

## LSR2, Session 3

### Intro

- Previous session
  - We grow primarily thru tests, trials & suffering
    - “This is going to be really good!”
  - We’re to grow spiritually, which includes developing character
  - God predestined each of us to *become* like Jesus; that’s your destiny
    - Jesus said each of us will *do what he did* & more; that’s also your destiny

### Character

- Primary topic today: faith
  - “faith” (Gk, *pistis*, n): (1) a state of certainty with regard to belief; (2) trust, belief with complete trust; (3) trustworthiness, state of complete dependability
  - Heb 11:1, “faith is being . . . certain of what we do not see.”
  - (Gk, *pistoo*, v): (1) to make faithful; (2) to be firmly persuaded
  - “faithful” (Gk, *pistos*, adj): (1) trusting; (2) trustworthy, reliable
  - Faith (n) causes us to act in faith (v), which makes us faithful (adj)
  - There’s no real distinction between having faith, acting in faith, being faithful
- Jas 2:22, 26 (speaking of Abraham), “You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. . . . As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.”
  - “made complete” (Gk, *teleioo*): (1) make perfect; (2) make genuine; (3) complete, finish, end, accomplish; (4) succeed fully; et al
- How to use your faith
  - Identify God’s objective/intent in the matter
  - Wait for assurance from God; peace or absolute conviction
  - Move forward as if the results will occur, or by speaking the results into existence
- Conclusion
  - Faith is a certainty about something you don’t see, which motivates you to act as if it does exist or has happened
  - Faith without action has no value; it’s dead

### Spiritual Development

- Last week: parables of mustard seed & yeast
- We must build up our spirits before we can begin experiencing

spiritual realm in greater way

- Our spiritual progress is governed by our spiritual development
- Mt 17:19-20, “<sup>19</sup> Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, ‘Why couldn’t we drive it out?’ <sup>20</sup> He replied, ‘Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.’”
  - Why couldn’t the disciples cast out the demon? (verse 20)
- NIV: “if you have faith as small as a mustard seed”
  - original text: “if you have faith *as* a mustard seed”
  - Rewording Mt 17:20 — “I tell you the truth, if you have faith like a mustard seed, that starts out tiny but grows, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”
- Ro 1:17, “The righteous will live by faith.”
  - Living by faith means faith governs everything we do
- Our faith grows
  - 2 Co 10:15, “Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our area of activity among you will greatly expand.”
  - 2 Th 1:3, “We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more.”
- Do you have faith?
- Spiritual principle: increase thru use
  - Heb 5:14, “But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”
  - Maturity, development & growth are results of *using what you have*
  - Small victories are as important as big ones because they allow you to learn
  - Key: humility; it’s not about you or your faith
  - You already have the faith you need; just make it stronger
- Activity, prayer in unison
  - “Father, I commit myself to building my faith. Help me learn to use it in ways that honor you and build a history of success that will help me grow stronger in faith. Amen.”
- Conclusion
  - Your faith grows as you use it and it should begin affecting everything you do

## Spiritual Experiences

- Examples of Jesus healing people
  - Mt 4:23, “Jesus went throughout Galilee . . . healing every disease and sickness among the people.”
  - Mt 4, people from Syria came & he healed them

- Mt 8, Jesus healed the centurion's servant long-distance, without even seeing him
- Mt 9, a woman touched the edge of Jesus' garment & was healed
- Mt 12, Jesus healed a man with a shriveled hand
- Mt 12:15, "he healed all their sick."
- Mt 14:14, "he had compassion on them and healed their sick."
- Mt 14:36, "all who touched him were healed."
- Mt 15:30, "Great crowds came to him . . . and he healed them."
- Mt 19:2, "Large crowds followed him, and he healed them there."
- Mt 21:14, "The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them."
- In Jesus' life and teaching about the kingdom, how significant was healing the sick?
  - Since he's our prototype, how significant should healing the sick be to us?
- Healing the sick
  - Gal 6:10, "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."
    - Does doing "good to all people" include healing them?
    - If so, what guidance does this verse provide regarding healing?
  - Eph 2:10, "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."
    - If healing someone is a "good work," what does this verse say about your opportunities to heal someone?
  - Eph 4:11-12, "It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up . . . ."
    - According to this verse, who in the church has the greatest responsibility for works of service, the leadership or the average believers?
    - How might the nature of our healing services change if we took this seriously?
  - Mk 16:17-18, "And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."
    - Those who "believe" (Gk, *pistoo*), the verb, to have or

- use or act in faith
  - Living in the spiritual realm requires being alert to what's happening, having compassion for people, knowing God's position on situations based on the Bible and hearing his voice, and knowing what God expects of you
  - We're to have servant mentality — we're here to serve God and people
  - Mk 12:29-31, love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength; and love your neighbor as yourself
  - Are we to use our faith to serve ourselves or others?
- If you were sick, how interested would you be in getting well? You need to have the same level of interest in healing others.
- Praying for the sick
  - Jas 5:14-15, "Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up."
  - Acts 28:8, "Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him."
    - How was prayer involved in this healing?
  - It's not wrong to pray for the sick; emphasis needs to be on healing them.
  - Do you personally have the ability to heal the sick?
  - Whether you pray for God to heal someone or speak healing in faith, whichever method you're comfortable with, just do it!
- What benefits are there to healing the sick?
- Activity
  - 1 Pet 1:13, "Therefore, prepare your minds for action"
- Did Jesus heal the sick? He's our prototype
- Conclusion
  - Because we have faith, we will heal the sick

## **Blessing**

- May you continue to grow your faith and become increasingly effective in God's kingdom.

## **Daily Activities**

- Prepare to journal, then ask Father one of the questions shown below. Record any thoughts, images, impressions or sensations you have.
  - "What kinds of 'good works' or 'works of service' have you prepared for me to do?"
  - "What would you say to me about healing the sick?"
  - "Why is it important to you that I heal the sick?"
  - "What should I do to prepare myself for healing the sick?"
  - "How will I know you want me to pray for someone's healing?"
- Ask God to give you opportunities to heal the sick.