

Heart-Faith and Not Mind-Faith - Part 3

by Zac Poonen

The sermon emphasizes the importance of having a heart-faith, which is a personal relationship with Jesus, and demonstrates Jesus' resurrection to the world.

Duration: 10:11

Scripture: Acts 1:8, Romans 1:17, Romans 9:30, Romans 10:11, Hebrews 13:8

Topics: "Living Faith", "Resurrection Power"

Description

This sermon emphasizes the unfailing nature of Jesus Christ, highlighting that whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed. It challenges believers to move beyond mere rituals and doctrines to truly demonstrate the living reality of Jesus Christ through their lives. The focus is on being witnesses of His resurrection, not just His crucifixion, and living by faith in His unchanging nature.

Transcript

And let me turn now to Romans chapter 10. In Romans chapter 10, there's a lovely verse, verse 11. It's a beautiful verse.

I don't know whether we have thought about it enough. It's an Old Testament quotation. Romans chapter 10, verse 11.

Whoever believes in Jesus will not be disappointed. There's a song we sing sometimes called He's Not a Disappointment. I just want you to look at the words of that on the screen.

He is not a disappointment. Jesus is far more to me than in all my glowing daydreams I had fancied he could be. And the more I get to know him, the more I find him true, the more I long that others should be led to know him too.

He's not a disappointment. He saved my soul from sin, all the guilt, all the anguish, which oppressed my heart within. He is banished by his presence.

Blessed is the peace he has showed my heart forever, that his love for me will never cease. He's not a disappointment. He's coming by and by in my heart.

I have a witness that he's coming draw at night. All the scoffers may despise me and no change around me, but he tells me he's coming, and that's quite enough for me. He's not a disappointment.

He's all in all to me. You know, in the original, it was Savior, Sanctifier, Healer. Some who didn't believe in it also changed it to Helper.

The unchanging Christ is he. He has won my heart's affections and he meets my every need. He's not a disappointment, for he satisfies indeed.

Is that all? See, there's one verse missing in that, and I'll tell you what it is. He is not a disappointment. He has healed my body too.

And then it goes on to say, when on earth he healed diseases as they touched him in the throng, has he lost his heart of pity? Is the risen Christ less strong when on earth he healed diseases as they touched him in the throng? Has he lost his heart of pity? Is the risen Christ less strong? But we know that multitudes touched him. One woman got healed because she touched in faith. It's faith that God honors, not touch.

Thousands can touch. One touches in faith. That's it.

You know, when we come to a meeting, we throng around Jesus, because Jesus is here. I believe the Lord is here right now. The risen Lord.

We throng around him. We sit around him. We listen to him.

But maybe one woman touches him in faith. Or a man. Or a young child.

And something happens to that person, which only that person knows. And the rest of us, we're happy. We met with the Lord and went away with our problem completely unsolved.

Is it possible that we are missing something? Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed. Brothers and sisters, that should be our honest testimony. I have trusted in him and he is not a disappointment.

He has saved me from sin. He has done for me everything that he has promised. One of the great challenges that has come to my own heart is, I say, Lord, I never want to get stuck in a religion that's a ritual.

I don't want a Christianity that's just a whole lot of doctrines and theories. In what way must we be different from other Christians, if at all? If it's only that we have some doctrines that we preach which other people don't preach. Well, we have more doctrines than others.

It's like saying, well, in my vegetable shop I sell more vegetables than the other chap. I've got some rare vegetables which that fellow doesn't sell. It's not such a great thing.

You know, I feel that our calling is to demonstrate by our life, by our faith, that Jesus Christ is risen. He's not dead. Most of Christendom proclaims more Christ died for our sins than Christ is risen from the dead.

I'm absolutely sure all of us have probably seen a hundred times more pictures of Jesus on the cross than Jesus coming out of the grave. Tell me if I'm right or not. All the pictures that you've seen in different places, in different homes, story books, Bible books.

Aren't there pictures of Jesus hanging on a cross? Rarely do you see a picture of Jesus coming out of the grave. That is what we need to see. Jesus risen.

And the apostles always spoke about the fact that we are witnesses of his resurrection. You read in the Acts of the Apostles. Not once did they say we are witnesses of his crucifixion.

They were witnesses of his crucifixion. They saw him die, but that's not the point. Because witnesses of his crucifixion means what? This nice man, like the people in Emmaus said, yeah, we thought he would be the one who would deliver us.

But poor man, he died. He was a nice man, you know. He helped a lot of people.

But he died. And we are witnesses of the fact that he died. But he was such a nice man.

And I want to be like him. I want to be a nice man like him. I want to wash people's feet.

And I want to be humble like him. And I want to do so many things like him. He's such a wonderful example for me.

But poor man, he died. This is exactly the testimony of many of us. I want to be like him.

I want to be forgiving like him. I want to be gracious like him. I want to be good like him.

Yeah, yeah. Great. But is he risen? Is he alive? Is he the same yesterday, today, and forever? I don't know about all that, but he's a nice man.

I want to be like Jesus. Mahatma Gandhi wanted to be like Jesus too. Many, many people.

But our calling is to show the world that Jesus is alive. And you and I have to say that we have failed to a large extent. I think it's a failure of faith.

How many of you will take that as a challenge, not in your head, but in your heart? Lord, I want to take that seriously. I want to be a witness by my life of the fact that Jesus is alive. He's alive.

He's the same yesterday, today, and forever. He's not dead and gone like some good man who died and went. You know, the whole country admires Mahatma Gandhi as a wonderful man.

He cared for the lepers. He treated all religious people the same. And definitely he was a very good man.

But poor man. Somebody killed him and he died. Is it like that with Jesus? He also was a good man who did so many things and said so many nice things, but poor man finally died.

Or is he alive? Risen? That is what it means to have faith. The righteous shall live by faith. So, earlier in Romans 10, let's go to Romans 9 30.

He speaks about the Gentiles, that is the non-Jewish people, who did not seek after righteousness. They attained righteousness. Which is the righteousness, which is by faith.

But the Jewish people, Israel, they pursued a law of righteousness and did not arrive at it. Isn't that interesting? The people who were eagerly pursuing after righteousness didn't get it. And some other fellows who didn't pursue after righteousness, they got it.

Seems a bit unfair on God's part. And you can apply that to yourself. And say, Lord, I've been pursuing after something and I didn't get it.

How is it somebody else got it? I mean, don't we feel, for example, in our church, most of us, that we are pursuing holiness more than some of these other people in other churches.

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