



The Shepherd's Voice

October 1, 2013

By Fr. Joe Rees

'Increasing Our Faith!'

"And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you." Luke 17: 6

The disciples were asking Jesus to 'increase their faith' and He made this response. Now a mustard seed is one of the smallest seeds, maybe half the size of the 's' printed in 'seed'. And yet, it has the power loaded within it to produce life and grows into one of the larger bushes. This passage is repeated in Matthew 13:31 and there He says it grows to be able to have the 'birds of the air nest in its branches'. In Mark 4:30 He uses this analogy to represent the Kingdom of God and its expansiveness. The 'sower' casts the 'seed' into his field. God is placing 'seed' or progeny (us) into the world and purposes that we grow to fill His Kingdom.

This is symbolic for the spreading of the Gospel among those who have neither heard the testimony of Jesus or those who are in rebellion against Jesus. His Body, the Church, is always receiving new members of Christ with converts to the faith as well as transformed people under the truth of the Gospel becoming disciples. The Lord, the 'Sower' is always hoping that the 'seed' He plants will bring forth a harvest of saints to be full members of the Kingdom worshipping and serving the Lord Jesus Christ who saves them. We too are sowers of Christ to the world around us. We offer ourselves to the Lord to proclaim Him to others. We are His instruments to bring the Word of Truth to the people in our neighborhoods, and amongst our acquaintances. The Lord is saying that this aspect of casting the Gospel is what increases our faith!

It takes a larger, more emboldened faith, to trust in Jesus Christ to bring His Spirit into another person's life that we know. When we ask the Lord to "increase our faith", He doesn't just fill our spiritual gas tanks for our pleasure or comfort. He places His Spirit inside ours to inspire us to trust in Him, and to launch out into the un-known with a message that is meant for the heart-strings of each person with whom we make contact for God. We are His living agents in the world. That's why we are endeavoring to reach out with the Gospel through the 'My Hope America' program. We want to have our "Matthews" trained and ready to go to invite folks to their homes to offer the Gospel by the video and then pray with the people.

Increasing our faith happens when we serve God in His ways and for His Kingdom. We have many opportunities each day to "pray for someone in need". This morning as I was picking up our stolen trailer at the impound yard (the police recovered it!) I met Bill who came with his truck to hitch the trailer. He had a friend with him, Pablo, who was just at Zion Hospital in SD through the night to have an open surgical site stitched up. Bill had taken him to the hospital from Oceanside at 9:45pm the night before and stayed with Pablo until 4am! Pablo has cancer and in late stages it has put pressure on his lungs. The drainage was necessary so Pablo could breathe! Bill picked up Pablo at 8:30am, after just two hours of sleep, at Zion and came over to the towing yard to get our trailer. Clearly, Bill is God's agent for Pablo!

We hooked up the trailer and it worked well. We paid the fee (\$395) and towed it back to safety. But, while I was there I met Pablo for the first time who was weak and sitting in the

front seat of Bill's truck. The Holy Spirit said to me, "Pray for him." I asked if I could and he said yes for he didn't know how much longer he would live! So, standing next to the truck window I anointed him with holy oil and prayed the prayer for Jesus to strengthen him and bring him into the Lord's loving arms. Pablo's eyes released a flood of tears. He said he believed in Jesus and was not afraid of dying. He knows he will be released from his body of disease and given eternal life in heaven. I prayed for the Lord's blessing and strength for his journey ahead. But, in driving back to the church, I asked the Lord for deeper faith to know that "Lord, if You want to YOU could heal Pablo." It was my 'Mustard Seed Prayer'! I lifted that prayer as well as I could. And I submitted it to the Lord to do as He wills.

Had my faith been deeper, I may have prayed for Pablo to be absolutely healed of the cancer, in his hearing. He said the doctors gave him no hope. However, I was there to give him hope in the Name of Jesus. I prayed and anointed in hope for His journey home to be with the Lord, true, but... "**Lord, increase my faith** right now to know that You can choose to heal Pablo who is still vital in his body and not too old. Lord, I pray for that

miracle of healing and curing Pablo of this cancer. Thank you Lord Jesus. Send Your Holy Spirit into His heart, mind, soul, and body I pray this very moment and for each person that reads this prayer to You Lord, that they also may be increasing in faith and strengthened to do Your will. Lord, heavenly Father, have mercy on Pablo, a faithful one of Your creation. Increase our faith Lord, to know that even if we are imperfect in our prayers, You will know the fullest intent of them and make them right before Your throne. Jesus be glorified in Your servants who by Your grace are always increasing in faith, each and every day!"

If you want to "Increase Your Faith" you may try praying with me earnestly for Pablo and all who might be in your circle of contacts. Also, I pray that you will come to the Kingdom Conference to increase your faith, Oct. 11-12th. Please take the necessary steps to be there to increase your faith!

Faithfully submitting myself to Christ...

And with His Love for all of you,
Fr. Joe

Sunday Servers this week...

| October 6, 2013 | Proper 22 | 8:30 a.m. Service | 10:15 a.m. Service |
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| First Reader | Isaiah 5:1-7 | Jean Hawk | Ann Fox |
| Psalm Reader | Psalm 37:1-11 | Linnie Phelps | Jim Livingston |
| Second Reader | 2 Timothy 1:6-14 | David Green | Alex Teixeira |
| Intercessor | | Bill Laitinen | Frances Slaughter |
| Lay Euch. Ministers | | Dick Phelps, Judy Gillease | Jani Dubski, Carolyn Blumberg |
| Acolytes | | Bill Laitinen | Frances S (C); Kalani C (T1); Zachary J (T2) |
| Welcomers | | Paula Sholly | Bill & Judi Collins, Paula Sholly |
| Ushers | | Dick Sholly, Chris Corey | Jim Livingston, JR Fox, April Knowles |
| Vestry Person of Day | William Culbreth | | |
| Healing Ministers | | Jan Simon, Jane Rost | Kari Campbell, Connie Fowle |
| Announcer | | Chris Corey | Jani Dubski |
| Counters | | | Cline Handy & Michael Murphy |

Sunday at Grace

7:30 a.m. Spoken Service
8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Choir
9:45 a.m. Coffee and fellowship
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Praise Team
10:30 a.m. Food & Fellowship

Weekly – There are over 25 small groups meeting during the week. Check our newsletter for a list of all the groups or you can find the list on our website: www.graceanglicanchurch.com.

Readings for Sunday

Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 37:1-11
2 Timothy 1:6-14
Luke 17:5-10

We are using the English Standard Version of the Bible and the Lectionary from the Book of Common Prayer (Year C)

This Week at Grace – October 1 – October 8, 2013

Tues. October 1

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study at Grace
4:30 p.m. Healing Prayer & Eucharist at CHC
7:00 p.m. Colossians teaching – Fr. Richard

Wed. October 2

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & Eucharist at Grace
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thurs. October 3

7:00 a.m. Bible Study
11:30 a.m. Healing Eucharist at CHC
7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal

Fri. October 4

Fr. Joe's Day Off
6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer & Healing

Sat. October 5

8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
10:00 a.m. Worship Team rehearsal
1-5 p.m. God in Action Team meets
2:00 p.m. Kingdom Conference Praise Team Practice at Grace

Sun. October 6

(20th Sunday after Pentecost)

7:30 a.m. Spoken Service
8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist with choir
9:45 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
10:00 a.m. Nursery opens
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Praise Team

Mon. October 7

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer
6:30 p.m. Youth Group

Tues. October 8

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Healing Prayer & Eucharist at CHC
7:00 p.m. Colossians Study

You can still register for the Kingdom Conference!

October 11 & 12 at Carlsbad Community Church in Carlsbad

Join your fellow Anglicans in this celebration of Ministries that Work.

Archbishop Robert Duncan will be the main speaker.

(This will be his last trip to the Western United States while he is still Archbishop.)

There will be lots of interesting and informative sharing sessions

Register today at

www.westernanglicans.org

Celebrate with your fellow Anglicans!

Up-coming events

Oct. 9 Soaking Prayer
Oct. 11 Kingdom Conference
Oct. 12 Kingdom Conference
Oct. 13 **Fellowship Sunday** at Grace
7:30 a.m. – Spoken Eucharist
9:00 a.m. – Combined service
Oct. 13 Vestry meeting at 11:30 a.m.
Oct. 16 Br. Benno's Team meets at 6:10 a.m.
Nov. 8 & 9 Women's Retreat with Donna Brayton at the Branches Healing Center