

Bible Study for Sunday October 20, 2019

Our texts are:

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Luke 17:5-10

Opening Question:

Have you ever asked God for more of something? What was it? Did you really need more or did you need to trust what you already had?

Read 2 Timothy 1:1-14

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, 2 To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. 3 I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. 4 Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. 5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. 6 For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; 7 for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

8 Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, 9 who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, 10 but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. 11 For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, [a] 12 and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. [b] 13 Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 14 Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

What does vs 6 & 7 mean to you?

What are the differences or similarities between timidity and low self-esteem?

What might it mean for us to have a “spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline?”

What gift has God given you that you might need to rekindle? How can you rekindle it?

Luke 17:5-10 ⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” ⁶ The Lord replied, “If you had faith the size of a ^[a] mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

⁷ “Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, ‘Come here at once and take your place at the table’? ⁸ Would you not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink’? ⁹ Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? ¹⁰ So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, ‘We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!’”

What doesn't make sense to you in this story?

Read what came just before this passage (Luke 17:1-4). What was going on? And why might that have caused the disciples to ask for more faith?

Why do you think the disciples think they need more faith in response to Jesus' words on forgiveness?

In what way is the parable connected to the disciple's request to have their faith increased?

Have any of you, because of your faith, had a tree uprooted and thrown into the sea? Certainly this is possible if Jesus says it is. Even if we do have faith in our great God, does it mean we will be able just do anything? What are the kinds of things that we can do with our small faith in a great God?

Tom Wright declares, “Finally, the shocking lesson that all we do, even the hard work we do for God, never for a moment puts God in our debt.” (Wright, 204). Have you ever felt like God owes you anything for the way you have faithfully lived your life?

How differently would we live if we lived as if God didn't owe us anything? How differently would we live if we believed that other people don't owe us anything?

How would you counsel a believer who excused his/her unwillingness to do something by saying, “I just don't have the faith to do it”?

Does the master thank the servant for doing his/her duty? At work, do you get thanked for doing what you are expected to do? What is it that Jesus is pointing out in verse 10? Should we expect some great reward for doing what we have been commanded? The Pharisees thought that if they lived a righteous life God owed them good things. In contrast, what is the point that Jesus is making? How does this serve as a course correction to the disciples? To us? How does this address what our true motivation is supposed to be in serving Christ?