

Ridin' High Cowboy Church

Union Valley, TX

Pastor: Steve Bishop

March 6, 2016 – Perfect Faith

Imagine if you had perfect faith. What would it look like if in the midst of tragedy (death, sickness, tragedy) you could say, “God, I know you’re in control” and you could just rest in that.

What amazes Jesus? FAITH Matthew 8:5-10 Jesus healing the centurion’s servant, the centurion said that when he tells his men to do something, they do it. I don’t even have to be there, so just like I am in control of these men, Jesus you are in charge of sickness and death. Just say it Jesus, and it will be done.

Matthew 8:10 ***When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, “Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.***

This passage is one of two times Jesus was amazed. The other time was at a lack of faith.

The next verses talk about something that grows your faith.

Proverbs 24

30 ***went past the field of a sluggard,*** (not many people had a field to use to make money. This guy had all the opportunity in the world but he lacked the initiative to work it. He was LAZY ***past the vineyard of someone who has no sense;*** the bible says he was crazy for not taking advantage of this

31 ***thorns had come up everywhere,*** ground that was perfect for growing grapes was only growing thorn bushes ***the ground was covered with weeds,*** undesirable things had crept in, they were always there ***and the stone wall was in ruins.*** There was no protection from animals eating the fruit that could be grown there.

32 ***I applied my heart to what I observed and learned a lesson from what I saw;***

33 ***A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest –***

34 ***and poverty will come on you like a thief*** (it happens fast, a what just happened moment) I was just right here.

And scarcity (you had it, now you WANT it back) ***like an armed man.***

Jesus focuses on Application not information

This passage follows the sermon on the mount. This sermon was about what to do not just what to believe. Jesus knew that just knowing things won't make a difference. It's what you do that makes a difference.

Matthew 7 uses an analogy of a house being your life.

Matthew 7:24-29

24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

If you hear these things and do them ... Jesus did not want the people to think just hearing him would make their life better.

You can't just hear it, you have to do it.

We think attendance will make a difference. Being a consistent attender has almost no value – you know this, that's why some of you quit going to church at some point.

Obedience makes the difference – when someone explains or shows you what to do, it makes all the difference – not just to get God's favor, just to see him work...

Obedience is an act of faith – trust

25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. Foundation on rock.. they did the right thing not just knew about construction ... that's what it means to obey, not just stacking up information in order for God to show up in visible ways you have to trust God enough to do what he says.

26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

Everyone wants their life to still be standing when the storms of life blow...

28 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, 29 because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

The teachers of Jesus' day taught just for information. It was just knowledge. Jesus taught for knowledge and application. When he was finished, they wanted to go out and DO what he said.

When you do what a person says, that's an expression of confidence in that person, or FAITH.

When your faith intersects with God's faithfulness, God comes alive in your life.

The Bible is not calm and quiet ... it's disturbing and upsetting. When you read the Bible you have to wrestle with some things, you will feel uncomfortable at times...you may even feel ashamed. There is nothing wrong with feelings ashamed.

In the Book of Acts, every time Paul preached he caused a riot, or got hit with rocks or was arrested!