

The Story of Jesus

Part 28: How to Have Real Faith

Mark 10:46-52 - [watch online](#)

Summary:

Faith doesn't have to be mysterious or formulaic. It can be something real for our real lives... now.

Main Ideas:

[01:06] We all have questions about faith.

[01:48] Faith is best understood as a story.

[02:49] Real faith is available to everyone.

[05:03] Hope is the seed of faith.

[08:19] Jesus sees us as individuals and takes us on our own individual faith journeys.

[09:44] Jesus' invitation allows us to step from hope to confident faith.

[10:20] Real faith is choosing to trust that Jesus is who he said he is and can do what he says he can do.

[11:47] Faith transforms our lives and creates ripples of hope all around us.

[12:43] Real life in the Kingdom of God is available to anyone who is willing to trust Jesus with their real life.

[18:20] Faith is our story of walking with Jesus in our everyday lives.

[14:54] Invitation:

Reflect on what it means to have real faith.

- Re-Read Mark 10:46-52
- Ask: Am I willing to have faith that changes my life?
- Then take one step after another

Discussion Questions:

1. What does the term "faith" mean to you, and how has your understanding of it changed or grown over the years?
2. Re-read Mark 10:46-52. What resonates with you the most?
3. If Jesus asked you today, "What do you want me to do for you?" How would you answer?
4. Jon invited us to imagine a life where we confidently trusted that we are known, seen, loved, and accepted by Jesus. How do you think this perspective would impact your daily life and decisions?
5. How can your group pray with you this week?

Transcript:

WE: Question: Why did you just click on a video/podcast about faith?

- Maybe part of your weekly routine... that's awesome.
- Maybe you just thought the guy in the thumbnail was good looking.

Or maybe it's b/c you, like many of us, have some questions.

- What is faith? How does it work? How do I get it? How much is enough? What if I'm losing my faith?

We all have questions about faith.

Maybe there's even some fear mixed into those questions...

- Maybe someone once told you, "W/o faith it is impossible to please God."
- That seems serious... What if I don't have faith, or the right kind? What if God isn't pleased w/ me?

So let's explore this idea of faith... and hopefully answer some questions and offer some pathways to discovering real faith for yourself.

Faith can be confusing b/c we want to "figure it out."

- But faith is not a neat, step by step equation.

Faith is more like a story, woven into the fabric of our lives. Faith is best understood like a story.

So instead of giving you the four steps to true faith... Let's look at a real story about real faith...

Around 70 AD... A man named Mark, friend of the Apostle Peter (1 of Jesus' 12 main followers), recorded for us Peter's eyewitness account of his time w/ Jesus...

Last time, we saw Jesus on his way to Jerusalem for the culmination of his life's mission (actually the culmination of God's rescue plan for the humanity he loves)...

- He was going to be betrayed, abused, executed and then rise again.

Walking w/ such intensity/determination that his "disciples were filled w/ awe and the people following behind were overwhelmed w/ fear."

And right before he gets to Jer. Something happens that gives us a picture of real faith...

No matter how are... what think... What we'll see is... Real faith is available to everyone.

GOD: Mark 10:46. Jericho last city before J. About a day's walk. Almost at the end of his journey.

- A large crowd starts following him for his trip into Jerusalem.
- Like a pilgrimage
- They know "something" is going to happen
- Like when famous people walk down the street... T. Swift... mobbed by people trying to follow.

But Bartimaeus... Son of Timaeus... (Bar = Son Of in Hebrew... now you know some Hebrew.)

This blind son of Timaeus is sitting on the side of the road listening/begging while everyone is mobbing around and following Jesus.

And Timaeus didn't raise no shy-dummy...

47-48. How did B know about Jesus? Don't know.

- Maybe heard stories of healings?
- Talking w/ family around dinner table?

- Probably imagined how great it would be if he ever met Jesus. (Ever imagine what be like to win lottery?)
 - Hoping beyond hope for his chance to be healed
 - “What would it be like to see my family’s faces, to be able to do something other than beg, maybe even get married? Have some of his own Bar-Bar Timaeus’?
 - Think about how difficult it would be to be blind in the ancient middle east?
 - Reliant on others for everything.
 - Food/bathroom/washing/walking

But B has hope that maybe, just maybe, this won’t be his life forever.

Hope is the seed of faith... What if this is real/reliable... What if Jesus can make a difference?

And through his hope this blind beggar has seen what so many others had not... Jesus is the Son of David.

- B is the only one in the Story of Mark to use this title for Jesus.

Son of David: a belief that when God’s kingdom arrived a descendent of Israel’s great king David would be the one to bring it in and sit on the throne.

The KoG: God putting things to right... they way they ought to be.

- Healing hurts. Restoring relationships w/ God/humans...
- Restoring humanity to what it was meant to be in the first place.

B didn’t know much... but he knew if Jesus is the Son of David who is bringing KoG... he has a chance to be healed.

- “The chance he’d been daydreaming about for who knows how long...

Yells... “Have mercy on me!”

- Mercy: show compassion/help me/save me!

Now these are real people experiencing this in their real lives... so let’s put ourselves there for a second...

How would you feel if you were in the crowd?

- Maybe Jesus is going to teach something?
- Maybe he’s going to give directions?
- He’s on his way to do something very important. We need to see this...

And then that beggar who is always asking people for money starts going crazy...

- Ugh... Not this guy.
- Dude not the time... ok? Shut up I don’t want to miss what Jesus is saying/doing... we’ve got places to go.

Now picture being B.

- This is what I’ve been waiting for! This is the one who can do something about my situation!
- Yells even louder. Nothing will stop him.

If you were Jesus how would you respond?

- Pretend not to hear... got important things to do.. On his way to fulfill his life’s mission

- Gotta keep focused... Know that this is going to be the hardest week of your life... on a time schedule.

Well Jesus does what Jesus always does...

49 I love that... So simple... so beautiful.

- People trying to shut B up... But Jesus HEARD him
- Jesus on the most important journey in the history of humanity and he STOPS.

Jesus sees us as individuals and takes us on our own individual faith journeys.

And look at Jesus' authority... "Tell him to come here."

- "All of you that were telling him to shut up... tell him to come here.
- You wanted to reject him? Now you're going to bring him."
- And they do.

Imagine being B... You're shouting for Jesus... feeling the energy and movement of the crowd... hearing the other yelling and clamoring... and suddenly everything stops.

- And people touch you and say... "He heard you... he's calling YOU!"
- It's happening!

50... Look at the change in B.

Jumping up and throwing his cloak away.

Interesting (eyewitness) detail.

- His cloak is what he would sit on.
- How he would collect his money from begging.
- Maybe one of most important belongings
- Security/livelihood

Throws it aside... "I'm not going to need this thing anymore... Jesus called me."

B has changed from the sad beggar, on the outskirts of the crowd screaming to be seen... to the confident, no looking back center of attention.

- Jesus' invitation allows us to step from hope to confident faith.

So B finally gets to stand in front of Jesus...

51-52 Jesus- What do you want me to do for you?

B isn't going to waste this chance... answers straight away... "I want to see!"

And instantly he can see. How? Jesus says, "Your faith has made you well."

Real faith is choosing to trust that Jesus is who he said he is and can do what he says he can do.

No groveling, no confessing all his sins, no singing, no ritual, no amends/promises to be made...

He didn't quote any bible verses / Take a theology test / Show his voting record / Prove his worth in any way.

He simply believed that Jesus was who he said he was and could do what he said he could do.

And then what happens?

He follows Jesus on the journey... Becomes part of the group as a living/breathing story of the love, acceptance, and power of Jesus.

His life is completely changed... There's one more detail that makes this story even better.

This is the only healing story in Mark that names the person healed.

Why? Ancient writers would add the name if that person was known to his readers.

- Like saying, "Hard to believe huh? Well, this was Bartimaeus. Go ask him!"
- Also explains why Mark would tell us he was Timaeus' son... Timaeus must have been known too...
- See, Bartimaeus' faith and healing must have made a huge impact not just on him but on his family too.

Faith transforms our lives and creates ripples of hope all around us.

Transition: See the story of B is the story we are all invited into...

We are invited to hope that Jesus really is who he said he is and can do what he said he can do...

When we are willing to ask... "What if this is all true?"

- When we dream about what could happen if Jesus is real and can make a difference...
- When we are willing to maybe whisper... Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me."

Jesus will hear. He will stop and he will bring you to him. And he will ask "What do you want me to do for you?"

And all we have to say is, "I want to see!"

- I want to see your love, your kingdom
- I want to see real life, joy, peace!
- I want to see the world for what it really is!

In that moment he will open our eyes and we will see him and he will invite us to follow him on the journey.

Real life in the KoG is available to anyone who is willing to trust Jesus w/ their real life.

My story (your story will be different but similar)... believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved

- Turning point... chose to follow wherever he led.
 - Done living for self/comfort/doing whatever I wanted when I wanted

- Finally softened my heart to caring for other people
- Finally married the girl I'd been stringing along for 5 years.
- Set me on path to lead a team to start a church for people who thought the church wasn't FOR them
- Not perfect by a longshot... but got on the road.

Will it fix everything? No.... will still struggle, people will still die, bones will still break, hearts will still break...

But he will be w/ us in it... he will hold us in it... he will guide/comfort/encourage... and we can be confident one day he WILL fix it.

- Healings are promises of our future healings.

YOU: B is Mark's last healing story. His last attempt to show us what it means to follow Jesus and enter the KoG... now

So this week... Reflect on what it means to have real faith.

How? Re-Read Mark 10:46-52

Sit w/ it. Put yourself in all the shoes.

- Ask questions

Ask: Am I willing to have faith that changes my life?

- Are you willing to trust and to follow?
- Are you ready to change your hope into real faith?

Maybe you're not ready yet... that's ok... but also ask yourself...

What is holding you back you?

- Questions/Doubts? Great... but questions are meant to lead to answers so be willing to follow those questions to real answers.
- Pride
- Feeling of you're not good enough/don't know enough
- Hurts?

I don't care what others might have told you... you are invited, you are accepted... you just have to be willing.

If ready for the first time, tell him...

- "I choose to trust you. Have mercy on me/save me/help me/Let me see."

And Then take one step after another

- Jesus I'm worried about _____ help me trust you and not worry
- Jesus I know you want me to forgive/love/serve... take the step and do it.

Choose to trust. Take that first step of faith and that faith will fuel the next step and then the next and the next.

- Like a water pump in a fountain.. Once it's primed and started it keeps flowing and flowing

WE: Listen: Faith isn't the mystery we make it out to be.

And it isn't the formulaic equation we want it to be.

It is a relationship/a journey/ a story of walking w/ and following Jesus.

Picture a day when you can walk through your day and simply trust you are known, seen, loved, accepted.

- Not for what you have done but simply b/c you know the one whom you trust

What would that do for your life?

- What would you worry about?
- What would actually be mundane?
- What would you risk?
- What could be healed, restored, renewed?
- What hopes and dreams could be resurrected?
- What lives could be touched?

This real faith is available to everyone who wants it.

It's available to you now and every day... just choose to accept it.

Faith is our story of walking w/ Jesus in our everyday lives