**Luke 5:17-20**

Text verse 20

**When He Saw Their Faith**

“And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man thy sins are forgiven thee.”

There are several things we learn from Scriptures concerning the gift of faith:

**First: God gives us the faith with which we believe him:**

**Hebrews 12:2** – “…Jesus the author and finisher of our faith …”

**Second: The men in our text were once men who had no faith:**

**II Thessalonians 3:1-2** – “… brethren, pray for us … that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: **for all men have not faith**.”

**Third: Faith is a gift of God:**

**Philippians 1:29** – “For **unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him**, but also to suffer for his sake;”

**II Peter 1:1** – “Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, **to them that have obtained like precious faith** …”

**Fourth: God strengthens our faith within us:**

There are times when true believers act as though they have no faith.

**Mark 4:36-40** (This is the account of our Lord asleep in the bottom of the ship in the middle of a storm)

**Verse 40** - “And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? **How is it that ye have no faith**?”

There are times when true believers act as though their faith is **little** compared to their circumstances:

**Luke 12:28** - “If God so clothe the grass, which is today in the field, and tomorrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O **ye of little faith**?”

Knowing ourselves to have **little faith** or to act as though we have **no faith** we are moved to pray like the disciples of old, “Lord, increase our faith!” - **Luke 17:5**.

**Fifth: Increased faith may become great faith.**

Our Lord testified of this concerning the Centurion who desired his servant to be healed - He said, **“I have not found so great faith, no not in Israel.”** - **Luke 7:9**.

He also spoke in **Matthew 15:28** to the Syrophenician woman whose daughter was vexed with a demon, “O woman, **great is thy faith** …”

**Our faith may be increased by a number of ways:**

**A. Our faith is increased and strengthened by the intercession of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

He told Peter in **Luke 22:32**, “**I have prayed** for thee, **that your faith fail not**:”

**B. Our faith is increased by perceiving the work of God in our midst.**

What were the events leading up to the account in our present text - **Luke 5:17-20**?

1. In **Matthew 4:23-24** our Lord went about preaching the gospel and healing all that were sick.

2. In **Matthew 8:1-4** our Lord cleansed the leper.

3. In **Matthew 8:5-10** the Centurion's servant was healed.

4. In **Matthew 8:14-16** Peter's mother-in-law and others were healed.

5. In **Matthew 8:28-34** the demoniac of Gadara was delivered.

6. In **Luke 4:31-37** and demon possessed man in the synagogue was delivered.

All these events lead up to the one in our text!

**Question**: Do you see God working in His churches and in His kingdom? Is the God you worship and serve actively working in this generation to accomplish His will?

**Sixth**: God, by His grace, moved (motivated) them to exercise their faith.

Paul in **Philippians 2:13** says, “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”

In our text in **Luke 5:17**, we learn, “And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: **and the power of the Lord was present** to heal them.”

**Matthew 28:18** – “…All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”

**Concerning our text**:

**A.** Jesus Christ is the only one who has the power to heal lost sinners! He is the only one who had power to take sin upon Himself (at Calvary) in order that sinners may be forgiven!

**Luke 5:20** -- “Man thy sins are forgiven thee.”

**B.** There are special times and places when the power of God is more present than at other times and places. There are times and places when Jesus Christ is engaged in healing sinners more than at other times and places.

It is our responsibility to seek our God to do what only He can do in our life and in our community. Is God working in your life? Is it possible that God will work where I live and work?

**C.** The manifest power of God - manifest grace of God - calls forth and encourages the faith within us to labor, and to serve the Lord more abundantly.

**I Corinthians 15:10** -- “But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but **I laboured more abundantly** than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”

**Note**: Paul connects the manifestation of the grace of God to laboring!

**D.** When faith is motivated to labor it is undaunted by whatever obstacles may be present.

**Question**: What obstacles did the men in our text face?

A. The bed-ridden man was impotent - **Luke 5:18**

B. The men who brought him could do nothing for him to heal him.

C. The crowd which surrounded the Lord Jesus kept the four servant of the Lord from easily getting the man in need close to Jesus - **Luke 5:19**

**Note**: It is often the crowd around Jesus which tend to hinder others from getting to Jesus.

Remember Peter walked on the water alone. The eleven in the ship were not Peter's encouragement to trust Jesus Christ when He said come to me and walk on the water.

Remember Blind Bartimaeus – the crowd tried to make him be quiet.

Remember the children being brought to the Lord Jesus Christ – the crowd tried to keep them away from Jesus.

**Note**: How often in Scriptures is there one person who can see things that other cannot see – and then does things that others could not do.

How often is there only one person to accomplishe something while others end up being a hindrance to him and the cause of God and Truth.

David with Goliath – Elijah on Mt. Carmel – Peter walking on water – The Syrophenician woman whose daughter was demon possessed – etc.

**Obstacles are removed by a faith which works!** True God given faith seeks a way to accomplish the desired end for the glory of God.

**Galatians 5:6** -- “faith **worketh** by love”

**I Thessalonians 1:3** -- “Remembering without ceasing **your work** of faith”

**I Corinthians 9:19-22** -- “that I might **by all means** save some”

**Hebrews 11:7** -- “By faith Noah ... **prepared** an ark”

**Hebrews 11:8** -- “By faith Abraham ...**went out** not knowing whither he went”

**Hebrews 11:11** -- Through faith also Sarah herself **received strength**”

**Hebrews 11:23-30** -- “By faith Moses ... refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter ... choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God ... esteeming the riches of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt ... he forsook Egypt ... he kept the Passover ... passed over the Red sea.”

**Hebrews 11:32-35** -- Others “who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, ... out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.”

**Seventh: God blessed and rewarded their faith: Luke 5:20**

**A.** Scripture indicates that God blesses the individual who exercises faith and believes Him:

**Luke 7:2 and 9** – “(2) And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die … (9) When Jesus heard these things, he marvelled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, **I have not found so great faith**, no, not in Israel.”

**Luke 8:43-44 and 48** – “(43) And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any, (44) Came behind him, and touched the border of his garment: and immediately her issue of blood stanched … (48) And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: **thy faith hath made thee whole**; go in peace.”

**Luke 17:12-15 and 19** – “(12) And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: (13) And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. (14) And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. (15) And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, … (19) And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: **thy faith hath made thee whole**.”

**B.** Our text indicates that God bestows blessings upon others through the faith of His servants:

**Luke 5:20** -- “And when he saw their faith ...”

The word **their** indicates that Jesus saw the faith of all five men - the one who needed forgiveness as well as the four who labored to bring him to the feet of Jesus.

Contrast - **Matthew 13:58** – “And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.”

And - **Psalm 81:10-11** – “(10) I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it. (11) **But my people would not hearken to my voice**; and Israel would none of me.”

**Note**: We cannot believe on behalf of sinners (that is in their place). They must call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ out of their own hearts.

**Romans 10:10 and 13** - “(10) For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation … (13) For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

But we can trust (call upon - stand before) God for them (to pray for them) when they will not or cannot.

**Consider these biblical examples of what our text teaches**:

Abraham before the Lord for Lot and the elect in Sodom and Gomorrah – **Genesis 18:23** – “And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?”

Moses before the Lord for Israel while on Mount Sinai - **Psalm 106:23** – “Therefore he said that he would destroy them, **had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, to turn away his wrath**, lest he should destroy them.”

Parents before God for their children -- Wives before the Lord for their unconverted husbands -- Christians before the Lord for sinners.

**Last**: **Luke 5:20** -- “And when he saw their faith ...”

When the Lord Jesus Christ sees the faith of the four – He also sees the faith of the fifth man – the one that was being brought.

Jesus said to the sinner, “… Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.”

When Jesus Christ forgives a sinner it is because the sinner has repented of his sins and called upon the Lord Jesus Christ for that forgiveness.

**Acts 10:43** – “To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.”