

Matthew 9:18-31: Faith is Foolishness

1 Corinthians 1:18-21 ¹⁸ For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And the cleverness of the clever I will set aside." ²⁰ Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to* know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

The wisdom of the world will leave us relentlessly knocking- but never entering- the gates of eternal life. All who are being saved must be granted the keys of God's wisdom to enter through that sacred door.

The destruction of cleverness and the wisdom of the wise means God is exposing the futility of all "reasonable" arguments against His supernatural power, which is manifest through faith.

Faith is the key to eternal life, and it means accepting FOOLISH IMPOSSIBILITIES as FACTS from the past, as well as REAL POSSIBILITIES AND CERTAINTIES for the present and future.

Do I believe? The Bible is 100% true as a history, the most faithful guide for life, and accurate in its prophecy?

Matthew 9:18-31 ¹⁸ While He was saying these things to them, a *synagogue* official came and bowed down before Him, and said, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay Your hand on her, and she will live." ¹⁹ Jesus got up and *began* to follow him, and so *did* His disciples.

This official has come to Jesus in a different state of faith than anyone has before: He is facing life's great certainty-death- while also trusting with certainty that Jesus WILL DO for his daughter was Jesus has never done before.

Jesus says nothing, but simply gets up and follows Him; His disciples go with Him, following Him into uncharted territory.

²⁰ And a woman who had been suffering from a hemorrhage for twelve years, came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His cloak; ²¹ for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch His garment, I will get well." ²² But Jesus turning and seeing her said, "Daughter, take courage; your faith has made you well." At once the woman was made well.

As they are going along, a woman approaches Jesus in faith unlike anyone has heard of: she has exhausted all financial and medical resources to no avail, so she draws the most ILLOGICAL CONCLUSION:

Jesus does not have to touch her, pray, speak, or do ANYTHING; if she can just touch his CLOTHING, she KNOWS she will be healed- and faith did not disappoint!

Notice all the things that DID disappoint...

²³ When Jesus came into the official's house, and saw the flute-players and the crowd in noisy disorder, ²⁴ He said, "Leave; for the girl has not died, but is asleep." And they *began* laughing at Him. ²⁵ But when the crowd had been sent out, He entered and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. ²⁶ This news spread throughout all that land.

This official was rewarded according to his irrational, child-like, God-pleasing faith.

Here is a caution and an encouragement for all of us in regard to faith; Notice who Jesus removed from the room and who was allowed to stay.

(Crowd out, father, mother, and his own companions allowed to stay)

The caution is this: if we scoff at the power of God, real faith, and the miraculous, we will never witness it.

This actually explains much of the resistance to the Holy Spirit we see in the church today.

Here is the encouragement: If we will abide with Jesus, especially in the face of never-before-seen impossibilities, we will behold the Glory of God!

Jesus is not done yet...

²⁷ As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" ²⁸ When He entered the house, the blind men came up to Him, and Jesus *said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They *said to Him, "Yes, Lord." ²⁹ Then He touched their eyes, saying, "It shall be done to you according to your faith."

Here is the real test of faith: How large is the gap between what we SAY we believe and what we ACTUALLY believe?

Jesus told these blind men, who had both confessed belief in Him, that the truth was about to be revealed.

Could we stand such a heart revealer as this?

³⁰ And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them: "See that no one knows *about this!*" ³¹ But they went out and spread the news about Him throughout all that land.

What about you? Are you still trying to take to old road of rationalism, moralism, and skepticism and hoping that it will somehow lead you into a vibrant spiritual life?

Take the new road of faith! Enter through the low door of humility and simple, child-like trust. You will see wonders and you will spread the news of Jesus!