

LAST MINUTE COURSE

(developed by Michel Larribeau MTh)

NOTES FOR PREACHERS

Aim: 'to learn to build on life solid foundations'

COURSE PLAN

(Jesus' commands in the 4 gospels,
based on the chronological order of Luke's gospel)

Title: LAST MINUTE COURSE (27 instructions)

Aim: to learn to build on life solid foundations

sample below for preview

SESSION 1 - **put together on faith** (Lk 17:5-10)

for the rest of the course contact us

SESSION 2 - **put together on prayer** (Lk 18:1-8)

SESSION 3 - **put together on service**
(Mt 20:20-28 with Mk 10:35-45)

SESSION 4 - **put together on submission**
(Mt 22:15-22 with Mk 12:13-17; Lk 20:20-26)

SESSION 5 - **put together on love**
(Mt 22:34-40 with Mk 12:28-34)

SESSION 6 - **put together on modesty** (Mt 23:1-12)

SESSION 7 - **put together on vigilance**
(Mt 24:1-51 with Mk 13:1-37, Lk 21:5-36)

SESSION 8 - **put together on discipleship**
(Mt 28:16-20)

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SESSION 1 - 'put together on faith'

① Read Luke 17 verses 5 to 10

② to start

- in the previous verses Jesus taught about the seriousness of provoking others to sin, especially children and the importance of on going forgiveness
- some commentators suggest that the request of more faith on the part of the apostles is linked to the previous verses; needing increased faith to fulfil these 2 difficult things
- other commentators propose that these verses are not linked but are about a new thing Luke wants his readers to know regarding Jesus' teaching
- Matthew and Mark tell us that Jesus used a similar comparison for faith in 2 other separate contexts; see Mt.17:14-21 and Mk.11:20-26
- whatever the reason for the disciples to make their request Jesus again takes the opportunity to repeat his teaching about the same aspect of faith [= not easy for disciples to grasp and important to Jesus]

③ FAITH

- in our passage (Lk.17:5-10) Luke actually conveys 2 different aspects of faith:
- 1. faith in God**
 - Luke gives us an object lesson in faith = faith in practice
 - Hebrews 11 tell us that faith is about belief in God (v.6a) and also having confidence, assurance in Him (v.1) and expectation from Him (v.6b)
 - it took faith from the disciples to make their request known to Jesus (Lk.17:5)
 - v.6 seems to be a rebuke (he knew their reason for asking)
 - not the only time he would have rebuked them; 'you of little faith', expression favourite of Matthew's: 6:23-33 (worry), 8:23-27 (fear), 16:5-12 (insecurity), 17:14-21 (failure)
 - . **common** experiences but **not commendable; still forgivable** (Jesus still calmed the storm)
- some are commended for theirs; "great is your faith" in Mt.8:5-13 & 15:21-28
- **Heb.11:6-19** gives a summary of Abraham's journey of faith, the possibility & importance of trusting, having & growing in confidence in God
- starting from believing in God's existence (v.6) and going on to God's different characteristics;

③ (faith continued)

- His wisdom (v.8), His reward (v.9), His power & faithfulness (v.11), His greatness (v.12), His knowledge (v.17-18), His victory (v.19)
- faith is not static, but a journey in learning to know God & his attributes, to know Him – the better we know the better the faith / trust

2. faith from God

- Jesus' reply has 2 sections; v.6 = teaching and v.7-10 = illustration
- **v.6 = faith as mustard seed**
 - faith can be a journey, as seen above, but in v.6 Jesus says that faith can also be compared to just a small mustard seed
 - no mention of growing into a big tree as in Lk.13:18-19 & suggested by some commentators
 - so not a journey but for a single event, for the removal of 'this' mulberry tree (no doubt Jesus pointing at it) [or a 'mountain' or anything else that requires removing or needs to happen]
- **so what is this faith about?** see Lk.17:6 with Mt.17:20; Mk.11:23)
 - 'if you have faith' = **conditional**, a question of having it (even small), not having a little and getting more, not automatic
 - how to know if? See Mk.11:23 = 'does not doubt in their heart but believe what they say will happen' = **assurance**
 - 'he did what he was told to do' Lk.17:9 = **God's way** of saying what he wants 'you can say' = importance of being specific, **commanding** things to happen
 - 'it will obey' or 'it will be done for them' (Mt.17:23) = **certain promise** (see end of v.21, Mt.17) with **time lapse** (unqualified) and **God's doing** not just our words
- faith listed **in the gifts of the Holy Spirit**; 1 Cor.12:7-11 (v.9), 1 Cor.13:2
- **v.7 to 10 in Luke 17: the point of the illustration** is to ensure the **whole important humility + continuous service** from those so gifted with such faith

④ to sum up: counting on the help of the Holy Spirit to ...

- realise the importance of having faith in God - believing and growing in our confidence in Him
- be honest and admit any failure in fully trusting Him
- understand the different aspect & potential of faith as a mustard seed
- cooperate with the Holy Spirit in speaking out whenever gifted with such faith