

126 – Only Believe

Father, I thank You for the time You have allotted for us to meet together with You as a family, as an ecclesia, called out and set apart to You and for Your purposes only. Father, I pray that we are all in agreement with You in every area of our lives, and that we hold nothing away from You, for all is seen by You and is known to you. Nothing is hidden from You, Holy God, and so we waste no time or energy in pretense that judgments we've made, conclusions we've drawn or decisions we have determined are done in a vacuum, hidden from Your knowledge or Your sight. God, I thank You for thwarting, frustrating and bringing to naught any plan or presumption of ours, and requiring us to look only to You, to trust only You, and to believe only You. You know the words that You have had Barbara or me speak to a brother or sister along this journey. You know the words that certain ones have spoken to us on Your behalf. I pray we all have only done so first in obedience to You and secondly in love – Your love -- toward one another. We care nothing for our own lives, for they are not ours anyway, but Yours, to do with as You determine.

Father, I pray tonight for faith in Jesus Christ and trust in You to triumph over every satanic plan or scheme that would threaten to shake and even destroy our confidence and our unity as the Body and Complement of Christ. I pray and ask all those in my hearing now to pray with me, as a family, for Tamra Jean and Ashley, that tomorrow, before man's court, You sit as judge and counsel FOR Tamra and Ashley. I pray that You lay waste to their enemies. I pray that Your light shine from Tamra's face and that Your voice sound from deep in her gut as she declares the truth of the injustice that has torn Ashley from her mother. I pray that You prevail in that courtroom and proclaim Ashley's freedom and release from her captors and abusers, and restore her to her mother who walks with You and to whom You have given signs, wonders, and miracles along her journey to encourage and strengthen her in the midst of the greatest attack on her life, soul and call. That Tamra has kept her face turned toward You and her ears tuned to Your voice, is evidenced by the joy on her face and in her voice. Let that power and anointing fill that Massachusetts courtroom tomorrow, and let all present see and hear the word of the Lord that has already established what is good and right concerning Tamra and Ashley. We pray that they are fully and immediately restored tomorrow, in a home dedicated to You, until they can come home together into the land You have prepared, where they can fulfill the purpose for

which they are created. We pray, all in agreement together, in the name of Jesus Christ, Yeshua, HaMashiach. AMEN.

Barbara and I have had some interesting discussions recently with different individuals, men and women, within the family of God, and each of them focused on decisions, interpretations, perceptions, judgments, opinions, all of which were made in a vacuum, in the absence of counsel, and therefore in ignorance of the wisdom of God. Each of these discussions had a common element, which was the failure to ask important questions before a person followed a path that would otherwise have been unnecessary to travel.

Let me make a statement of principle here, which I believe we will find confirmed by the scriptures: Failure to ask important questions before the fact, leads us down a path, which seems right in our own eyes; that is, it serves our purpose at the time (or so we think), but it also ends in frustration and emptiness. On the other hand, asking important questions before the fact invokes the wisdom of God in which He shows the end result of the path in question so that it may be avoided, while His purpose is served before ours, therefore resulting in fulfillment for ourselves and for the Glory of God.

Let's shorten this up: We would do well to seek God's counsel and wisdom by asking questions *BEFORE* we make a decision, draw a conclusion or form a judgment, *IF* we wish to live in "***the blessing of the Lord that brings wealth without painful toil***" (Proverbs 10:22).

James 1:5-6

Now if anyone of you is lacking wisdom, let him be **requesting** it from God, Who is giving to all generously and is not reproaching, and it shall be given to him.

6 Yet let him **be requesting in faith, doubting nothing**, for he who IS doubting simulates a surge of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed.

And isn't that exactly how it feels when we go off on our own, having left out the One Who alone HAS the wisdom we so desperately need. Now look at verses 5 and 6 again and pay close attention to the order:

1. REQUEST FROM GOD

- a. Nothing here says that God gives wisdom to those who aren't asking. Only when we are requesting wisdom, does God give it. Not before. It is a rare thing in my experience for God to give wisdom pre-emptively – that is *before* someone asks. More often, God sits back while we “play God,” allowing us to run headlong into destruction – very nearly sometimes, it seems. Hopefully, cleaning up the mess teaches us to ask **first** from then on.
- b. Also, as a quick aside here, I believe there is a day when, as Barbara says, so-called “pop tests” are over and the final exam has come, but the time and place are unannounced. We may pass and move ahead, learning only after the fact that it was a final exam. Or, we **could** fail, thinking it was just another pop test and there's plenty of time to get it right – whatever IT is, but suddenly progress stops and we're wading in a swamp of relationships, situations, circumstances we would never have chosen if we'd known about them ahead of time. How often have you heard me declare that God's purpose moves on, like a train rolling down the tracks toward its destination. In this eon, that train is running toward the end of this eon and the second advent of Jesus Christ on the Earth. The train is as long as the eon from Christ's first advent to His second, and people can get on or off at any time. The urgency is to jump on and hang on for two reasons:
 - i. We don't know exactly when the train comes into its station. Talk about a final exam – we'd sure hate to miss that one, right, 'cause from there it's all a done deal until another eon, and the in-between has some stuff in it we really don't want to be in the middle of.
 - ii. Life *ON* the train *WITH* God is fulfilling, peaceful, and prosperous in every way, compared to life elsewhere. I know this first hand and, if you've ever jumped off the train for any time at all, you know it's true.
 - a) When someone came into our family and then exited because of offense, it took a number of months of living devoid of God's presence for that person to recognize how far they'd fallen and how desperately

they wanted to jump back on the train. Fortunately, they did, but the word came to them through another person in the family, that getting back on meant catching up on all of Jammie Church and LUTS, because so much progress had been made and had been missed!

Back now to the order written in **James 1: 5 & 6:**

First was REQUEST FROM GOD

2. **be requesting in faith, doubting nothing** – i.e., TRUST GOD, from Whom you're requesting wisdom that He alone has! Faith – or trust – and doubt can't exit together. Doubt doesn't destroy faith, it excludes it! There can't BE faith in the presence of doubt. And there is no **doubt** when faith is **full**. So, we can be either fear-**full** (full of fear), doubt-**full** (**full** of doubt), or faith-**full** (full of faith).

Now **James 1: 7-8:**

7 For let not that man be surmising that he shall be obtaining anything from the Lord --

8 a man double-souled, turbulent in all his ways.

In verse 5, James wrote that God would give wisdom to anyone who is requesting it from Him, "**generously and is not reproaching**;" it goes on to say, "**it shall be given to him**." God is not playing games; if we request wisdom He **Shall** give it generously, and without reproach; SO LONG AS we come **IN FAITH, DOUBTING NOTHING**. If we **ARE** doubting, all bets are off. For my money, doubting is born of fear, and Jesus said, "**Fear NOT, ONLY BELIEVE and she shall be saved**."

So now, let's re-write James 1:7-8 like this:

"Let that man or woman – the one who IS requesting full of faith, doubting nothing – KNOW that he will receive EVERYTHING from the Lord – a man, or woman, SINGLE-souled (single-minded; that is one who IS full of faith and therefore without doubt), STABLE in all his or her ways!"

Here's what God's wisdom looks like. Now, as we read this, ask yourself, "Is this what I need? Is this what I want? And is this what I am willing to believe?"

James 3:17

...the **wisdom** from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

That's what single-minded, faith-filled-ness gets you: Read it again.

Jesus dealt with double-souled and therefore unstable people throughout His ministry, and look what He said in just this example:

Luke 8:50

"Fear not' only believe, and she shall be saved."

That's the money verse, and there's a whole lot of context preceeding it, but it states the principle in the Lord's own words: "***FEAR NOT, ONLY BELIEVE, and she shall be saved.***"

Lord willing, we'll get to the context to Luke 8:50, but for now, Let's take heed of His simple instruction: "***Fear not, only believe, and she shall be saved.***" Where do you and I need ***saved*** today? What area of our lives most ***needs*** saving? What's the solution? "***FEAR NOT, Only believe.***" Do you realize that it means wherever we are in trouble, uncertain, "***DOUBT-FULL***" rather than ***FAITH-FUL***, and therefore ***double-souled*** and ***unstable***, we ***aren't*** saved because we ***ARE FEAR-FUL*** and ***AREN'T*** Believing? Therefore we do ***not*** have ***faith***? Therefore we are ***unstable*** in ***ALL*** our ways? Therefore we're being "***driven by the wind and tossed***"? Even if it's only by degree, it's like Barbara says, "*If we're 1 degree off when we leave LA, we'll never reach Hawaii!*"

Jesus marveled at ***REAL*** faith when He saw it, and, sometimes, the most striking examples were people to whom He wasn't even sent; people who got Who He was by the spirit even though they had no basis historically or genetically: the centurion in **Matthew 8**; the Canaanite woman in **Matthew 15**; the Samaritan leper whom Jesus cleansed among nine, but who was the only one to come back and thank Him, in **Luke 17**; and the Samaritan woman at the well, in **John 4**.

Jesus also marveled at His own disciples' lack of faith:

Luke 8:22-25

22 Now it occurred on one of the days that He, as well as His disciples, stepped into a ship, and He said to them, "We may be passing through to the other side of the lake." And they set out.

23 Now, at their sailing, He falls asleep. And a whirl of wind descended

to the lake, and they were foundered and in danger.

24 Now approaching, they rouse Him, saying, "Doctor! Doctor! We are perishing!" Now He, being roused, rebukes the wind and the surging of the water, and they cease, and it became calm.

25 Now He said to them, "**Where is your faith?**" Yet, being afraid, they marvel, saying to one another, "Who, consequently, is this, that He is enjoining the winds as well as the water, and they are obeying Him!"

(Matthew's version says, "**Why are you timid, scant of faith?**")

So, let's ask ourselves now, "*What's the cause of timidity in some area of our lives today?*" We are "**Scant of faith.**" We have a little, but nowhere near enough to get the job done. Dallas storm and airplane turbulence stories. You and I are on a mission for the Lord, whether we know it or not, and we need not be deterred from accomplishing it no matter what storm blows up. If you were in New England a year ago, when Barbara and I...hurricane.

When God is sufficient. When we will "**FEAR NOT, and ONLY BELIEVE, we shall be saved!**"

Now look at this bit of context from **Luke 8**, which led to the instruction, "***Fear not, only believe and she shall be save.***"

Luke 8:41-on

41 And lo! a man came whose name was Jairus, and he possessed the chieftainship of the synagogue. And, falling at the feet of Jesus, he entreated Him to be entering into his house,

42 for he had an only-begotten daughter of about twelve years, and she died. Now at His going away, the throngs stifled Him.

43 And a woman, having a hemorrhage for twelve years, whose whole livelihood is being consumed by physicians, is not strong enough to be cured by anyone.

44 Approaching from behind, she touches the tassel of His cloak. And instantly, stanchd was her hemorrhage.

45 And Jesus said, "Who touches Me?" Now, at all denying it, Peter and those with Him, said, "Doctor, the throngs are pressing Thee and jostling, and art Thou saying, 'Who touches Me?'"

46 Yet Jesus said, "Someone touches Me, for **I knew power has come out from Me.**"

47 Now the woman, perceiving that she did not elude Him, came trembling, and prostrating to Him, reports in the sight of the entire people for what cause she touches Him and so was healed instantly.

48 Now He said to her, "Courage, daughter! **Your faith has saved you! Go in peace!**"

49 While He is still speaking, someone from the chief of the synagogue's house is coming, saying to him that "Your daughter is dead. By no means bother the teacher any longer." **(Whose report shall we believe?)**

50 Yet Jesus, hearing it, answered him, saying, "**Fear not' only believe, and she shall be saved.**"

51 Now coming into the house, He lets no one enter together with Him, except Peter and James and John and the father of the girl and the mother.

52 Now they all lamented, and they grieved for her. Now He said, "Be not lamenting, for she did not die, but is drowsing."

53 And **they ridiculed Him**, being aware that she died.

54 Yet He, **casting all outside** ("You, in your doubting, have earned NO PLACE with ME! Wait outside!") and holding her hand, shouts, saying, "Girl, be roused!"

55 And back turns her spirit, and she rose instantly. And He prescribes that she be given something to eat.

56 And her parents were **amazed**, yet He charges them to tell no one what has occurred.

When we are faith-full, rather than fear-full and doubt-full, we will have no thought but to ONLY BELIEVE, we may be ridiculed, but we will not be deterred, we will not be distracted; we will be laser-focused and we will get the job done, even the raising of the dead. We won't be the ones cast outside because of unbelief, and we won't be amazed either at what God does, because...NEWS FLASH, He's God, and nothing is too hard for Him, as Jeremiah says:

Jeremiah 32:17-

Alas, my Lord Yahweh! Behold, You Yourself made the heavens and the earth by Your great vigor and by Your outstretched arm; Nothing at all is

too /marvelous ffor You, ¹⁸dshowing benignity to thousands, *+yet repaying the depravity of the fathers in to the bosom of their sons after them, the El, the Great, the Masterful (Yahweh of hosts is His Name), ¹⁹great in .counsel and grand in .action, You **Whose eyes are unclosed /on before all the ways of the sons of humanity, to give to each according to his ways and according to the fruit of his actions,** ²⁰You Who have *p/* set signs and miracles in the land of Egypt, until .this .day, +both in Israel **and /among mankind,** so +that You are *d* making a Name for You rself as at .this day.

Do we want to be among those who hear only in parables, or would we rather be taken in to the Father's counsel where we may know the secrets of God?

Luke 8:

10 Now He said, "To you has it been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, yet to the rest in parables, that, observing, they may not be observing, and hearing, they may not be understanding.

When the word of God sinks deep into our hearts and minds, it WILL bear fruit that is pleasing to the Father:

Again, **Luke 8:15, 17**

15...these are they who, in a heart ideal and good, hearing the word, are **retaining it** and are **bearing fruit** with **endurance**.

...

17 For nothing is hidden which shall not become apparent, neither concealed which should not by all means be known and come to be apparent.

18 Beware, then, how you are hearing!

If we're listening to a voice besides God's, the fruit will be bad, it'll stink, and it will become known. Are judging others? Are we forming opinions, drawing conclusions – or worse, are we *voicing* those? That's not God's voice we're hearing, nor His voice that we're speaking, and we're poisoning ourselves and those around us:

Matthew 15

10 And, calling the throng to Him, He said to them, "Hear and understand!

11 Not that which is entering into the mouth is contaminating a man, but that which is going out of the mouth, this is contaminating a man."

Proverbs 29:25

Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.

Deuteronomy 28:8

The LORD will **command the blessing** upon you in your barns and in all that you put your hand to, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God gives you.

7

Yahweh shall g make your enemies .who are rising against you to be struck down before you. By a single road shall they come forth to you, and by seven roads shall they flee before you. 8Yahweh shall instruct the blessing to be with you in your granaries and in every undertaking of your hand, and He will bless you in the land that Yahweh your Elohim is giving to you. 9Yahweh shall raise you as a people holy to Him self, just as He had sworn to you, in case you should observe the instructions of Yahweh your Elohim, and walk in His ways, 10 SO that all the peoples of the earth will see that the Name of Yahweh is proclaimed over you, and they will fear you. 11Then through the fruit of your belly, the fruit of your domestic beast and the fruit of your ground, Yahweh will give you surplus in goods on the ground about which Yahweh had sworn to your fathers to give to you. 12 Yahweh shall open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give rain to your land in its season and to bless every work of your hand.