

**We Don't Need More Faith. We Need to Act on the Faith We Have.****Faith Is More about What We Do than It Is about What We Believe.**

Just as the disciples asked Jesus to tell them how to get more faith, "Sometimes we request this of Jesus after reading the Scriptures, and we realize the high cost of following Jesus," the Rev. Dr. Brook Thelander said in his sermon Sunday. "Such was the case here in the Gospel, where the disciples' request for more faith comes in response to Jesus' demand to forgive repeatedly an erring brother or sister who is hurtful.

"Sometimes," he continued, "we ask the Lord to increase our faith when we are inspired by the godly example of others." We may say, "Lord, give me faith like that."

Jesus' answer to his disciples, about faith as small as a tiny mustard seed, refutes "our notion of faith" as "a quantity—something that can be stockpiled. And we think that if we could just increase the size of the stockpile, we could do amazing things.

"But Jesus seems to indicate otherwise," Pastor Thelander said. "Jesus says that faith is not something to be stockpiled, and therefore you don't need a large amount of it. A small scrap of faith—even a tiny, minuscule amount—is enough. With faith the size of a mustard seed, you can tap into the power of God and see amazing things accomplished."

The reason why a tiny amount is enough "may lie in the little story Jesus tells here to his disciples. In telling them this story about the servant and his master, Jesus says to them that the key factor in the life of faith is not the *size* of your faith, but rather *the willingness to take a risk and to act on the faith you have* .

"Jesus seems to link faith here with tangible acts of simple service. Faith is more about what we *do* than what we *believe*. And no matter how schooled you may be in the life of faith, you will never outgrow your calling to be a servant. What the disciples really need here is not more of something. What they need is to act on what they already know. They need to dress their faith in service clothes."

The heroes of the faith who are listed in Hebrews 11 were great, he said, because "they took a risk and acted on the faith they had." Like them, "As you come (p.2→)



The grateful leper is shown here as he kneels in gratitude at the feet of Jesus, as the other lepers who were healed went their way. As we will hear in the Gospel lesson this Sunday, all ten had prayed for healing, but only one expressed his gratitude to the One who heard their prayer. Engraving source: [www.episcopaleslatinos.org](http://www.episcopaleslatinos.org)

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Sundays

10:00 a.m.: Word & Table service

11:30 a.m.: Refreshments, conversation

11:45 a.m.: Post-service discussion

6:00 p.m.: (First Sundays only) Choral Evensong, tea & refreshments

Thursdays: 6:30 p.m.: Evening Prayers. 7:00 p.m.: Singing & discussing hymns.

**Readings, 10/14:** Ruth 1:1-19; Ps. 113; 2 Tim. 2:1-15; Luke 17:11-19. **10/21:** Deut. 8:6-18; Ps. 121; 2 Cor. 9:6-15; Luke 18:1-8.

**Prayer Emphases:** Haiti; Evangelical Methodist Church; Spencer Wesleyan Church, Spencer, NE, and the Rev. Grant Graff; missionaries; parishioners on Plymouth Street.

**For the poor:** Ground beef, chicken, bacon, fresh produce, canned fruits and vegetables, milk, butter, cheese, cooking oil, pancake mix, syrup, dry cereal, chili powder, garlic powder, diapers, baby wipes, toilet paper, hand and bath soap, shampoo, conditioner, razors, shaving cream, men's and women's new underwear, gift cards or money to buy ice for dining facilities, cleaning supplies and bleach.

**(Sermon, cont'd.)** to the Lord's Table this morning, I invite you to bring with you that situation in your life where you have been asking, 'Lord, give me more faith.' As you meet him here, let him fill you with his grace. Then rise, go forth, and *step out* and act on the faith you have."

**In thanksgiving for forgiveness, we'll sing,** "His is love beyond a brother's, costly, free, and knows no end," in Newton's *One There Is Above All Others*.