

September 19th - 25th

Frustrated Faith: Pastor Jeremy Foster

In this lesson you will learn three ways to keep faith in the wild.

Intro: Nobody in all of Israel had more evidence that Jesus was the Christ other than John the Baptist. John was the cousin of Jesus and got to personally baptize him at the Jordan river. He saw the Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus like a dove and the voice of the Father proclaiming Jesus as His son. Yet in Matt 11:2-3 we see John sending a messenger to ask Jesus if he is really the Messiah. What happened to John while he was in prison? The same thing can happen to us as Christians when things in life don't go according to our plans. A prison perspective can cause you to doubt your destiny.

I. God doesn't always meet our expectations, but He always lives up to His Word

- A. There are many times in life when we are believing God for a certain situation to turn around. We are trusting and believing God to work out the situation our way and in our timing. The only problem is: his ways are not our ways (Isa 55:8-9). When God decides to work out our situations His way instead of ours, there can be frustration, anger, and disappointment. Don't let your expectations get in the way of God moving in your behalf. Allow God to bring His promises to fruition in your life His own way.

II. Your Faith is more important than your Failure

- A. When Samson was captured by the Philistines after his failure, and was working as a slave for their entertainment, he prayed and had faith in God to strengthen him one last time. Don't let the enemy shame you into abandoning your faith. The Bible records the same words four times that, "the just shall live by faith" (Rom 1:17). Every day we should profess our faith. Your failures are not strong enough or big enough to defeat your faith.

III. Even when you doubt, God still shows Up

- A. When you have faith in the wild, it can be a daunting challenge to face your mountains head on. The disciples were meeting in secret behind locked doors after the crucifixion of Jesus. They believed in Jesus and ministered with Him for three years, but after His death they were having major doubts. Suddenly Jesus appeared among them and had Thomas touch his hands and his side (John 20:27). If you stay around the people of faith, God can still reach you where you are even in your doubt.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever experienced God not meeting your expectations?
2. Have you been tempted to give up on faith after a period of long waiting?
3. Are you experiencing doubts even while believing God for a promise to come to pass?