

Study Guide for May 18th, 2003. Distinguishing Marks of a Disciple: Luke 17:5-6: FAITH.

Introduction: Describe someone you've encountered who had **a little faith**. (As opposed to someone you've encountered who had **great** faith.) How are both examples helpful for you?

I. The REQUEST:

- A. What do the apostles request of the Lord? What does this request imply that they already have?
- B. Read Mark 9:14-29. How is the father's request similar or different from that of the apostles?
- C. How have you seen God **strengthen** or **increase** your faith? What has helped? What hindered?
- D. Complete this sentence, "The evidence of **increased faith** in my life would be . . .

II. The REPLY:

- A. Jesus responds that the issue is not the _____ of faith, but whether or not it is _____ faith.
- B. Summarize the context and teaching Jesus makes about faith in the following passages
 - 1) Matt. 17:20-21:
 - 2) Matt. 21:21-22:
 - 3) Mark 11:20-24:
- C. So what does Jesus mean when he uses the idiom, "faith as small as a mustard seed?"
- D. Comment on the following statement, "It is the total absence of faith that prevents results. A little trust can produce surprising results." When have you seen this to be true in your life?

III. The RESULTS:

- A. The mulberry tree had a vast root system that enabled it to live up to hundreds of years. Uprooting and replanting such a tree in the sea pictures faith's ability to accomplish incredible things. How have you witnessed God at working "doing the impossible"?
- B. Heb. 11:1 reads, "Now **faith** is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." How do you sense God wants you to trust Him more? How would you like to see God increase your faith?

IV. FAITH in Perspective: How would you describe the relationship between FAITH and . . .

- A. . . . Presumption. (see Psalm 91:11-13 & Matt. 4:5-7)
- B. . . . Doubting. (see James 1:2-8 & Matt. 6:24)
- C. . . . Love. (see I Cor. 13:2, 13)