

What would you do?

- ***Headline-Brink's Armored Truck Spills Cash on Highway, and Drivers Scoop It Up.***

Would you be scooping some up for yourself?

- ***You have the chance to join in ridiculing a colleague/peer. Do you take the opportunity to pile on?***
- ***You have the chance to lie and know you will probably not get caught. Do you take the chance?***

DO THEY KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS?



Do our actions reflect our faith?

- *What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds?*
James 2: 14
- Many people claim to believe in Christ and state that they have accepted Him as their savior. This is a good start.
- Unfortunately, their words and actions do not support their claim.
- When we look at our lives, is James describing us?

A Time to Live Out Our Faith

- Trials

- We receive bad news (health, employment, family issues, etc)
- We are the target of ridicule/gossip.
- Stress is getting the best of us.
- Loves ones are struggling.

What is our reaction?

Do we turn to God?

Do we pray with and for others?

Do we blame God?

Do we doubt God's love/concern for us?

Do we wallow in self-pity?

Do we turn away from our faith?

Faith of the Synagogue Ruler

- ¹⁸ While he was saying this, a synagogue leader came and knelt before him and said, “My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live.” ¹⁹ Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples. *Matt 9: 18-19*



Turning to God

- The ruler turned to Jesus because he believed Jesus could heal his daughter.
- *Trials give us a chance:*
- to humble ourselves and ask for God's help.
- to grow our faith.
- to gauge our maturity level.
- to set a great example.



Is God our fortress?

- ¹ God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
² Therefore we will not fear,
though the earth give way and the
mountains fall into the heart of the
sea,
³ though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with
their surging.
- ⁷ The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.
Psalm 46 1-3,7



When trials occur in our life, do we trust in God to get us through?

A Time to Live Out Our Faith

Treatment of the Less Fortunate

When we walk down the street and encounter a homeless person begging for money, what is our reaction?

- Throughout history, the poor have always been looked down upon.
- ***58 Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”***
Luke 9: 58
- Jesus was poor and homeless.
- Why would God choose His son to be poor?

Is our faith alive?

- ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

James 2: 15-17

- *There are so many people who need our help.*
- *It can be overwhelming.*
- *“You can’t help everyone, but you can help someone.” John Lennon*
- *When we help those in need, our faith is alive.*
- *Doing nothing to help our neighbors is a sign of dead faith.*

Helping Those in Need = Helping Jesus

- ³⁴ “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,
- ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’
- ⁴⁰ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’
Matt 25: 34-36, 40
- *We have many chances to help those in need. Are we willing to do something?*

A Time to Live Out Our Faith

The Good Times

- Many “successful” people have turned away from God because they believe they do not need God anymore.
- They may also feel that they made their own success.

- *“give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”*

1 Thessalonians 5: 18

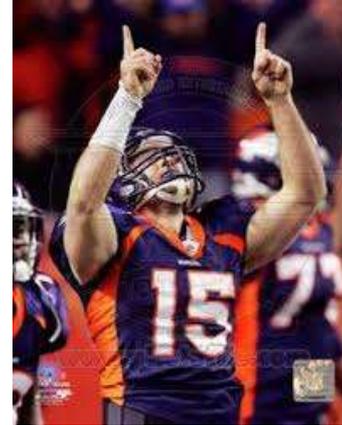


Can't Contain the News

- ⁴⁰ A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, “If you are willing, you can make me clean.”
- ⁴¹ Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” ⁴² Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.
- ⁴³ Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: ⁴⁴ “See that you don’t tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them.” ⁴⁵ Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. Mark 1: 40-45

When Good Things Happen

- What is our first reaction when we receive good news or something good happens in our life?
- Does thanking God come to the front of our minds?
- Tim Tebow always made sure people knew where his success came from.



God Expects Gratitude

- ¹² As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance ¹³ and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”
- ¹⁴ When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.
- ¹⁵ One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice.
- ¹⁶ He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.
- ¹⁷ Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸ **Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?**” ¹⁹ Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.” Luke 17: 11-19

Final Thoughts

- “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” Mark 12: 30
- *How important is it to us to have a faith that is alive?*
- *Do we live each day for God or for us?*
- *When we meet God, is He going to be pleased with the effort we gave Him?*