

SPRING QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2016

THEME: FORSAKING ALL I TRUST HIM...THE FAITH STORY UNIT ONE – “TESTS OF FAITH”

“FAILING FAITH’S SIMPLE TEST”



Sunday School Lesson No. II – March 13, 2016 Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III, Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: Mark 10:17-31

Required Reading: Matthew 19:16-30; Mark 10:17-31; Luke 18:18-30

Motto Text: Mark 10:27, *“And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.”*

Reliable Resources: What the Bible Teaches by R. A. Torrey; New Pilgrim Edition Study Bible; Easton’s Illustrated Dictionary; Word Search 10 Electronic Library; Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Wilmington’s Bible Handbook; Standard Lesson Commentary; Precepts for Living (UMI Publishing)

INTRODUCTION

We enter the second edition of the Spring Quarter of the Sunday School series entitled, Forsaking All I Trust Him...The Faith Story. We are studying how faith is involved at every level of the believer’s life. *“Without faith it is impossible to please (God).”*

In the previous lesson we discovered that according to Romans 12:3, *“God has given to every one a measure of faith.”* Dr. R. A. Torrey declared: “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen, rests in God’s Word.” Easton’s Illustrated Dictionary states: “Faith is in general the persuasion of the mind that a certain statement is true (Phil. 1:27; II Thess. 2:13). Its primary idea is trust.” And remember the object of one’s trust insures the legitimacy of their faith.

This week the faith story focuses on a young Jewish leader and his desire to have eternal life. The scripture tells us in the synoptic gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke the perils of misunderstanding this man and how he truly missed the mark in his interpretation of who Jesus Christ really was, and the simple message of FAITH!

Anticipated Power Points. The young lawyer failed faith’s simple test by misunderstanding:

- **The Depth of Simple Faith.** Mark 10:17-20
- **The Devotion of Simple Faith.** Mark 10:21-22
- **The Direction of Simple Faith.** Mark 10:23-27
- **The Dividends of Simple Faith.** Mark 10:28-31

The setting from H. L. Wilmington’s Bible Handbook: “So close and yet so far. When a rich young ruler asked Jesus how he could earn salvation, Jesus told him, but his great possessions kept him from responding (10:17-22). Jesus used the sad incident as an object lesson for His disciples: Wealth can keep you from seeing your need for God (10:23-27). However, both present blessings and eternal life belong to those who forsake all for Christ (10:28-31). Remember beloved, faith simply means, **“Forsaking All I Trust Him.”**

LESSON OUTLINE

I. The Depth of Simple Faith. Mark 10:17-20

As Jesus traveled, working His way to the Cross, He is confronted by a seemingly sincere but shallow thinking Jewish rich leader. Certain things we learn of him:

“His view of Christ.” It was shallow. “He was ignorant of God’s way of salvation. When he asked, ‘What shall I do?’ he implied that man must do something before he can be a possessor of eternal life. Eternal life is a gift; we do not earn it or work for it. We receive it as a gift from God (Jn. 3:16, Rom. 6:23.”

Jesus was interested in why the man called Him “*Good*”, because the Jewish leaders only attributed the word *Good* to the Person of God. If Jesus is good, and He is, then did the ruler mean to call Jesus God? Jesus puts the man to the test as He refers back to the horizontal Laws of the Ten Commandments, and the response of the lawyer was truly shallow indeed. These commandments demonstrate the seriousness of the Law as it relates from man to man. “*Love your neighbor as yourself.*” (Read the laws in Exodus 20:12-16; Deuteronomy 5:16-20). The man lacked depth in his faith towards God. (Read Luke 10:25-37). The Law could be summarized in Deuteronomy 6:5, “*And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.*” Also in Leviticus 19:18, “*Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.*” The lawyer took sin with a light understanding as it relates to others and God!

II. The Devotion of Simple Faith. Mark 10:21-22

Jesus now goes to the root of this man’s faith and commands him to get rid of his stuff and totally by faith put his total trust in Him. But the record shows he refused and left very sad! His view of salvation was based on the Jewish tradition: Much stuff meant that one had favor with God. It was called “Deuteronomic Theology,” heavily based on Deuteronomy 28:12-14. This passage was severely misunderstood by Israel and its leaders. This man overlooked and suffered from his own covetousness! I Timothy 6:10, “*For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*”

III. The Direction of Simple Faith. Mark 10:23-27

What is the direction of simple faith? Jesus begins to explain. It is the opposite of covetousness! “Jesus taught His disciples about the difficulty that people with material abundance had in becoming members of God’s Kingdom. When the disciples heard Jesus’ words, they were amazed.” (Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator). Jesus’ picturesque illustration summarizes the direction of simple faith. It is opposite that of the world in an extreme way. According to verse 25, some theologians have described using the Jewish history of a small gate in a city wall called the needle. A camel could enter unpacked, on his knees. But I believe Jesus was teaching a greater hyperbole. In verse 25, Jesus’ exaggeration lends itself to a sewing needle. It is totally impossible to enter the Kingdom of heaven except in the direction of total surrender to God. “*Nothing in my hands I bring, simply to the Cross I cling.*”

IV. The Dividends of Simple Faith. Mark 10:28-31

With the disciples’ mouths open in wonder and amazement, Peter speaks and Jesus responds conclusively. Salvation is not earned! “*Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost.*” Titus 3:5. Wilmington concludes this lesson this way:

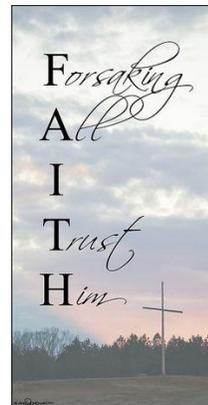
“The assurance (10:27-31)

1. He assures them in regard to redemption (10:27). With God all things are possible.
2. He assures them in regard to rewards (10:28-31): All who follow Jesus will be amply rewarded!”

CLOSING

This lesson by Jesus continues to remind us and the disciples, Jesus’ focus is on the Cross and resurrection to secure our salvation (Mark 10:32-34). Thank God He supremely passed God’s simple test of faith!

**Bibleway Missionary Baptist Church, New Orleans, LA
and Little Bethel Baptist Church, Amite, LA**
Mailing Address: Post Office Box 19768, New Orleans, LA 70179-0768
Phone: (504) 486-7876 Email: bible32@bellsouth.net
Website: www.thestudyhour.com
TV Broadcast: WHNO TV-Channel 20, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.



Looking Ahead: March 20, 2016 Mark 14:26-31, 66-72

Please join us each Wednesday at noon at Bibleway where you can ask questions and make comments as Pastor Davis teaches the weekly Sunday School Lesson. All are welcome!