

*Faith
Challenges*

Matthew 8:18-34

Challenges of Faith

James 1:2-8

2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

James 1:2-8 - continued

6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

Challenges to Faith

Isaiah 28:10

**For precept must be
upon precept, precept
upon precept; line
upon line, line upon
line; here a little, and
there a little:**

1 John 5:4

**For whatsoever is born
of God overcometh the
world: and this is the
victory that
overcometh the world,
even our faith.**

I. Faith That Requires Commitment

Matthew 8:18-22

18 Now when Jesus saw great multitudes about him, he gave commandment to depart unto the other side.

19 And a certain scribe came, and said unto him, Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.

20 And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.

21 And another of his disciples said unto him, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.

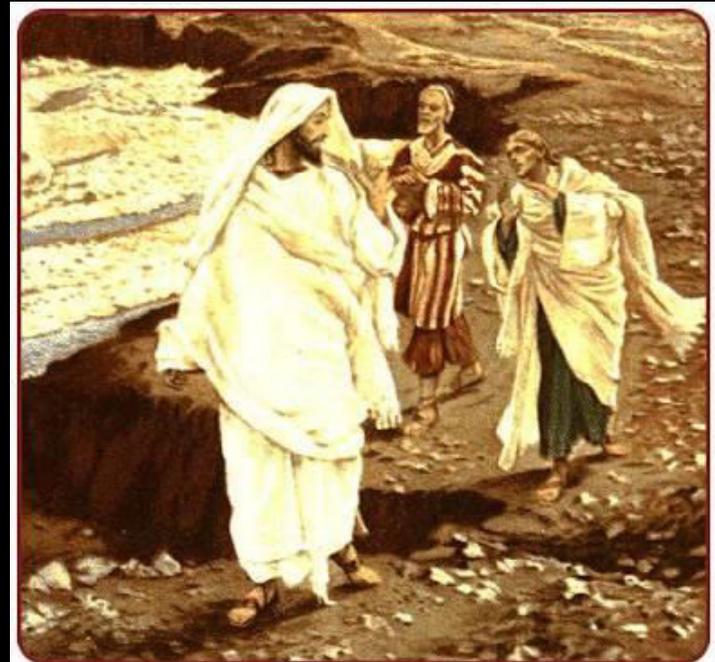
22 But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.

I. Faith That Requires Commitment

A. A committed faith goes where Christ goes (v 18)

Proverbs 3:6

In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.



I. Faith That Requires Commitment

**B. A committed faith is more than lip-service
(vv 19-20)**

Mark 7:6

He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.



I. Faith That Requires Commitment

**C. A committed faith requires immediate response
(vv 21-22)**

Hebrews 3:15

**While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice,
harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.**



II. Faith That Brings Peace in Trial

Matthew 8:23-27

23 And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him.

24 And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep.

25 And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish.

26 And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.

27 But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!

II. Faith That Brings Peace in Trial

A. Based on the words of God (v 18, v26a)

B. Based on the presence of God (vv 23-25)

a. Peace in the midst of the storm

b. Rest in the most trying of circumstances



II. Faith That Brings Peace in Trial

C. Based on experiencing the effects of the power of God (v 27)

1 Corinthians 2:5

That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.



III. Faith That Can Be Rejected

Matthew 8:28-34

28 And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way.

29 And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?

III. Faith That Can Be Rejected

Matthew 8:28-34 - continued

30 And there was a good way off from them an herd of many swine feeding.

31 So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine.

32 And he said unto them, Go. And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters.

III. Faith That Can Be Rejected

Matthew 8:28-34 - continued

33 And they that kept them fled, and went their ways into the city, and told every thing, and what was befallen to the possessed of the devils.

34 And, behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus: and when they saw him, they besought him that he would depart out of their coasts.

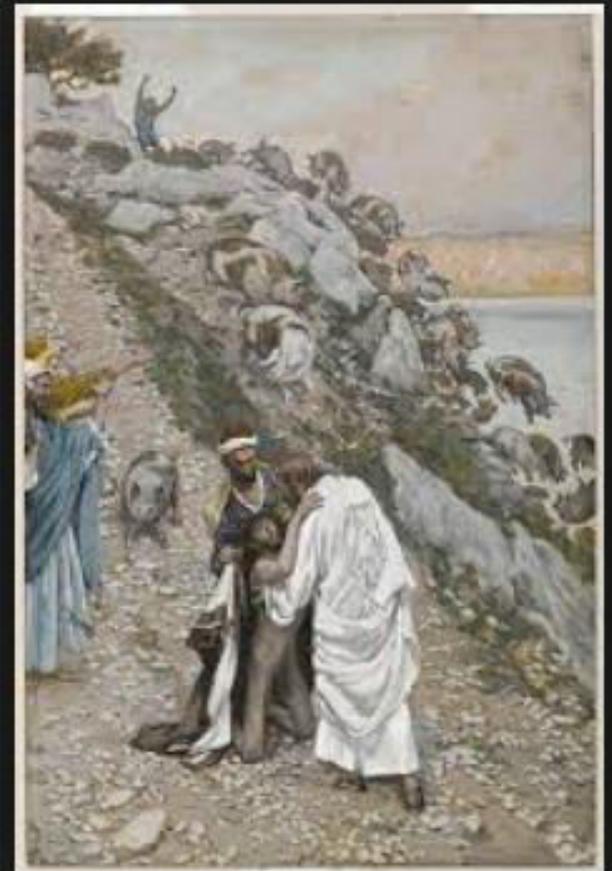
III. Faith That Can Be Rejected

A. In light of great testimony (vv 28-29)

1. Of a situation that men could not overcome
2. Of the remarkable statement of the demons

2 Peter 2:4

For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;



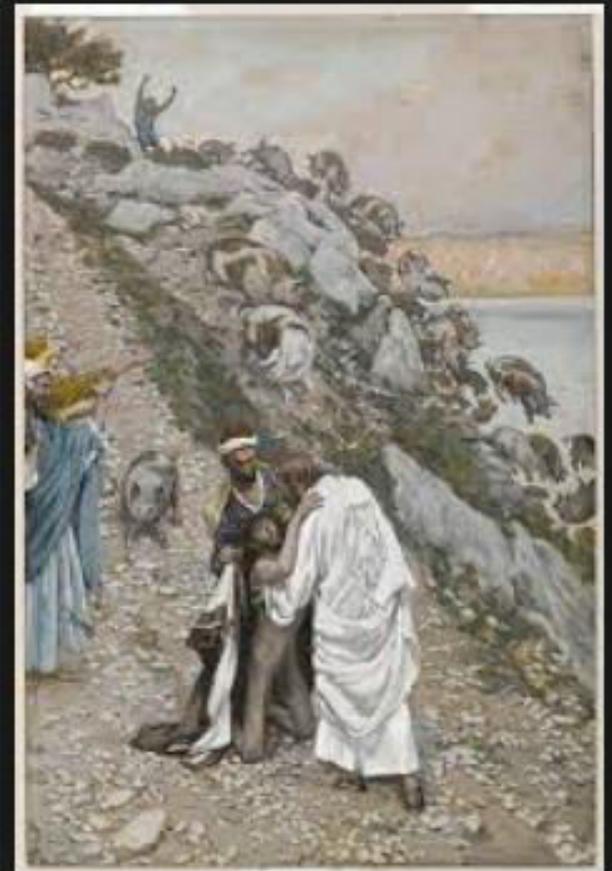
**The demons know their
end**

III. Faith That Can Be Rejected

B. In light of great healing

Mark 5:15

And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.

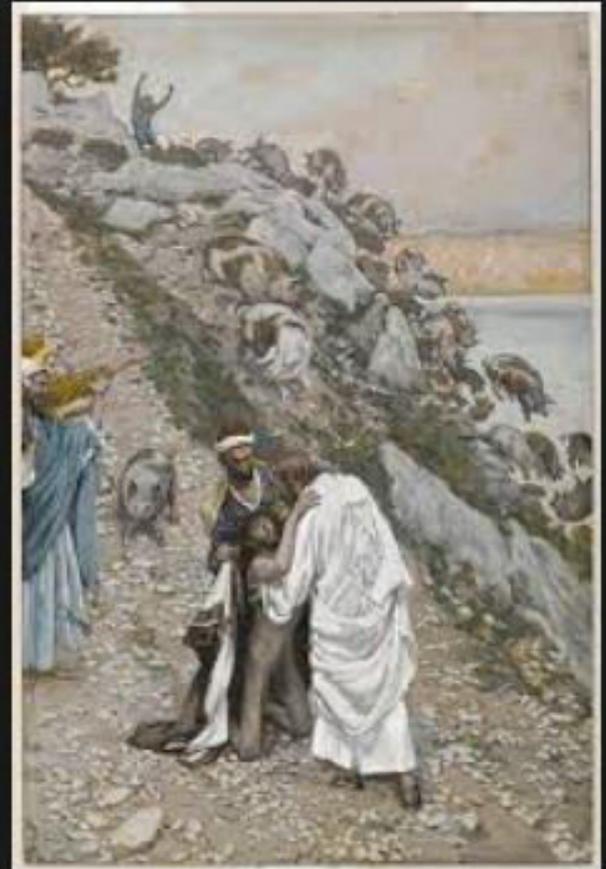


III. Faith That Can Be Rejected

C. In light of one's lifestyle

Leviticus 11:7

And the swine, though he divide the hoof, and be clovenfooted, yet he cheweth not the cud; he is unclean to you.

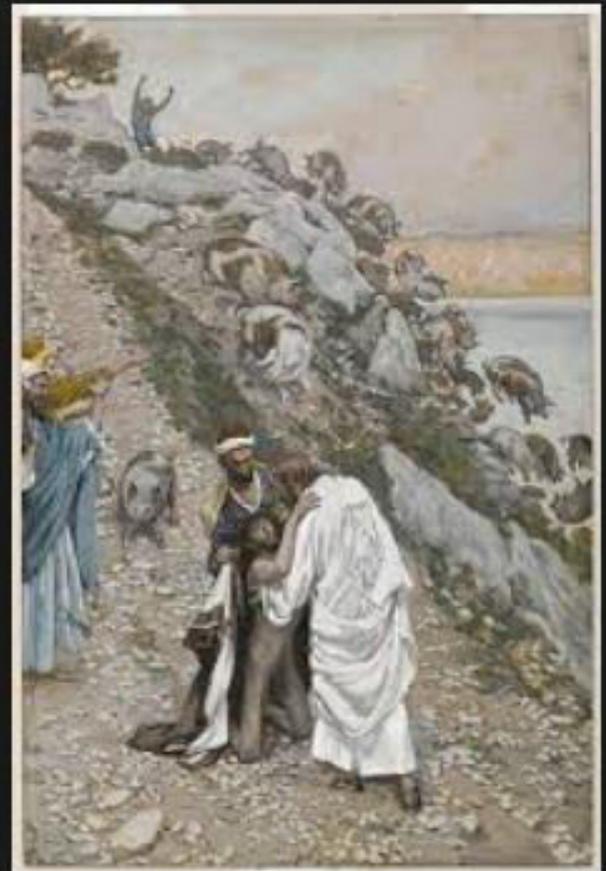


III. Faith That Can Be Rejected

D. In light of great power (v 34)

Mark 7:9

And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.



How is your faith?

