

Unit 4

# The Need for Faith

[Faith = Eyes and Ears to Receive Truth]

Week 9

Ch. 13

“He who has ears, let him hear.” 13:9,

**P**

*arables speaking to the heart to illustrate* \_\_\_\_\_

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- ✠ Eyes affect the heart which affects the ears...
    - if perspective is wrong, the heart becomes unbelieving
    - if the heart is hardened in unbelief, the ears will not listen to the Voice of truth

The **kingdom of heaven** is like...

## **Parable of the Sower**

- How far do we let the Word penetrate?
  - It must be food, which gets internalized in our bodies to the cellular level
- To what extent do we repent and remove that which inhibits our growth
- Revelation is selective...(13:10-17)

## **Parable of the Weeds**

- **Discussion:** When and how does the enemy plant? What is “sleeping” referring to?
- Matthew 25:1-13; Ephesians 5:14

## **Parable of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast**

- corruption starts with something small
- following the pattern set forth in the first 2 parables revealing the corruption that exists in our experience

## **Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl**

- the King is the One who has sold everything to buy the treasure of the pearl
- the pearl is the church (see Revelation 21:12)

## **Parable of the Net**

- the kingdom is here, repent
- the good, bad, and ugly are in the kingdom; at the end, distinction and judgment will be executed

**DISCUSSION:** What are Jesus’ primary teachings about the kingdom of heaven?

**Understanding will make us like the Owner of the House, the Master builder.(13:52)**

**“Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom.  
Though it cost all you have, get understanding.”**

**Proverbs 4:7 [*Jesus, the Son, obeyed this instruction.*]**

...and the understanding [of the kingdom] will lead us to live according to the will of the Father, building His kingdom and not some earthly one.

- † The Key of Revelation enables us to bring others into the kingdom.
- † What would Jesus use for His parables today?

**A Prophet without honor!**

- Without faith, the truth of the King’s identity will cause offense.

**Why do we need faith?**

Ch.14

John had served his Master’s purpose.

- God’s timeline is unquestionable!
- Jesus withdrew to grieve but it was cut short because of the need of the people.

**Compassion**

- For the sake of the people, He put aside His own grief

**Discussion:** what is the meaning of “compassion”?

**Feeding of the 5000**

- Using meager means, Jesus surpassed the needs of 5000 men and their families and the disciples’.
- From this miracle, who is Jesus? What is His identity?

**Why do we need faith?**

**Jesus walks on the water**

- Jesus stole away to be with the Father in prayer
- The disciples found themselves in the midst of strong winds against them.
- It was between 3 and 6 am, the latest part of the night hours
- Disciples were afraid because they did not **RECOGNIZE THE KING** – lack of faith!

**Recognition of the KING is absolutely essential and critical!!!**

- “Take courage, it is I. Don’t be afraid”
- After verbal revelation, He showed His power by calling Peter out.
- Winds (troubles and tribulations) are always around us. Looking at the wind and waves resulted in sinking. Crying out to His Lord, Jesus saved Him.

- Recognize the centrality of **LOOKING TO JESUS!**
- look back at 13:14 \_\_\_\_\_
- Men of Gennesaret **RECOGNIZED HIM**, and were healed!

# Why do we need faith?

## Faith is the conduit for Christ's power to heal us!

Faith enables us to see the King and ourselves clearly. Why do we need clear vision? Because God is the God of truth and reality, we cannot afford to live a lie or a delusion. The truth sets us free from the oppression and tyranny of temporal things that enslave. Please continue to think about the significance of eternal realities and why we need to see them.

Ch. 15

### What causes Cleanness and Uncleanness?

“Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don't wash their hands before they eat!”

- Pharisaical yoke: the letter of the law instead of the spirit of the law
- “I desire mercy, not sacrifice.”

***The King's response:*** “And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition?”

“Honor your father and mother.”

“These people honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me. They worship Me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.”

**Discussion:** What is the intent of the law? What does honor the Father?

### What causes Cleanness and Uncleanness?

“Listen and understand...what comes out of his mouth, which is what makes him unclean.”

- **vss. 16-20** that which comes out of the heart, evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what make a man ‘unclean’.

# Why do we need faith?

- We need faith to discern what is important to God. What is important to God brings healing and life!

# The Faith of the Canaanite Woman

- background? Canaan, Syro-phoenecian
- **saw** Jesus as the Messiah
- experiencing spiritual / physical oppression
- initially, Jesus didn't answer
- she kept crying after Him [clear evidence of faith]
- Jesus answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."
  - Who is Israel? see Romans 9:6-8
  - Jesus in going to the Jews first is being faithful to God's promises
  - need for faith...
- 2<sup>nd</sup> request: "Lord, help me!"
- Jesus replied, "...not right....to toss it to their dogs."
- **the great faith response:** "...even the dogs eat the crumbs...from their master's table."
- "Woman, you have **great faith!**"
- She demonstrated her cleanness. Her daughter was healed.
- **DISCUSSION:** What must we learn about faith?
  - contrast with the rich young ruler.

## Feeding of the 4000

- Jesus healing many, the lame, blind, crippled, mute.
- "I have compassion for these people...I do not want to send them away hungry or they may collapse on the way."
  - People didn't want to leave. Being healed, people did not want to leave His presence.
- After being healed, there must be feeding of the renewed.
- "Where are we going to get enough bread...?"
- The renewed / healed life must receive the **Supernaturally Multiplied FOOD** [ie. the Word of God].

## Ch.16

### Demand for a Sign

- only sign "sign of Jonah"
  - DISCUSS: Why only this sign?

### Beware of the Yeast of the Pharisees

- they are perverting the Word of God
- the yeast of the Pharisees blinded people from seeing the true Sign of God
- the pure Word of God desires mercy, not sacrifice
- the pure Word of God deals much more with intent than the "letter" of the law
- the pure Word of God intends to purify essence, reality and substance rather than forms, traditions, and rituals.
- The Word of God will die and rise; through faith in this Sign, truth will be revealed.

## Peter's Confession of the Christ

- “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”
- “Who do you say I am?”
- “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”
- “...on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”
- “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”
  - Whatever we bind ourselves to in this life is what we bind ourselves to in reality. What ever we loose ourselves from in this life is what we will be loosed from in heaven.
- “...not to tell...He was the Christ.”
  - **DISCUSS:** Why? A Lot was yet to come!

### **Jesus focuses on the Sign (vss.21-28)**

- the Sign = go to Jerusalem + much suffering + killed + raised
- the Sign is an offense to us
- any opposition to the Sign is of the enemy
- the Sign is the fulfillment of the entire Scriptures: law, sacrificial system, history, prophecies.
- The Sign is the culmination of the Things of God.
- The Sign is the Way to life’s glory. (John 14:6)

If we take our eyes off the Christ...

The enemy came and planted his seeds when the people were asleep (13:25).

How can we see the enemy if we take our eyes of the Truth?

God is speaking to the heart!

**What can we give** in exchange for our souls?

**The cost** to follow Christ is daily dying and receiving His identity (SIGN).

Ch.17

The Transfiguration: Who is Jesus REALLY?

The One who is testified to in the Law (Moses) and the Prophets (Elijah).

- He’s been authenticated, verified, and manifested.
- The One whom the Father reveals and proclaims.
- **\*\*\*\* As we increasingly know the Son as revealed in the Law and the Prophets, we will hear more and more clearly from the Father that Jesus is the Christ.**
- **When they looked up, they saw only Jesus. If we see Jesus, we’ll realize He’s all we need.**
- Our spirits will testify with His Spirit that He is Faithful and True.
- All that He did testified to Him being the fulfillment of the Law and Prophets.
- Don’t tell anyone that He is the Christ until after He has been raised from the dead. **Because you haven’t experienced the Sign (death and resurrection of the One), you won’t know what you’re talking about.**

### **Healing of a Boy with a Demon**

- Disciples did not have the power.
- “O unbelieving and perverse generation...”

- It's not about you (17:4). It's about the King, the transfigured One!
- Failure was due to the lack of faith.
- **- Faith** involves knowing the will of God the Father – proclamation of the His Son!
- **- Faith** is asking for freedom and cleansing in the person of the Son.
- **- Faith** involves decreasing focus on earthly self and increasing in the mind of Christ and understanding His death and resurrection.
- **- Faith** is not blind faith; it is knowledge and understanding into the fullness of the Son of the Living God.

#### Temple Tax:

In the world but not of it

# In the world but not of it

**the temple is not God's temple**

**since they are collecting duty and taxes from the Son of God**

- faith does not excuse us from certain rules and regulations of this world
- "What do you think...?"
- We must acquiesce to earthly authorities; this world's authority deals with money.
- Jesus is exposing the tax collection system with a distinction created by them collecting from Him. They were not of God's house because they were collecting from God's Son.
- We are not sons of the kings of this world, but since the King of kings was of the "others", we also are of the "others".

Discussion:

# ***faith***

**Once again, what is *faith* and why do need it? Galatians will expound the answer to greater depth but in a nutshell, consider this thought from Galatians 5:**

6For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. (Don't forget to define love using 1 Cor.13 giving equal weight to every attribute in vs.4-8)