Real Faith Faces Doubts

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

INTRODUCTION

- I want to talk about how real faith faces doubt.
- Hebrews 11 is a wonderful text. 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.

1 People of Great Faith Face Doubts

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

- 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 who had promised.
- Both Abraham and Sarah. At different times, they laughed.
- When it says endurance, that implies the idea that faith is going to have some obstacles in the way.

2 John the Baptist Has a Doubt

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.
- John has a doubt here. Because Jesus is not meeting what John had expected at that time.

3 Doubts About Unmet Expectations of Who Jesus Is

- For most of us, the doubts that we have are about unmet expectations that we have of who Jesus is.
- Why am I not further along? And why am I not experiencing some of the things that I think God wants for me?
- Maybe there's been a great tragedy in our lives. And the temptation for any of us would be why would God allow this to happen?

4 Go to the Right Place for Answers

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

- We need to go to the right place for answers.
- 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 have seen and heard. The blind receive sight. The lame walk. The lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear.
- I'm doing exactly what God sent me to do. Judgment will come. It'll be later, but I'm doing right now exactly what God has sent me to do.
- Being a disciple of Christ does 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.

5 Real Faith Faces Its Doubts, or Real Faith Dies

Luke 7:23; John 6:15

- Either real faith faces its doubts, or real faith dies.
- Blessed is he who does not take offense at me.
- There were a lot of people in Jesus' life who had some belief in him. But they also had misguided expectations.
- He continued faithfully to the end. He never renounces God, he never renounces Christ.
- When faith becomes offended, well, then it ceases to follow. And then we die.

THE CHALLENGE

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