

Therefore

September 26, 2021

A lot of people have no faith, because they have no action.

Here's the convicting part of that statement. There's no such thing as faith with no action. Faith without action isn't really faith at all. It's just trust. It's just belief. But Jesus doesn't call us into belief. He calls us into faith. Life isn't lived in a place of belief. Life is a response! It is as one author once said, "raging against the dying of the night." Life bursts forth. It does not relent to gravity, it defies it. But, far too many people just relent. Far too many people lay dormant in their relationship with Jesus. Far too many have used their belief as an excuse to stop living. Far too many have treated their belief in Jesus as an opportunity to stop living and simply sit. This is what Jesus' brother said,

How has your belief translated to action? How hasn't it?

24 Now when the other ten disciples heard about this, they became angry with the two brothers. 25 But Jesus called them over and said, "You know that those who rule the Gentiles show off their authority over them and their high-ranking officials order them around. 26 But that's not the way it will be with you. Whoever wants to be great among you will be your servant. 27 Whoever wants to be first among you will be your slave—28 just as the Human One didn't come to be served but rather to serve and to give his life to liberate many people." (Matthew 20:24-28)

1) Be strong enough to put others _____ . (first)

THINK IT OVER

Are you good at putting others first?

How could you do better?

20 "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. 2 After he agreed with the workers to pay them a denarion, (which is a day's wage) he sent them into his vineyard. 3 "Then he went out around nine in the morning and saw others standing around the marketplace doing nothing.

4 He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I'll pay you whatever is right.' 5 And they went. "Again around noon and then at three in the afternoon, he did the same thing. 6 Around five in the afternoon he went and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you just standing around here doing nothing all day long?' 7 " 'Because nobody has hired us,' they replied. "He responded, 'You also go into the vineyard.' 8 "When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the workers and give them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and moving on finally to the first.' 9 When those who were hired at five in the afternoon came, each one received a denarion. 10 Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more. But each of them also received a denarion. 11 When they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, 12 'These who were hired last worked one hour, and they received the same pay as we did even though we had to work the whole day in the hot sun.' 13 "But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I did you no wrong. Didn't I agree to pay you a denarion? 14 Take what belongs to you and go. I want to give to this one who was hired last the same as I give to you. 15 Don't I have the right to do what I want with what belongs to me? Or are you resentful because I'm generous?' 16 So those who are last will be first. And those who are first will be last." (Matthew 20:1-16)

2) Be joyful for the _____ you have and when others are put _____ by God. (work, first)

THINK IT OVER

Do you celebrate when others get the same thing as you do even though they work less? Is this what Jesus meant?

11 The greatest among you will be your servant. 12 All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted. (Matthew 23:11-12)

3) Follow and embody the path of personal _____.
(humility)