



May 18, 2025 Sermon Notes

Sermon:

“A Tall Tree Built By Faith”

Starting Over With God Sermon Series Pt. 1

(Luke 17:5-6 ESV)

Sermon By: Pastor G. Chris Brown

Sermon Text:

Luke 17:5-6 ESV

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" [6] And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

Sin & Temptation (Luke 17:1-4 Background):

- In these first 4 verses of this text, we see something that is a test to us! Jesus lets us know that temptation to sin is going to come, but woe to the one that falls into it, because it would be better for a milestone to be cast around a person's neck, than to cause one of the little ones to sin! Then Jesus also shows us, to be watchful to ourselves but then the test of our convictions is forgiveness, but if one does rebuke but then Jesus says if one sins against you 7 times, and then comes to you repenting 7 times it was then that Jesus said you must forgive him!
- You see that in our walk with the Lord, and in our following the Lord we see that it is better to stay away from some stuff that can hurt us, and it is better to be careful and watch your steps! Sin is real and people can hurt you, but your tests is what do you do not what a person does, but what do you afterwards because when you do it the Biblical way that's when you follow the Lord through forgiveness, even when it is hard and tough, you forgive because you know that's what the Lord wants! You forgive because you are freeing yourself, and God can't use bitter people, but God needs people who don't allow ugliness make them that way, but that press on, and that follow Him at all times!

The Plea For Increase:

- The word “Increase” in the Greek means: Give more.
- You have to have faith when you have to do hard things! Hard things make you seek God, because it is hard things that make you prepare yourself to do them because don’t try to do anything, or try to tackle something that you haven’t prepared for! You can’t try to do anything you haven’t prepared for, because when you don’t have the proper preparation you can get out there and crash, you can get out there and not understand what you are doing, and you can get out there not be able to handle the effects or what comes with the motion or situation, and that’s why you need to prepare yourself, because once you prepare yourself that’s when you are able to really have stronger faith, because you have made the proper preparation, and you are ready for the tasks!
- Your faith grows due to the desire that you have for God, but your faith will die when your desire for God has erased and hasn’t been replenished! You see that when you want the Lord, and when you love the Lord you see that you need more of the Lord because in order for faith to grow, how can faith grow when faith hasn’t been connected to the right source, I don’t want little faith but I want big faith, but you can’t have big faith if you have small thoughts, and small ideals! You understand, that you do have to do hard things, and doing hard things isn’t always easy, but if you want increase in faith that’s when the Lord has to push you, the Lord has to pull you, the Lord has to make you stronger, and the Lord has to cut some stuff out of you to grow you!
- This isn’t just an ordinary question, this isn’t just a random question, and this isn’t just a simple request! This is something different, this is something that takes courage and that takes bravery, and when you do that then you get to this place that God I need you to recreate me, I need the Lord to cut off things from me, and I need the Lord to reveal to me what it does take to have this increase in faith! It shows something as well, that for these apostles to ask this question, it does show that their faith wasn’t as strong as it appeared, it wasn’t as tall as it could be, and it wasn’t as fruitful as it would be, because it is easy to have faith when your faith isn’t challenged, but then how big is your faith, how reliable is your faith, and how dependable is your faith when your faith is challenged?
- I need the Lord because I know what I need in life, and I know I want the Lord because the Lord is wonderful to me, the Lord looks out for me, the Lord loves me, the Lord will restore me, and the Lord will walk with me! The Lord will be there at all times, and I’m glad that the Lord will walk with me through the process, because you do know that life is a process, life has various seasons, life is a journey, life is an odyssey, and life can be unpredictable at times! Life doesn’t always go the way you want it to go, life won’t wait on you, life won’t stop for you, life won’t always be friendly to you, life won’t always be loving towards you, and life won’t always be

perfect but you know that is why you should be glad about that, because you understand how much you need the Lord, and how much you desire the Lord!

- Prayer will increase your faith, and the reason prayer increases my faith is because I know who to talk to, and you know you can't have a better conversation than the conversation that you have with the Lord, and you know that when you have a conversation with the Lord it is conversation that reminds me that everything is going to work out, it is a conversation that reminds you that when me and the Lord talk I know that God got the words that I need, God has the answers that nobody else can give, and God has me and won't leave me!
- Prayer does that, and you know when you want to grow you ought to pray! Prayer is the reminder that I know that there is somebody I can talk to, because you know when I pray to the Lord I can open up my heart to God, I can open up with my emotions to the Lord, I can open up and really tell the Lord what I need, I can tell the Lord what I'm really facing, I can tell the Lord what I'm worried about, and I can tell the Lord what I'm struggling with! Prayer is that important, and prayer is that significant because it reminds me that I know I can't make it without God, it reminds me that I need God to be with me, and it reminds me that when times are challenging and when God gives me some tough tasks, I have to pray because I need God to help me with that situation!
- When I'm seeking the Lord I'm reminded that the Lord won't leave me, I'm reminded that the Lord won't forsake me, and I'm reminded that I know that the Lord will calm me! It is something about praying to the Lord that reminds me that He is with me, because prayer is the light that gives me light through dark times, prayer is the navigation that leads us to the right path, prayer is the electricity that never loses power, prayer is the power that never runs out, and prayer is the calmness that I need when life becomes difficult or just puzzling! Prayer is that reminder to me that I know God got me, I know God is there, and I know that the Lord will not abandon me, but I know that the Lord will never leave me alone!
- Prayer is my opportunity to tell the Lord about what I'm going through and dealing with, because you can admit and you know that there are times that you have your own struggles! We all have struggles, we all have our burdens, we all have our pains, we all have our ups and downs, we all have our trials, and we all have our ups and downs because that's a part of life! We all have to go through those things, because nobody is going to go through life without some sort of mountain, some sort of adversity, and days of personal struggle! We all sometimes have personal struggles, we all have personal demons, we all have personal insecurities, we all have to deal with personal issues, and we all have to deal with our own personal battles that occur!
- What are you willing to go through to have strong faith, what are you willing to endure to have fruitful faith, what are you willing to sacrifice to have everlasting

faith, what are you willing to leave to have nonstop faith, and what are you willing to go through to come forth with gold faith! You don't get this faith from going down the easy street, but you get this faith from going through the bumps and bruises that life presents, but that doesn't mean that you stop or that you go away but you see that in the process of faith, you see how you change, because you do know that the more you stay with God there are going to be some changes that take place in you, because faith will make you change, and faith will make you stand up and mature and go to higher heights because you have chosen to grow, and you have chosen to go through the process, and you will see how you much is in you, and how you will go from lacking to fulfilling because of the process!

- There are tough tasks that get to us, there are things that make us really have to seek the Lord, and there are things that make us have to call on the Lord and admit.... Lord I need, Lord be with me, Lord stand with me, Lord give me relief, and Lord give me the peace that I need!

The Faith, The Seed, The Tree, & The Voice:

- The word "faith" in the Greek means: Conviction and belief that God exists.
- This word "say" in the Greek means: Affirm over and command
- This word "obey" in the Greek means: Submit to.
- Then you see that this mulberry tree, it is actually classified as a black mulberry tree that had a root system that let it live 600 years, and because of this tree's system and function, and you see that this tree couldn't live in water. This took strong faith for this tree to be removed and to be gone, because there are some things that can be in the way, and you have to watch how you speak and you should have enough faith in yourself, that you should be able to speak life, speak hope, and speak victory in your life! You know there are some trees that have to be removed from our lives, and you see that some stuff gets in the way, and you see that there are some things that can really just bring you down, that can weigh you down, and that you can cause you to have frustration and those things you have to speak life, and you have to speak those things says away and out of you, because there are some things that you have to speak away from you, because sometimes how we speak has a lot to do with how we operate!
- The reason you have a different voice, and the reason that you speak differently is because you have stayed connected to the Lord, and because you have stayed connected to the Lord you see that your voice changes, because you watch how you talk to yourself, you watch how you talk about yourself, and you watch how you talk to your situation because the reason your voice changes is because you have authority, all because you stayed with the Lord!
- If we speak negatively then we will be negative, if we speak wrong then we will always think wrong, and if we don't speak properly then we will always have this

connotation of not having any confidence in yourself! You have to speak life to your life, because you ought to speak life in such a way that you can say that this has to go! This has bothered me enough, this has been in my life enough, this has upset me enough, this has controlled me enough, this has made me upset long enough, and this has made emotional too long, and this has made me frustrated long enough, and I have to speak life because I should have enough faith to speak life over a tough situation, and speak life because you have hope in God!

- God is so good, and you know He is so good that you see in life that there are times that the Lord will remove trees that are in the way, but He won't leave you like that because He has a way of sending new trees! There are trees that are hindering you, there are trees that are blocking you, and there are trees that are stopping you but those are the trees that have to be plucked up and removed, and when you see what gets removed it's the power of the Lord, that knows how to restore, and it's also contingent upon the faith that I bring to the table! I'm not bringing anymore lackluster or feeble faith to the table but I'm bringing something that is worth holding on to, worth living, and worth my time!
- You see that you don't have time to waste when you are with God, because you see I can't waste time being scared and timid! I can't waste time looking down on myself, I can't waste time hurting myself, I can't waste time wounding myself, and I can't waste time doubting myself because if that's the case what is the point of asking God to increase my faith, and what's the point of desiring to improve if I'm still doubting myself! Nope... I've been down that road already, and now I'm ready to make a turn, I'm ready for more, I'm ready to acquire more, I'm ready to achieve more, I'm ready to witness and see more, and I'm ready to get through this period of life that I'm tired of this, I'm tired of being worn out, and I'm tired of lack of confidence!
- Your faith in the Lord is what is giving you that grace to make it, and when you have that faith in the Lord, that's when you know that you will make it through the valleys and challenges, because you have the faith in the Lord, and faith in the Lord will make you continue to keep on going, and you should know that the Lord will let you know that you can make it because you didn't quit! You can't quit no matter what happens, and no matter what you deal with you know that you can't quit and you can't give up just because it's a tough day and tough season, you know that the Lord will be with us, and because the Lord is with us we can always survive, and we can always overcome because we know that the Lord is with us, and since God is with us, there's nothing that we can't overcome!
- You can overcome the hurdles, because life has these hurdles in our lives but with faith in the Lord we can overcome these hurdles! We all have hurdles in our lives, and you know you wouldn't have faith in the Lord without some hurdles, and you wouldn't have the valleys and trials but you know that the Lord is there, and you

know that the Lord is going to take care of you, and it's good to have faith and you know that faith lives, and faith will always keep you and that's why you know that with faith, with joy, and with the love of the Lord you know that the Lord will always let you survive! We are surviving, and we will have nonstop victory and trees because of that faith that we have in God, and that faith is nonstop because as long as I live I will have faith, that will never go away but that will always be present because I have a great God who gives me nonstop faith, and I trust in Him!

This Week's Goals:

- Read Luke 17!
- Pray!

Broadway MBC - Winchester, Kentucky

Pastor G. Chris Brown

121 W. Broadway St, Winchester, Kentucky 40391

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