

Faith & Duty

Luke 17:5–10

Main Point

An increased faith is marked by humble obedience to Christ.

I. Increased faith is marked by *humility*.

- A. The disciples ask Jesus to “increase our faith”—indicating that they desired to both hear and embrace the teachings of Jesus regardless of the difficulty of the sayings.
- B. Jesus replies that it is not the *amount* of faith that matters, but that one *possesses* faith.
 1. Mustard seed — tiny seed which eventually flourished into a large tree
 2. One who *possesses* faith “the size of a mustard seed” could do amazing things.
- C. Faith is the evidence of a transformed life—the essence of trusting God (cf. Heb. 11:1ff).

II. Increased faith is marked by *obedience*.

- A. Jesus provides his disciples an illustration of obedient faith—a mark of genuine faith.
- B. The illustration pictures a master who hired a servant to both labor in the field and provide meals in the evenings.
 1. The master does not thank the servant for doing what was expected of him. After all, he was paying the servant to do it!
 2. The master expected the servant to simply do his duty.
- C. Jesus explains his parable by drawing the parallel of the parable to a believer’s relationship with God:
 1. Those who *possess* genuine faith recognize that their duty is to obey the commands of their Lord.
 2. Believers understand their standing before God: unworthy of His grace, yet joyfully and humbly obeying Him as His servants.
 3. Joyfully serving God, therefore, displays to the world His infinite worth and the everlasting pleasures found in Him alone.
 4. God *does* graciously reward His servants. He does not sit in heaven unmoved by their dutiful labors (Matt. 25:21, 34; Luke 12:35–37; Eph. 1:15ff).