

## "O Ye Of Little Faith"

⇒ **Text:**            **Matthew 8:26**

⇒ **Intro:**

- o In the gospel of Matthew four times our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ uses the expression, "**O ye of little faith**" or "**O thou of little faith**"
- o From these four occurrences we can see what possessing "**little faith**" produces in a believer's life.
- o But before we do that I want to talk a little about faith.
  - Faith is basically believing what God said and acting on it.
  - For example:
    - To save his family from the coming flood, Noah believed and God that the flood was coming and acted upon this by building an ark.

- Today, if someone wants to be saved from going to hell for their sins and know when they die that they are going to heaven-
  - Then they must believe what God said in His word, about being a sinner, and repenting of their sins and asking God to forgive them for their sins and receiving Christ by faith into their heart. *-Believing it is <sup>only</sup> Christ's shed that blood that saves them*
  - They act upon what God said by confessing with their mouth the Lord Jesus, and believing in their heart that God hath raised him from the dead.
  - If they do that they will be saved.
- o How does faith come?
- By hearing – "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." **Romans 10:17**
    - That is why it so important to read and study the scriptures and come to church hear the Bible preached and taught.

- o Why is faith so important?
  - Salvation comes by faith – **Eph. 2:8-9**
  - Just live by faith – **Rom. 1:7, Gal. 3:11**
  - Saints overcome by faith – **I John 5:4**
  - Cannot please God without faith – **Heb. 11:6**
  - What is not faith is sin – **Rom. 14:23**
  - Necessary for the Spiritual Battle (shield of faith) – **Eph. 6:16**

⇒ Let's now turn our attention to where Jesus uses the expressions "**O ye of little faith**" or "**O thou of little faith**".

⇒ **I. When Our Lord Rebuked CARE – Mt. 6:30**

- o In the previous verses 25-29, our Lord tells us how He takes care of the fowl of the air and the lilies and grass of the field.
- o Here in verse 30, our Lord is issuing a rebuke and saying if I take care of those things then can't you trust me to take care of your material needs.

- o You see a believer who has little faith or trust in the Lord to provide what he or she needs then their lives will be characterized by worry and care.
  - Little faith or trust in the Lord provides care and worry.
- o What the Lord is trying to get us to do is trust in him for our care.
  - To provide for the material things while our attention can be focused on the spiritual things.
  - This is what he means when He says, "**...seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**"

⇒ **II. When Our Lord Rebuked FEAR – Mt. 8:26**

- o Little faith in the Lord produces fear in the believer's life.
- o The Lord's disciples were fearful that He was going to allow them to perish.
  - That He could not protect them.

- o That is how the believer gets when the storms of life hit.
  - Because they have little faith in the Lord they become fearful and believe that the situation is beyond His control.
  - That He has forgotten all about them.
- o It is times like that you must remember God's promise.
  - **"I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."** – Mt. 28:20
  - **"I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."** Heb. 13:5
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  - **"When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee."** Isa. 43:2.

### ⇒ III. When Our Lord Rebuked DOUBT – Mt. 14:31

- o Here we have the incident where Peter is walking on the water.
  - Notice in v. 29, Jesus tells Peter, **"Come"**.
  - Then Peter takes his eyes off the Lord and **"he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid"**
  - You see Peter doubted the Lord to get him safely the rest of the way.
  - The reason Peter doubted was because he had little faith or trust in the Lord.
  - A life of little faith in the Lord produces doubt in the believer's life.
  - What is interesting is that Peter had seen previously how the Lord had control over the wind and the sea back there in Matthew 8.
  - Oh! child of God how soon we forget what the Lord has done for us and how many storms He has gotten us through.

o My friend you must remember when our Lord says, “**Come**”, there is no reason to doubt that he will not get you their safely.

- Even if like Peter you begin to sink, remember you still can cry out to him “**Lord, save me**” and He will.

⇒ **IV. When Our Lord Rebuked FAULTY REASONING –**

**Mt. 16:7-8**

o We see here that little faith in the Lord produces faulty reasoning and effects how the believer thinks.

o Our Lord had said to his disciples, “**Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.**”

- Our Lord meant the false teachings or doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

o However, His disciples thought He was speaking about literal bread because they had no bread at the time.

o Our Lord straightens them out by reminding of how he had feed the 5,000 and 4,000.

- How could they believe that He could not provide bread for them?

o You see little faith in the Lord will affect our thinking.

- It will produce faulty reasoning.
- It will cause the believer to focus on his circumstances instead of the Lord.
- You see my friend your circumstances will change but the Lord remains the same ever faithful and trustworthy.

⇒ **Conclusion:**

o We have seen that little faith in the Lord produces a life of –

- Care/Worry
- Fear
- Doubt
- Faulty Reasoning