

Scriptures for Sermon: Life Church Boston

Crystal Dixon; Sunday, November 11, 2012

Matt. 9:27-31...Do you REALLY believe I am able and willing?

Matthew 9:27-31 Jesus Heals the Blind and the Mute

²⁷ As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!”

²⁸ When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?”

“Yes, Lord,” they replied.

²⁹ Then he touched their eyes and said, “According to your faith let it be done to you”; ³⁰ and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, “See that no one knows about this.” ³¹ But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region.

James 2: 14-26 Faith and Deeds

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.”

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

²⁰ You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless^[d]? ²¹ Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. ²³ And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,”^[e] and he was called God’s friend. ²⁴ You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

²⁵ In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? ²⁶ As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

- Discussion Questions

1. The 5 things to put on your note card...
 - a. **Name an issue that is debilitating-that hinders you from having a quality life...** It might be sin, illness, job, business, load of things, etc. (being careful not to think of ourselves like Job's Friends).
 - b. **Identify what you want,** what you really really want! (Sorry Spice girls) Sometimes we suppress what we want. We sometimes lower our expectations as a coping mechanism so we won't feel disappointed or fail.
 - c. **What does Jesus say about this issue?** Their Bible was what they had heard about Jesus. (By the way... We are the main Bible many non-believers will hear before they are saved.)
 - d. **Do you believe what he says about this issue, about YOU?** Will he bring a plane back for you? Yes... but do you believe it? We act differently if we really believe it.
 - e. **Do your actions back up what you believe about this issue?** Do you feel worthy? Who are you? What mechanisms do you use for self-protection in situations?.
 - f. **The fellowship of the sick.** How was it easier to have someone else going through the same thing, connected by the same need, to persevere? Can you think of someone else who might help you in your striving for what you need?

Understanding The Bible

Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION (NIV)
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Here, for your convenience, are the Bible passages that we will be using in today's sermon at Life Church. We use the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible so that you can read it in modern English. You may have been accustomed to reading or hearing the King James Version of the Bible, which uses older English (with words like "thee" , "thou" , "thine" , "believeth" , etc.). If so, don't be alarmed - the passages below are really from the Bible even though they are in modern English.

The Bible was originally written in three ancient languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. None of the people in the Bible, and none of the people who God used to write it spoke English. In fact, English did not even exist as a language when the Bible was written. The King James Version, first published in 1611, was a translation of the Bible from it's original languages into the every day English that people used back then - almost 400 years ago! They didn't just speak that way in church - they spoke that way with everyone. English has certainly changed a lot since then! Since you probably don't speak Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek, you're going to have to read the Bible in translated form. **At Life Church we believe that since you're going to read an English translation of the Bible you might as well use an up to date one - written in the English you speak every day. God wants you to understand his Word so that you can put it into practice!**

Thank you for joining us! You can access our sermons and our other resources at our web site:

<http://www.lifechurchboston.org/>

God Bless You!!!

