

SERMON STUDY NOTES

29th September 2019
Speaker: Martin Armstrong

Faith and Obedience

1. Matt 13:58 tells us that *Jesus didn't do many mighty works in Nazareth His home town because of the unbelief*. Why would people in his home town be sceptical of his ministry?
2. Hebrews 11:6. *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him*. Where there is unity, strong faith, & expectation among Christians, a mighty work can be done. Where are you at in this regard? What sort of life experiences can dampen our faith?
3. Think of Elijah on Mt Carmel full of confidence confronting the prophets of Baal. A short time later he was running from Jezebel, and ended up discouraged sitting under a juniper tree. Have you had an event in your life that has shattered your faith and opened you up to fear?

4. God couldn't use Peter after he denied Jesus: It was after he repented of his cowardice that his faith and courage were restored. A discouraged believer who loses heart will be side-lined by the Lord. Are you confident about sharing your faith with others? Has there been a particular event that caused you to lose confidence?

5. DL Moody attended a meeting where the speaker said *"the world has yet to see what God could do if one person totally yielded to him"*. Moody responded and said *"I propose to be that person"* What are some of the reasons why very few people are prepared to take that step?

6. God sent His servant Elijah to visit a poor widow & her son... 1 Kings 16:8-16. God told her to feed His prophet Elijah. This meant she'd have to give him everything she had left. God was calling this widow to take a step of faith. To trust & obey Him, even though that step would cost her everything she had. Share a situation when God was telling you to do something, but you were reluctant?

7. Many believers don't support the Lord's work because He's their last consideration when it comes to using their resources. He gets the leftovers...God can make the 90% that we keep for ourselves to go even further than the 100%. Discuss

8. Jesus said Luke 9:24 *“Whoever holds onto their life in this world, whoever uses their life to satisfy their own self-centred interests will lose it, but whoever loses their life, gives it over to God for His purposes will find it: they’ll discover life as God really intended it, on this earth and in heaven.”* What are the things we hold on to that prevent us from obeying & trusting God?

9. Thank God for his provision and for the many people who give freely of their time and money to enable us to fulfil our vision & ministry objectives in this church and community.