

Sermon Notes from Greg Morrow 5-31-09

FAITH AND THE FIG TREE

Mark 11:12-14 , 20-22 The next morning as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. He noticed a fig tree in full leaf a little way off, so he went over to see if he could find any figs. But there were only leaves because it was too early in the season for fruit. Then Jesus said to the tree, "May no one ever eat your fruit again!" And the disciples heard him say it.

²⁰ The next morning as they passed by the fig tree he had cursed, the disciples noticed it had withered from the roots up. ²¹ Peter remembered what Jesus had said to the tree on the previous day and exclaimed, "Look, Rabbi! The fig tree you cursed has withered and died!" ²² Then Jesus said to the disciples, "Have faith in God. ²³ I tell you the truth, you can say to this mountain, 'May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and it will happen. But you must really believe it will happen and have no doubt in your heart.

JESUS IS TEACHING HIS DISCIPLES A LESSON ABOUT FAITH

TEACHER-DISCIPLE RELATIONSHIP WAS COMMON IN CULTURE

Different from student-teacher relationship today

JESUS PURPOSELY CHOSE A TREE WITHOUT FIGS

V 13 Wasn't the season for figs

Only negative miracle recorded in all four gospels

{Jesus went out of His way to teach His disciples}

Faith must have been important to Jesus

Not just living by faith, but understanding it and being able to teach how it works

By examining this account we also will be able to understand how faith works and be able to teach it.

Hebrews 5:12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

Every Christian should come to the place where they can teach God's Word.

Four things today.

#1 How faith and words work together

#2 How faith works before it's affects are seen

#3 How faith is being in agreement with God

#4 How faith is of the heart

#1 HOW FAITH AND WORDS WORK TOGETHER

· Jesus spoke to the fig tree

Important Jesus spoke to an object

I was talking to a guy about Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit. / that's just talking about how your words can affect others, no power in the words themselves in how they affect someone else [doesn't take and once of faith to believe that] Jesus spoke to an object.

Words have power in an of themselves

Account of creation = God spoke and it was

#2 FAITH CAN WORK BEFORE ITS AFFECTS ARE SEEN

Did the fig tree wither instantly?

Jesus was teaching His disciples to have faith regardless of what they see

V²⁰ "The next morning as they passed by the fig tree he had cursed, the disciples noticed it had withered from the roots up"

The moment Jesus spoke those words the fig tree began to die

Your job is to believe that God is working now

If you are believing God for your healing...

"Keep the switch of faith turned on"

If you are believing in the financial area believe that God is working behind the scenes now [God's not a counterfeiter...]

#3 FAITH IS BEING IN AGREEMENT WITH GOD

Faith is not ordering God around [someone said, "those faith people think they can order God around"

It's God ordering us around "Have faith in God"

Not a suggestion, or a good idea, or an option, it's a command.

Not having faith in God is just as much a sin as not walking in love, or robbing a bank.

Hebrews 3:12 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God

Romans 14:23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.

Really good news = means we can faith or God wouldn't have asked us

What would you say if someone said "I just can't stop stealing, every time I go into a store I've just got to take something"

Why should we react any different when someone says I just can't believe God?

To agree with God is to agree with His word.

What would I do if someone came up to me and said "I have faith that you're going to give me \$150"

If I said "I will meet you at Trails End @ 2:30..."

Find what God's will is and then we agree with it.

More than just agreeing with our minds

It's one thing to agree in your mind that you need to go on vacation...

Faith is acting on God's Word

When Jesus cursed the fig tree He did something.....

#4 FAITH IS OF THE HEART

Mark 11:23 "you must really believe it will happen and have no doubt in your heart. "
Another word for heart is spirit

1 Peter 3:4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price

With your eyes you see, with your ears you hear, and with your heart you believe

Some people are trying to have faith with their eyes "if I see it I'll believe it"

1 Corinthians 2:14 (New American Standard Bible)

¹⁴But a ^(A)natural man ^(B)does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are ^(C)foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

Abraham is a good example

Romans 4:19-21 (New American Standard Bible)

¹⁹Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now ^(A)as good as dead since ^(B)he was about a hundred years old, and ^(C)the deadness of Sarah's womb; ²⁰yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, ^(D)giving glory to God, ²¹and ^(E)being fully assured that ^(F)what God had promised, He was able also to perform.

When faced with a decision to believe what he saw with his eyes and what he had in his heart, Abraham chose what he had in his heart.

Why it is important to feed your spirit the Word of God.

Luke 6:45 "for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

You'll never have strong faith until you become a person of the Word

Why it's important to act on the Word

When Jesus gave them this lesson of the fig tree, He was expecting them to go out and do it.

They watched Him heal the sick and cast out demons then He sent them out to do the same. He expected the same in this area.

Conclusion

This account of Jesus cursing the fig tree has so that we like the disciples would be able live by faith, and teach other.