup> And He marveled because of their unbelief. (Mark 6:5-6 NKJ)*** In His hometown He was not received in faith, rather, He was, by many, ridiculed instead. The people there clearly had no understanding of the One of whom they had spoken ill. James, in his epistle, steps into the subject when He says... ***If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup> But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup> he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. (James 1:5-8 NKJ)*** James gives us a correlation between our asking God for His wisdom and the faith with which we ask. He makes clear that to ask without faith or with doubt is to expect God to not respond to the request.

Volumes could be written concerning faith and how critical it is

in our spiritual lives and therefore our brief reflection on the importance of faith is certainly not comprehensive. However, Paul’s statement in Romans Chapter 1, that “the just shall live by faith” is a beautiful summary of the need for and the role of faith in our lives as disciples of Jesus. The writer of the book of Hebrews also captures faith’s importance in our walk with Christ when he declares... ***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. (Heb 11:6 NKJ)*** So then, faith first of all accepts the reality of God and that He cares for His children and responds to those who seek Him diligently. Faith becomes the means by which we live for Christ in obedience to His Word. Faith accepts His deity, sees His promises, embraces them, and then lives a life that confesses Him before men. ***(Heb. 11:13)*** In all of our life He must have preeminence and it is having faith in Him that acknowledges Him, in His glory, as our Savior and Lord.

When we pay attention to the writer of Hebrews as he shares a summary review of those who are examples of believers who walk by faith, we must consider our own faith-walk in our relationship with Jesus. ***They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented--<sup>38</sup> of whom the world was not worthy. (Heb 11:37-38 NKJ)*** How might the story read had it been our life that was being chronicled? Would our legacy be as powerful and profound as those given of these heroes of faith? Do we walk by faith each day? Do we actually have faith that our requests of God will be answered? When we pray for one another, do we pray in faith expecting God to hear and answer our prayers? How might we answer the Lord’s question? ***...when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8 NKJ)***

With the days of our lives passing swiftly, and with the Lord’s command to go and make disciples still echoing through history, we are compelled to face that question and others that will reveal the quality of our commitment to be one of the just who live by faith. Our faith must be founded on the redemptive realities concerning our Lord. First of all He has given us our salvation by His grace and it is to be received by the faith that He has also given us. He has called us to be renewed in the spirit of our mind and heart and has promised to never leave or forsake us and that He would hear and answer our prayers. He has declared us to be His workmanship created in Christ for good works in which we should walk, by faith, and then He gave the Holy Spirit to be with and in us to empower us as we walk by faith. **Pastor Doug**