

## Great Faith

March 1, 2009

Teacher: Rick Benjamin

Mark 10:43-45. *Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*

Jesus never said it is wrong to desire to be \_\_\_\_\_ in the kingdom. Jesus just said the only way to be great in the kingdom – be a \_\_\_\_\_.

Matthew 15:21-28. *Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession.” Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.” The woman came and knelt before him. “Lord, help me!” she said. He replied, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to their dogs.” “Yes, Lord,” she said, “but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.” Then Jesus answered, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed from that very hour.*

What made her faith great? She would not \_\_\_\_\_.

Luke 11:8-10. *“...yet because of the man’s boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs. So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.”*

Luke 7:1-10. *When Jesus had finished saying all this in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. There a centurion’s servant, who his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, “This man deserves to have you do this, because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue.” So Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: “Lord, don’t trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority; with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, “I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.” Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.*

What made his faith great? He understood the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.

Matthew 28:18. Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”

The real secret to the great faith of the Canaanite woman and the centurion was their belief in the great \_\_\_\_\_!

You can have great faith too, if you know you have a great God who has \_\_\_\_\_!

You can have great faith too, if you know you have a great God with all the \_\_\_\_\_ to do what you need.

Even though you don’t deserve it, keep on asking and seeking and knocking. Be desperate, be humble, be bold. He has what you need and the authority to do it. You, too, can have GREAT FAITH!

# Great Faith

## Connecting with Friends:

1. What section of the newspaper do you read first – funnies, sports, world news, local news, editorial, business? Why?
2. Complete this sentence: the event that has had the greatest impact on my life has been...

## Growing through God's Word:

1. Read Hebrews 11. Examine how faith is defined and described. Discuss several people that are mentioned in this chapter. Think about how your faith compares.
2. If someone asked you what was the most interesting idea, concept or principle about this weekend's message, what would you tell them?
3. What is the greatest example of faith that you've seen in someone's life?
4. What area of faith do you need to practical apply to your life?

## Caring for one another in prayer:

1. For me personally, I need faith for...
2. Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames is our major evangelistic outreach beginning April 12. Pray for the HGHF's leadership as they begin selecting cast, preparing advertisements, rallying stage crew, altar workers, etc.
3. Pray over your Life Group service project.