2018 is the Year of H.A.R.V.E.S.T.  EXPRESSING OUR FAITH

Developing Radical Faith

“Faith is the strength by which a shattered world shall emerge into the light.” ~ Helen Keller

Focal Texts: Matthew 21:18-22 NRSV Jesus Curses the Fig Tree

18 In the morning, when he returned to the city, he was hungry. 19 And seeing a fig tree by the side of the road, he went to it and found nothing at all on it but leaves. Then he said to it, “May no fruit ever come from you again!” And the fig tree withered at once. 20 When the disciples saw it, they were amazed, saying, “How did the fig tree wither at once?” 21 Jesus answered them, “Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only will you do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, ‘Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ it will be done. 22 Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive.”

Introduction

- Our senses are not adequate indicators that God is working and moving in our lives.
- Radical faith enables us to believe beyond what we hear, think, and see.
- Jesus exemplified radical faith.
- Radical faith creates opportunities for God to perform miracles and to release blessings.
- God wants us to enjoy the blessings of radical faith.

In our focal text, Jesus teaches his disciples a lesson on faith. Jesus’ lesson has implications for all believers. The text begins with a problem, which leads to a conversation of the disciples’ power, culminating with a final word of preparation for their future.

The BIG Idea: God wants us to demonstrate radical faith.

I. Problem - Matthew 21:18-22 NRSV Jesus Curses the Fig Tree

18 In the morning, when he returned to the city, he was hungry. 19 And seeing a fig tree by the side of the road, he went to it and found nothing at all on it but leaves. Then he said to it, “May no fruit ever come from you again!” And the fig tree withered at once.
Three problems emerge from our text.

A. A hungry Christ
B. Fruitless tree
C. Cursed existence

II. Power - Matthew 21:20-21 20 When the disciples saw it, they were amazed, saying, “How did the fig tree wither at once?” 21 Jesus answered them, “Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only will you do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, ‘Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ it will be done.

Our faith enables us to receive…

A. Immediate results
B. Impossible outcomes
and blessings …
C. Initiated by what we say or speak

III. Preparation - Matthew 21:22 22 Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive.”

Jesus Word of preparation ensures our …

A. Foundation
B. Fruit
C. Futures

APPLY IT!

1. What are some tangible ways we might exercise radical faith? List them in the space below.

2. What actions, headspaces, or circumstances challenge the growth and maturation of your faith? How might you overcome them?

“Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you.” ~ Saint Augustine