

Extreme Faith (Part 4)

Saturday, August 13, 2022

6:43 AM

For the past three weeks we have been talking about EXTREME FAITH, the parts of our faith that may look extreme to some but which the Word of God shows us are just a normal part of our relationship with Him. Things like...

EXTREME COMMITMENT

EXTREME TRUST

EXTREME GIVING

Today our texts will show us another part of our faith to which we are called to be EXTREME!

EXTREME RIGHTEOUSNESS

Now before you tune me out, for being - well - extreme; let's listen to what the Word of God says... *(besides that, I just learned this week that I am a fascist... and that's pretty extreme especially considering it was a fascist who said it)

Matthew 5:17-20

17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. 19 Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 7:13-14

13 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Luke 13:23-24 (ESV)

23 And someone said to him, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?” And he said to them, 24 “Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

Hebrews 12:14

14 Make every effort..to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

Talk about EXTREME... Surpass the righteousness of the Pharisees (and they were extremists) A small gate, a narrow road and only a few find it. Strive to enter the narrow door... many will not be able. Make every effort to be holy because without holiness no one will see the Lord.

Do you remember our discussion about Extreme Sports when we began this series. These sports are considered extreme because they require a great deal of training, a great deal of talent, a great deal of skill, a great deal of risk, a great deal of effort and the right type of equipment. It's also extreme because you don't find the masses participating in them, only a select few who are willing to step out and give it a try

That's what Jesus was saying about Righteousness... It's Extreme... It takes training and a great deal of effort and a willingness to step out but you won't find the masses doing it.

So how can we have the kind of faith that walks in Extreme Righteousness?

Extreme Righteousness is OBTAINED through FAITH not WORKS

Romans 4:3-5

3 What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” 4 Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. 5 However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.

Righteousness is credited to us when we believe in the finished work of Christ on the Cross

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

Extreme Righteousness is IMPARTED not EARNED

Romans 5:1

5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

2 Corinthians 5:21

²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Hebrews 10:10 (NCV)

10 And because of this, we are made holy through the sacrifice Christ made in his body once and for all time.

Hebrews 10:14 (NCV)

14 With one sacrifice he made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

*There is who we are and who we are becoming

Extreme Righteousness DELIGHTS in the call of God to be HOLY rather than DESIRING the OLD LIFE

1 Peter 1:14-16

14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

Matthew 5:6

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled.

Extreme Righteousness STRIVES for GROWTH instead of USING GRACE as a License to SIN

Romans 6:1-2 (NCV)

6 So do you think we should continue sinning so that God will give us even more grace? 2 No! We died to our old sinful lives, so how can we continue living with sin?

Hebrews 11:7

7 By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.

Psalms 15:1-2

1 Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain?
2 The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart;

James 2:20-24

20 You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? 21 Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. 23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. 24 You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.