

# Have Faith

Matthew 21:18

## The Fig Tree

- Jesus...was hungry
  - fig tree
    - found nothing on it except leaves
  - “May you never bear fruit again”
    - immediately the tree withered

## The Fig Tree

- Object Lesson
  - It is a picture of God’s judgment on the religious leaders and the temple.
  - It is an example of the power of faith.

## Faith

- When the disciples saw this,
  - they were amazed.
  - How did the fig tree wither so quickly?

## Faith

- I tell you the truth,
  - if you have faith...

## Faith

- Biblical Faith is not:
  - a blind leap in the dark
  - hoping something to be true in spite of good evidence to the contrary
  - mere intellectual agreement

## Faith

- Biblical Faith is
  - an active trust in the person of God.

## Doubt

- and do not doubt
  - “uncertainty”
  - “being at odds with oneself”
  - “wavering between yes and no”

## Doubt

- Doubt takes different forms.
  - Thinking
  - Emotions
  - Will

## Doubt

- I doubt that God exists.
- I doubt that God cares for me.
- I doubt that God’s way is best.

## Doubt

- Doubt is common.
  - Be merciful to those who doubt;
    - Jude 22

## Doubt

- How can we deal with doubt?
  - Philippians 4:6-9
    - prayer
    - thanksgiving
    - right thinking
    - right living

## Prayer

- not only can you do what was done to the fig tree,
- but also you can say to this mountain
  - Go throw yourself into the sea
  - and it will be done

## Prayer

- If you believe,
  - you will receive
  - whatever you ask for in prayer

## Prayer

- Prayer is communion with God.
  - speaking to God
  - listening to God
  - presenting requests
  - being with God

## Prayer

- As we draw near to God, we become more and more like him.
- Our prayers align with his desires, and we will receive.

## Prayer

- God will do what seems impossible as we come to him in faith.

## Have Faith

- Come to God in faith.
- Allow God to overcome your doubts.
- Humbly present your requests in prayer.