

I Want MORE (Part 3)

Sunday, March 19, 2023

Series Text: Matthew 5:6

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

In this series I have challenged you truly consider what you want more of; to search the scriptures and be encouraged by what they promise is available to us; to make room in our lives so that God can pour out what we ask of Him; to count the cost and be willing to pay the price; to petition God - asking, seeking and knocking - until we cultivate a hunger, thirst and desire that can only be filled by God.

Our foundational questions that we continue to keep in mind are...

1. Do I **BELIEVE MORE** is **AVAILABLE**?
2. Do I **DESIRE MORE** in **MY LIFE**?
3. Am I **WILLING** to **MAKE ROOM** for **MORE**?
4. **WHAT** will I **ASK** God for **MORE OF**?

Last week I began to answer that final question with this desire

I WANT MORE OF THE PRESENCE OF GOD

I concluded that message by reminding us that in order to receive More of the Presence of God...

1. We must be **WILLING** for God to do a work of **CLEANSING** in us
2. We will probably **WRESTLE** with the **CHANGES** He wants to make in us.
3. God will **CHALLENGE** us to **WALK** out those **CHANGES** in our everyday lives

Today, I want to continue to answer the question of what I want more of with this thought...I **want more trust and peace** *(In my own life and in the lives of those in the body of Christ)*

Key Text: Proverbs 3:1-6

3 My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, **2** for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity. **3** Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. **4** Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man. **5** Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; **6** in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

It seems that there are too many times that these things are lacking in the lives of believers. Especially when challenging circumstances arise. We have a tendency to LEAN towards our own understanding rather than trust God. As a result we lack true and lasting peace in our hearts. And it shows in our lives. If we only understood that the more we trust God the more we have peace.

Here are several scenarios we face in life in which we need MORE TRUST AND PEACE...

- **When circumstances look like they will never change**

For generations the Israelites served in cruel bondage to the Egyptians waiting for the promise of their deliverance. Eventually they ceased to trust God and believe that their deliverance would come. They leaned on their own understanding that settled for finding a way to endure and live with the inevitability of their continued slavery

Exodus 6:9

9 Moses reported this to the Israelites, but they did not listen to him because of their discouragement and harsh labor.

For thousands of years the Jews waited for the coming messiah, but with the exception of a few, most missed his arrival because their hearts failed to trust in God's plan, and chose to lean on their own understanding.

How about you? Are their things that have been going on for so long in your life that you have quit trusting God for change.

- **When the enemy pursues**

Once the Children of Israel were delivered from their Egyptian Slavery, it didn't take long for the enemy to pursue them in hopes of getting them back.

Exodus 14:10-12

10 As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord. 11 They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? 12 Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!"

There was no peace, because they lacked trust in God.

It's no different in our lives, the pursues us as we march forward in our faith to follow Jesus and we too often react in fear and find no peace because lack trust in God

We need more Trust and Peace

- **When there is no place to go**

Do you trust God when you are backed into a corner and there is no way out? The Israelites didn't... They had the sea on one side and the Egyptians on the other. There was no place to go.

Exodus 14:13-14

13 Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. 14 The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."

You may not see the way out, but don't lean on your own understanding, trust that God knows how to make a way where there is no way. Find peace in knowing that *"He will fight for you; you need only to be still."*

- **When the battle means facing a giant**

- David and Goliath

1 Samuel 17:4-11

4 A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span. 5 He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; 6 on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. 7 His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels.[\[c\]](#) His shield bearer went ahead of him.

8 Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. 9 If he is able to fight and kill me, we will

become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us.” 10 Then the Philistine said, “This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other.” 11 On hearing the Philistine’s words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified

Only a young boy had enough trust in God to fight Goliath. And when Saul tried to get him to lean on his own understanding (Put on Saul's armor) David declared...

1 Samuel 17:32-45

32 David said to Saul, “Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant {I} will go and fight him.”

33 Saul replied, “You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth.”

34 But David said to Saul, “Your servant has been keeping his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, 35 I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. 36 Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. 37 The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.”

Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with you.”

38 Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. 39 David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them.

“I cannot go in these,” he said to Saul, “because I am not used to them.” So he took them off. 40 Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd’s bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

41 Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. 42 He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him. 43 He said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 “Come here,” he said, “and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!”

45 David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

- **When our need of provision seems impossible**
 - Will you trust God for provision like Elijah when he was fed by ravens by the brook during a time of drought and famine and then later by a widow who only had a handful of flour and a little oil that lasted for more than 2 years (1 Kings 17-18)
 - Will you trust God for provision like the woman with only a small jar of olive oil who listened to the word of Elisha and gathered every vessel from her neighbors she could find then went inside and shut the door and began to pour from that tiny jar until all the vessels had been filled. She then sold the oil and paid off her debt so her sons would not be sold into slavery. (2 Kings 4)
 - Will you trust God for provision like the disciples had to when first the 5000 were fed and again later 4000 were fed with only a few small loaves and a couple of fish. (Matthew 14-15)
 - Will you learn, as Abraham did, that our God is Jehovah Jireh - *"The Lord will provide"* (Genesis 22)
- **When there is a mountain in our way**

Will we trust and God and have peace even when there is a mountain standing in our way.

Matthew 17:20

20 He replied, “Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

By the way, and I have preached on this, many interpret this verse to mean that we only need a little bit of faith or trust in God. But I want to remind you what I have pointed out before. Why would Jesus rebuke the disciples for having little faith but then tell them all they need is little faith. The key is understanding the phrase "as small as a mustard seed" I believe that is an imperfect translation that gives us the wrong idea. A better translation would be "in like manner as a mustard seed"

Jesus was not comparing faith to the size of the mustard seed, but the kind of faith a mustard seed has. And what kind of faith does a mustard seed have. Interpreting scripture with scripture we see that Jesus taught a parable about the mustard seed.

Mark 4:30-32

30 Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? 31 It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. 32 Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."

I want that kind of faith, that kind of trust in God, and the peace that comes with it. Like the disciples exclaimed to Jesus when he told them they could have faith that moves mountains - "Lord, increase our faith" (Luke 17)

I want more trust and peace.

- **When the waves of the storm threaten to drown us**

Just a few verses later from the parable of the Mustard Seed, we read that the disciples got into a boat with Jesus to cross over to the other side of the lake.

Mark 4:37-40

37 A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. 38 Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

39 He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

40 He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

I too have cried out in fear at times "God, don't you care" But want to trust Him more. I don't want the storms of life to steal my peace. I want to trust my father in heaven and be able to sleep in the boat.

- **When our fear causes us to sink**

There was another time when the disciples were in a boat and caught in a storm. This time Jesus had not been with them but came to them walking on the water. Peter saw Jesus and asked, "If it is you, tell me to come to you on the water." Jesus told him to come and Peter stepped out of the boat and began walking on the water. But his trust in Jesus didn't last...

Matthew 14:30-31

30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

We can always trust him to catch us

- **When what we love has died**

- Jairus was told to continue to trust even though word came to him that his daughter was dead (Mark 5)
- Mary & Martha had a hard time trusting in Jesus because he didn't get their brother back before their brother had died. But Jesus told them "He will live again" "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11). Even when it appears what we love has died, Jesus can bring it back to life if that is his desire. Our job is to trust and let the peace of God fill our lives
- Jesus - In fact, in just three weeks we will celebrate this very truth as we remember our own Saviors resurrection from the dead

Luke 24:5-6

5 In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? 6 He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee:

Where could you use MORE TRUST and PEACE today?