

Bible Study - P1 Class of 2028
Block 2 - Christianity Overview
Wednesdays at 4:00pm, Maddox Hall Room 224

Today's Topic: Finding and Fulfilling Faith

Today's Prayer Practice: Psalm 23 - The Lord is My Shephard (A Psalm of David)

- Center yourself: find peace, calm, and focus.
- Read Psalm 23
- Reflect upon the connection between you, your life, and God's direction for your life.
- Center yourself: find peace, calm, and focus.
- Pray where your heart is led, and listen for direction from God.

What is Faith?

- Faith is a deep belief or trust in something, someone, or a concept of which there is no proof.
 - There is exponential proof of God.
 - No one has ever seen God, but God is always with us through the Trinity.
- Driving force to help maintain hope.
- Faith can provide comfort, inspiration, motivation, a source of strength, and directional guidance for living life.

What is Hope?

- Hope is a feeling of optimism; a way of thinking that involves anticipating positive outcomes in the future; the resolution of all things to be good in the end.
 - Aids in maintaining the mindset and feelings of positivity in the face of adversity.
- Provides the strength and motivation to preserve.
- Provides the foundation for maintaining faith (within ourselves, others, and our religion).
- Connects individual's to the possibility of a tomorrow full of opportunities and fulfillment.

How do you define Faith? What is important for your Faith?

How do you define Hope? What is important for you to maintain Hope?

Matthew 13 - The Parable of the Sower (New International Version (NIV))

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ²Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹Whoever has ears, let them hear."

¹⁰The disciples came to him and asked, "Why do you speak to the people in parables?" ¹¹He replied, "Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. ¹²Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ¹³This is why I speak to them in parables:

"Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand.

¹⁴In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

"You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. ¹⁵For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.'

¹⁶But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. ¹⁷For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

¹⁸"Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ²²The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²³But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

The Parable of the Weeds

²⁴Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

²⁷"The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' ²⁸"An enemy did this,' he replied." The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' ²⁹"No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"

The Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast

³¹He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. ³²Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches."

³³He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds[b] of flour until it worked all through the dough."

³⁴Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. ³⁵So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet: "I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world."

What do you find important within this parable?

What lessons can be learned from this parable? How can you apply this parable to your life?

Questions?
