

▼ **Focus, Faith, and Fulfillment - Part 2**

Rocklyn Clarke Sr. - Sunday February 18, 2018

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- **Read the Passage: Matthew 17:14-27**

▼ **Re-focus on the Kingdom. - How?**

▼ What kind of soil are you? - Matthew 13:1-23 (Parable of the Sower)

▼ The Path - (you don't understand the message)

- You need to hear it again and again. You need to ask questions.

▼ Rocky Soil (you have no root)

- What do you do when things get difficult? Do you talk to God about it?
- Take up your cross - Matthew 16:21-26

▼ Thorny Soil (you are preoccupied with other things)

- Hate father and mother - Luke 14:25-35
- You have fallen from your first love. - Revelation 2:1-7
- It's not about your comfort OR convenience!
- Kingdom work is not just for "other people" or "professionals".

▼ Good Soil (you bear much fruit)

- Commitment to prayer, the Word, fellowship, and outreach.
- Normal Christian Life - cell group; Welcome, Worship, Word, Works
- ▼ Are you meeting with Jesus daily? If you stop meeting with him how can you be a Jesus follower - someone who belongs to him?
  - Bread of Life - John 6:25-71
  - Have you learned how to get an answer from God?

▼ **Take Jesus' identity, authority, and mission seriously. - How?**

- A failure to fully grasp the implications of Jesus' identity and mission underlies both stories.

▼ Note Jesus' attitude:

▼ Disappointment with "Little faith"

- Matthew 6:30 - Little faith: Will God not much more clothe you?
- Matthew 8:23-27 - Little faith: Jesus calms the storm.
- Matthew 14:31 - Little faith: Jesus rescues Peter on the water.
- Matthew 16:8 - Little faith: Disciples' concern about no bread.

- Jesus' remarks about "little faith" reflected the disciples' failure to understand the full implications of his mission.
- ▼ Surprised by great faith:
  - Matthew 8:5-13 - The centurion's faith.
- ▼ Disappointment with stubbornness:
  - Matthew 11:20-24 - Jesus denounces cities that didn't repent.
  - ▶ Matthew 12:9-14; Mark 3:1-6 - Jesus heals man with shriveled hand.
- It is possible to take God's Kingdom seriously and yet not understand the full implications of Jesus' identity, authority, and mission.
- ▼ We need to reflect deeply on Jesus' mission and its implications.
  - The Big Picture - we go up the "ladder of abstraction" to see the big picture and then carry it with us in everything we do.
  - The Kingdom of God is near.
  - Jesus is the King. He's on the throne now. He got there via the cross.
  - It's about joining God in reclaiming this broken world, not heaven.
  - The Sermon on the Mount illustrates what Kingdom life looks like.
- ▼ **Take your mission seriously.**
  - God only has one church and that church has one mission: proclaiming the good news of God's Kingdom.
  - God is reclaiming our broken world through Jesus and his followers. We each need to be on point so that we can do our part.
  - ▶ Once you've decided to take Jesus' mission seriously, you have to take your own mission seriously! Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons, etc. - Matthew 9:35 - 10:16; Matthew 28:18-20
  - Our inability to perform is often related to a lack of faith which, in turn, often results from a failure to engage either with who Jesus really is, or what Jesus is really doing.
- ▼ **Do your job! Enjoy the adventure.**
  - We can't be spectators - we have to be "all in".
- ▼ **Discussion / Reflection Questions:**
  - Are you focused on the Kingdom? How so? If not, what will it take?
  - What is the message?
  - What does it mean for you to take Jesus' mission seriously?
  - What is your mission? What does it mean to take it seriously?