

## How Much Faith Is Enough?

**Intro.** I recently heard a new phrase, “Quiet quitting.” It means people setting boundaries at work, no longer going above and beyond what their job description says, because there is no recognition, incentive or reward for doing so. A little appreciation goes a long way. This is nothing new but has become a larger issue during these pandemic times when more people are working from home and more nights and weekends. The Lord addresses a similar issue with disciples in today’s gospel.

**I.** The request of the apostles to increase their faith comes immediately after the Lord challenged them to forgive a sister or brother as many as seven times in one day. To them, that was too difficult without help. On some days coping with illness, hurricanes,

fires and violence seems like it takes more faith than *we* have. The Lord let them in on a secret: a little faith goes a long way. They needed to trust the faith they already had and use it to accomplish great things. Eventually they believed in the power of faith and did amazing things. As can we.

The parable of the relationship between a master and her or his servants was an image the disciples understood from their culture. No master would *ever* make dinner for his servants. He or she expected to be served. It was the servants’ job. By telling the parable, the Lord may have been reminding the apostles they were to be *servants, not masters* in his plan of evangelization. There was a twist: more was required of them than the usual servant. Theirs was not to be just a job. It is to be a way of living every day, past five o’clock. Parents and caregivers

already understand this. Having faith in the Lord - and in each other - is important. But just *having* faith is like having a talent for music but never singing one song, writing a single note or playing an instrument. St. James wrote, "... what good is it to profess faith without practicing it...So it is with the faith that does nothing in practice. It is dead."

[James 2:14, 17] And again, "You have faith and I have works. Show me your faith *without* works and I will show you the faith that *underlies* my works!"

[James 2:18] {My emphasis.}

**Concl.** As present-day disciples, we are servants of God. We are to do what he commands. But if that is *all* we do, we are just average servants. We have quietly quit. We are expected to do more than just the minimum. The Lord accused the Pharisees and scribes of doing only what was required by the law,

while their hearts were far away from God. Lots of people can forgive someone a few times. One hallmark of the Lord's disciples is forgiving even seven times a day. That *does* take faith. We aren't going to be whipping trees out of the ground and sending them crashing into the sea. (Though it would certainly help in the hurricane cleanup.)

**Disciples go over and above the "job description" to serve others. In the next few days watch how disciples of the Lord and friends serve after the hurricane and see what faith in God and in each other can do. The reward is the gratitude in the faces of people served and in the hearts of those who serve. No quiet quitting there.**

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