

OCTOBER 6, 2019 SUMMARY SERMON-JOHN TSCHUDY

SCRIPTURE LESSON 2 TIMOTHY 1:1-14, LUKE 17:5-10

In this week's texts we turn again to the lesson of humility. To have Faith in God is to be a servant willing to endure suffering for the sake of doing God's work. The author of the text seems to be a good Jew who has begun following Jesus. Notice he claims to be worshiping the same God his "Ancestors" did. Thus in following Jesus he is worshiping the God of Abraham that created the world. This is an important lesson for us to remember. The God of the Jews is the same God we as Christians worship. And since the Muslims also worship the God of Abraham they also worship the same God we do. They just describe that God in different ways. And to have Faith in that God is to do more than believe in that God. It is to be committed to a way of life that is based on a Spirit within us given us by God. The lessons of faithful living are instilled in us by others but the Spirit to guide us comes from God. In this text, this giving is symbolized by the act of Laying on of Hands that the Christian Church still uses today.

Notice in our text salvation doesn't come to us by our own actions but by our having the Faith to rely on God and then calls us to do God's work. It is by having the Faith to trust in that God and respond to God's call even if it leads us into hard times or even suffering. It is God that gives us the gifts of God's grace and salvation through our Faith and the Spirit within us that allows us to be saved. I'm sure none of us would admit to being ashamed of being a Christian. But isn't that exactly what are doing when we choose the way of the world over following Christ, to be included in some groups, or remaining silent in our world today about matters of Faith and Christian morality?

Those following Christ asked that he increase their Faith just like many of us do in our daily prayers. According to Jesus all we need is a little Faith to do great works. Does that mean that he is saying that his followers then and now don't have any Faith? Or is Jesus trying to get us to see the power what Faith we have is capable of? I am wondering if he isn't asking us to have Faith in our Faith and use that to do what we are called to do. It is very easy to give into our doubts and fears, especially in today's world where being afraid of everything from sweaty hands to people that don't look like us is the message forced on us each and every day.

Along with the message of fear comes the message of we deserve more and better of the things the WORLD offers us and values. To deal with our fears we need more stuff and more expensive stuff. But here is Jesus reminding us that we are to live our lives as servants, obeying God and helping others. No wonder in our world today people don't know what to believe and they are turning away from the Gospels' message of thanksgiving and service and claiming salvation as their right they have earned. There is for many a message out there today that says they don't need the church with its constant demand for money. All they need to do is believe-better yet know that Jesus died for them and they will be saved, no matter how they live or what they believe.

As Christians we see in our texts today that we are called to have Faith and we are called to be servants to all others, dependent on God for the courage and strength to live our lives as servants of God, doing God's work in the world in Jesus' Name.