**Faith to Help Others**

Sunday School Lesson 2

*Faith in Action*

Luke 5 and John 6

5/12/2024

**Introduction & Recap:** In our first lesson in our series on *Faith in Action,* we looked at the power of faith to help us to forgive others. We observed five reasons why our faith helps us to forgive. First, we can forgive others because we believe that God has forgiven us. The belief in His forgiveness of our sins enables us to be a forgiving people. How could we not forgive others when Christ has forgiven us of such a great debt? Second, we can forgive others because we believe that God is just. Our faith in the Lord’s justice is essential to our forgiveness of others. When we forgive others, we place justice at the feet of Jesus. We accept that vengeance belongs to the Lord, and we accept that His dealings with those who hurt us is both just and equitable. Many fail to forgive because they do not trust God’s justice. Third, we can forgive others because we believe that God understands us and knows what is best for us. Forgiveness happens because we trust that God is not indifferent to our hurt and suffering. We trust that He understands us and knows what is best for us. Our flesh tries to convince us that anger and bitterness is the best thing for us. We must reject those feelings and trust that the Lord knows how to heal our broken heart. Fourth, we can forgive because we believe in God’s way of reconciliation. Many struggle with forgiveness because they are afraid to forgive. They think that forgiveness will lead to continual abuse against them. They are afraid to let go of the emotional control that happens when we hold offenses against the offender. We think that reconciliation requires for the person to earn something back from us. As believers, we trust that true reconciliation happens with forgiveness because that’s God’s way. Fifth, we can forgive others because we believe in God’s power to helps us to perform difficult tasks. For today’s lesson, we are going to look at how faith enables us to help others. This lesson will focus on witnessing and discipling.

1. **WE CAN HELP OTHERS BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT THE LORD CAN USE WHAT WE HAVE.**

* *John 6:5 When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? 6 And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do. 7 Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little. 8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, 9 There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?* In the account of the feeding of the five thousand, we find that the Lord took a boy’s lunch and used it to feed a great multitude. While the Lord did not have to use the boy’s lunch, He used it as a way to show to us that we can help others when we trust the Lord and give Him what we have. Ultimately, that boy’s faith had a direct impact on the lives of thousands of people that day. When Jesus asked His disciples about feeding the multitude, they had no answer for how to help the people. They reasoned that would they had was insufficient to help anyone. They noted the boy’s lunch, but his lunch seemed so inadequate to them. Our faith is directly connected to our ability to help others. What ability in ourselves do we have to truly help anyone? Our only ability is from the Lord.

1. **WE CAN HELP OTHERS BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT THE LORD CAN HELP THEM.**

* *Acts 2:2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; 3 Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. 4 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. 5 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. 6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. 7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.* In addition to believing that what we have is valuable to the Lord, we must also believe that what the Lord has is valuable to others. When Peter and John saw the lame man at the gate of the temple asking for money, they did not have anything of monetary value to offer him. The only thing they had was the power of the Lord. They were not hesitant or afraid to give the man what they had from the Lord. They trusted that the Lord could do much better for this man than anything that they could do of themselves. We can help others by truly believing in the value of what the Lord has available to them. Too often, Christians underappreciate the value of the Gospel, and that greatly limits our ability to help those around us. We put too much faith in foolish things to help them instead.

1. **WE CAN HELP OTHERS BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT THE LORD WILL HELP THEM.**

* *Luke 5:17 And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them. 18 And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him. 2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.* Our ability to help others is not just based in our faith that God can help them, but it is also based in our faith that God will help them. In Luke 5, we find the account of men who were determined to bring a sick man to Jesus. It is clear that they believed that the Lord would take care of the man if they could just get him to the Master. We find several similar stories throughout the four Gospels. There were a number of people who went to Jesus on behalf of others. The centurion that we looked at during last Sunday evening’s message is an example of one such person. He went to the Lord expecting that He could and would help his servant. As we seek to help others, we ought to be guided by the confidence that the Lord will help them.

1. **WE CAN HELP OTHERS BECAUSE OUR FAITH IN THE LORD PROMPTS US TO GO TO EXTRAORDINARY MEANS TO BRING OTHERS TO HIM.**

* *Luke 5:19 And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus. 20 And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.* The men who brought the paralyzed man to Jesus did not give up when they saw that there was no easy way to get him to the Lord. Instead, they went to extraordinary means to bring him into the Lord’s presence. They got up on the roof and lowered him down into the midst of Jesus. Consider the amount of work and difficulty involved in their efforts. What prompted them to go through so much effort? It was a combination of what has been mentioned to this point. They believed in what the Lord could do and what He would do. This faith prompted them to take strong actions to help this man. Our faith ought to prompt us to do the same. We ought to feel so strongly about what the Lord can and will do that it prompts us to take the strongest measures to bring people to Jesus. We ought to have a great urgency to help others. If we don’t, what does that say about our faith in the Lord? Too often, we have to be pushed to be a witness for the Lord, and many believers rarely ever truly go out of their way or comfort zone to bring someone to Christ.

1. **WE CAN HELP OTHERS BECAUSE OUR FAITH IN THE LORD PROMPTS US TO SHOW OUT THE LOVE OF THE LORD IN OUR ACTIONS TOWARD OTHERS.**

* *1 Corinthians 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. 4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, James 2:17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.* Our faith in the Lord is not just faith in His power to help others. Our faith in the Lord is in His goodness. Our faith in the Lord is in His earnest desire for mankind to be saved. As we noted before, the Lord will help those who come to Him. He will in no way deny anyone who truly seeks Him. This speaks to His love. We are commanded to love others. We are taught that love of our neighbor is second only to love of the Lord. Our faith is in what the Lord says is most important. In 1 Corinthians 13, we are shown that faith without charity is greatly lacking. Charity is a working love. Certainly, helping others requires for us to have a working love. Some don’t bother to help others because they are lacking in love which is a result of not having faith in what the Lord commands. They don’t believe that love is very important. Our faith in the Lord shows us His love. He so loves us that He gave us eternal life.