

JESUS' TEACHING ON FAITH

WEEK C - 027

LUKE 17: 5-10



The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." The Lord replied, "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

"Who among you would say to your servant who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here immediately and take your place at table'? Would he not rather say to him, 'Prepare something for me to eat. Put on your apron and wait on me while I eat

and drink. You may eat and drink when I am finished'? Is he grateful to that servant because he did what was commanded? So should it be with you. When you have done all you have been commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do.'"

1.

EXPLORE IT!

In this Gospel reading, Jesus teaches us about faith and service to God. When the apostles cried out for an increase in faith, Jesus reminded them that faith, even just a little, will enable them to do wondrous things. However, it is not our faith that works these wonders, but it is God who stands behind our faith. As disciples of Jesus, we also need to understand ourselves as servants to God and His plans. Even when God works wonders through us, with our mustard seed-size faith, we must not seek praise, promotion, approval or anything in return. We must serve God and others with the greatest degree of gratitude, self-denial, and selflessness. Our participation in God's plan is God's grace to us. When we cooperate with God, the work we do is nothing more than our obligation to God as faithful stewards. Our faith enables us to believe that what we have offered in service to God, as His servants, can be made to produce a hundredfold.

2. CONNECT IT!

Faith is a gift from God. We can pray for God to increase our faith. Time spent in prayer is vital to building up our faith. Association with people of faith also helps us develop our faith, so participation in worship and the life of our church community is important. As we act in faith, we also grow in faith. However, we tend to have faith in something inferior to God that will ultimately disappoint us, such as money or a charismatic person. How do we develop the kind of powerful faith that Jesus speaks about? The Scriptures inform and correct our faith. Reading the Scriptures regularly draws us to God so that we can develop the kind of powerful faith that God blesses.

3. REFLECT IT!

- ✠ We face challenges in our daily lives as Christians. Do we humbly cry out to the Lord, *"Increase our faith"* (Lk 17:5)? How do our actions reflect our faith in God?
- ✠ In our Church ministry, are we always ready to avow: *"We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty"* (Lk 17:10)

6. PRAY IT!

O my God, I firmly believe that You are one God in three divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that Your divine Son became man and died for our sins and that He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the Holy Catholic Church teaches because You have revealed them who are eternal truth and wisdom, who can neither deceive nor be deceived. In this faith I intend to live and die.
Amen.

4. LIVE IT! [FAITH]

- complete trust or confidence in someone or something

- ✠ Identify and practice one action that would increase your faith in God.
- ✠ Carry out your Church ministry and your daily tasks with the dutiful attitude of God's faithful servant.

5. REMEMBER IT!

**"If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."
(Luke 17:6)**