



Sunday 15 January 2012



“LITTLE” FAITH

Lesson 2 in the series “Walk By Faith”
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SCRIPTURES

- Luke 8:11-15
- 2Peter 1:1-4
- Matthew 14:22-33

LUKE 8:11-15 (NASB)

¹¹ “Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God. ¹² Those beside the road are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved. ¹³ Those on the rocky soil are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away. ¹⁴ The seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity. ¹⁵ But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.

2PETER 1:1-4 (NASB)

Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: ² Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; ³ seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. ⁴ For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

MATTHEW 14:22-33 (NASB)

22 Immediately He made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side, while He sent the crowds away. 23 After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone. 24 But the boat was already a long distance from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary. 25 And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. 26 When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

MATTHEW 14:22-33 (NASB)

28 Peter said to Him, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” 29 And He said, “Come!” And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” 31 Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and *said to him, “You of **little faith**, why did you doubt?” 32 When they got into the boat, the wind stopped. 33 And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, “You are certainly God’s Son!”

᾽ΟΛΙΓΟΠΙΣΤΟΣ

little faith

- ‘oligopistos’
 - used just 6 5 times, all by Jesus
 - (Matt 6:30, Matt 8:26, Matt 14:31, Matt 16:8, Matt 17:20, Luke 12:28)
- ‘oligos’ + ‘pistis’
 - ‘pistis’ = faith
 - ‘oligo’?

HOW IS OLIGOS USED?

- oligos...
 - Matt 7:14 - 'few'
 - Mark 1:19, Luke 7:47 - 'little' (farther)
 - Acts 12:18 - 'small' (disturbance)
 - Acts 26:28 - 'short time' "great faith"
 - Ephesians 3:3 - 'brief'
 - 1 Peter 5:10 - 'little while'

HOW IS OLIGOS USED?

- oligos
 - short, brief, little, few, small
- 'little faith'
 - small faith? (i.e. quantity)
 - brief faith? (i.e. duration)

PETER WALKS ON THE WATER

- How did Jesus use it?

And He said, “Come!” And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” ³¹ Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and *said to him, “You of **little faith**, why did you doubt?”

PETER WALKS ON THE WATER

- Jesus said “Come”
- Peter walks on water
- Peter sees the wind, become frightened
- Peter begins to sink
- Jesus: ‘little faith’, ‘why did you doubt’

PETER WALKS ON THE WATER

- If 'small faith' (i.e. quantity)
 - how did Peter walk on water?
- Pete saw the wind and stopped believing
 - His faith was 'brief'

BRIEF FAITH?

Matthew 17:19-20 (NASB-U)

Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not drive it out?" 20 And He said to them, "Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a ~~mustard seed~~ **mountain**, you will say to this ~~mountain~~ **mustard seed**, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.

SOMETHINGS TO CONSIDER

- What caused Peter's faith to be 'brief'?
- What causes your faith to be brief?
- What would 'great' faith look like?

