Real Faith Faces Doubt

Joshua Creel · Luke 7:18–23 · Series: **Real Faith Does That**

INTRODUCTION

- This morning I want to talk about how real faith faces doubt.
- We sometimes call this passage faith's hall of fame.
- But then sometimes we might look at Hebrews 11 and think, that's not me. We look at them as real heroes, and oftentimes when we think of heroes, we fictionalize them.

1 People of Great Faith Face Doubts

Hebrews 11:11–12; Romans 4:18–21; Genesis 17

- We need to understand that people of great faith face doubts. And they always have.
- By faith even Sarah herself received the ability to conceive even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered him faithful.
- And yet, what do we know from the Genesis record? Both of Abraham and Sarah. At different times, they laughed.
- And yet the Hebrew writer still says, by faith, they were able to do it.
- When it says endurance, that implies the idea that faith is going to have some obstacles in the way.

2 John's Doubt: Unmet Expectations

Luke 7:18–19; Luke 3:15–17; Luke 3:18–20

- Summoning two of his disciples, John sent them to the Lord, saying, Are you the expected one? Or do we look for someone else?
- Here is John, a man of great faith, a man who knew the work that he was called to do, and knew who Jesus was. But now he's in prison.
- There's the idea of grace in Jesus' life in his ministry, but there's also the idea of judgment, the judgment that he would bring about.
- John has a doubt here. Because Jesus is not meeting what John had expected at that time.
- For most of us, the doubts that we have are about unmet expectations that we have of who Jesus is.
- We're not trying to say we ought to look for doubt. We're just being realist and saying sometimes doubts occur.

3 Go to the Right Place for Answers

Luke 7:21–22; Luke 14:26–27; John 11:21–26

- He sends them to the Lord. Go and ask him if he's the expected one or if we are to look for another.
- Be careful who you ask to explain Jesus to you. Because oftentimes they're not going to help you with those doubts, they're just going to fuel those doubts.

- Go and report to John what you've seen and heard. The blind receive sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.
- Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.
- Being a disciple of Christ is not mean the absence of tragedy, but having the hope to face any tragedy.
- Being his disciple does not mean that we never face spiritual struggles. What it means is we get to face those with him at our side.

4 Either Real Faith Faces Its Doubts, or Real Faith Dies

Luke 7:23; John 6:15

- Jesus concluded his conversation with John's disciples by saying in Luke 7 and verse 23 Blessed is he who does not take offense at me.
- They're offended. You're not what we were expecting. And you're not giving us the answers that we want, so we just won't follow you anymore.
- He's not offended. He let Jesus explain who he is to him.
- Real faith isn't devoid of doubt. Real faith faces those doubts.
- When faith becomes offended, well, then it ceases to be faith. It ceases to follow.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Have faith in him. Let him explain who he is, what it means to follow him. You're going to have doubts, you're going to have struggles, but you can face them if you'll follow him.**

MY NOTES