



## I. INTRO/REVIEW

**Matthew 17:19-20 (NIV)** <sup>19</sup> Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?” <sup>20</sup> He replied, “Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

### A. Sound bites

- Maybe faith
  - Whatever you hope for is how far your confidence, or faith, can expand.
- Baby faith

**Phil 4:6-7 (NLT)** <sup>6</sup> Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. <sup>7</sup> Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

### B. Answered prayer is where we often start when we’re talking about faith

- There’s a difference between saying you’re a person of faith and actually living a life of faith

### C. The importance of faith

- Eph 2:8 – Saved by grace through faith
- Rom 1:17 – the just will live by faith
- 2 Cor 5:7 – We walk by faith not sight
- 1 Tim 6:12 – Fight the good fight of faith

### D. Faith should move us from “Here to There”

**Philippians 3:12-14 (NLT)** <sup>12</sup> I don’t mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. <sup>13</sup> No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

## II. THE FIRST STEP

**Genesis 12:1 (TLB)** God had told Abram, “Leave your own country behind you, and your own people, and go to the land I will guide you to.”

### A. Faith is a step into the unknown and uncomfortable

- Faith deals with the unseen

### B. The pain of faith = risk

### C. The pain of faith will never outweigh the promise of faith



**Genesis 12:2-3 (TLB)** <sup>2</sup> If you do, I will cause you to become the father of a great nation; I will bless you and make your name famous, and you will be a blessing to many others. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you; and the entire world will be blessed because of you.”

D. God will meet you at the intersection of faith and obedience

**Acts 9:3-6 (NIV)** <sup>3</sup> As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup> He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” <sup>5</sup> “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. <sup>6</sup> “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

### III. SAFER OR SAVIOR?

A. The matter of perception

**Matthew 14:23-33 (TLB)** <sup>23-24</sup> Then afterwards he went up into the hills to pray. Night fell, and out on the lake the disciples were in trouble. For the wind had risen and they were fighting heavy seas. <sup>25</sup> About four o’clock in the morning Jesus came to them, walking on the water! <sup>26</sup> They screamed in terror, for they thought he was a ghost. <sup>27</sup> But Jesus immediately spoke to them, reassuring them. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. <sup>28</sup> Then Peter called to him: “Sir, if it is really you, tell me to come over to you, walking on the water.” <sup>29</sup> “All right,” the Lord said, “come along!” So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he looked around at the high waves, he was terrified and began to sink. “Save me, Lord!” he shouted. <sup>31</sup> Instantly Jesus reached out his hand and rescued him. “O man of little faith,” Jesus said. “Why did you doubt me?” <sup>32</sup> And when they had climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. <sup>33</sup> The others sat there, awestruck. “You really are the Son of God!” they exclaimed.

- They thought a ghost was coming to them harm, but actually it’s Jesus coming to rescue them

B. You have to be in the boat before you can step out of the boat

C. Faith is confidence in who God is

- This is more about **WHO** we have faith **IN** rather than **WHAT** we have faith **FOR**

**Matthew 6:31-33 (NLT)** <sup>31</sup> “So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’” <sup>32</sup> These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. <sup>33</sup> Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

- *What are the small steps of obedience that God is asking you to take?*