

SERMON: TRINITY 19
02 Oct 2016 @ St. David's Church, Exeter
Rev. Christopher Durrant
Luke 17.5-10

[This sermon was preached without notes or script.
What follows are just a few points written after the event.]

+ In the name of God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

1. "Increase our faith"

Faith cannot be measured or compared, it cannot be increased or decreased – it is not a commodity to be traded or acquired. There are no International Standard units of faith! Our faith matters because we use it. Even faith the size of a mustard seed can uproot mountains because measurable qualities such as size do not matter. This is a counter-cultural message.

2. "Servant – Master relationship"

Jesus may call us friends in other Gospel stories, but never forget He is the creator, and we are the created. He is the master, and we are servants. But Jesus' mastery over us is not like that of worldly power, but directed by friendship and humility – Jesus is the master who washes and wipes dirty feet. As Jesus serves, we are called to use our mustard-seed faith to serve; not to deny His place as God.

3. “Unworthy”

Elsewhere, Jesus affirms us a ‘children of God’ and the ‘apple of His eye’. Being unworthy is not a contradiction, because those things we often value are those things we can measure, compare or acquire. Just as we can’t measure, compare or acquire faith, so our /real/ worth cannot be. Our real worth is in dependant relationship with God our loving master. We are unworthy apart from Him. Accepting this truth removes the power of bullies or the enemy to crush us.

Your faith is sufficient – use it to serve – know your worth is in God, and as such your worth can never be taken away or destroyed.

Amen.



Luke 17:5-10 (NRSV)

⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” ⁶ The Lord replied, “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

⁷ “Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from ploughing or tending sheep in the field, ‘Come here at once and take your place at the table?’ ⁸ Would you not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink?’ ⁹ Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? ¹⁰ So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, ‘We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!’”