

Speaker : Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam

Title : Even Now Faith

Scriptures : John 11:20-44

John 11:21-22

21 Now Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.

22 But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.”

INTRODUCTION

- Whatever you do without faith will not impress God.

(Isaiah 64:6)

“Our righteousness is as filthy rags.”

(1 Corinthians 13:3)

“And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.”

- Our faith in Jesus distinguishes us from other religions.
- What brings us out of our adverse circumstances is our faith.

Examples:

- Noah’s faith saved him and his family (Genesis 6:5-8).
- Abraham and Sarah’s faith gave hope for Isaac to be born.
- Moses’ faith made him a deliverer of Israel.
- Joseph’s faith made him a ruler.
- Also with Mary and Martha.

(John 11:21-22)

Now Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.

22 But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.”

Principles of “Even Now Faith” – The infrastructure of their faith was relationship.

1. THE RELATIONSHIP OF GENEROSITY BY FAITH

(John 11:1-3)

Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

2 It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.

3 Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, “Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick.”

Example of Mary

(Matthew 26:6-13)

6 And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper,

7 a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured *it* on His head as He sat *at the table*.

8 But when His disciples saw *it*, they were indignant, saying, “Why this waste?”

9 For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to *the poor*.”

10 But when Jesus was aware of *it*, He said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me.

11 For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always.

12 For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did *it* for My burial.

13 Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.”

- Generosity is a matter of the mind – think liberal.

(Proverbs 11:25) (KJV)

“The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.”

(2 Corinthians 9:6-7) Paul says,

6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly,
and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity;
for God loves a cheerful giver.

- If you are stingy poor, you will be stingy rich.
- Your generosity must be built on a relationship with Jesus.
 - A relationship with God does not mean no problems.
 - Give whatever – time, talent or finances – because of your knowledge and love for Jesus.

2. THE RATIONALE OF OUR FAITH

- God will not do what we can do.
- We must do what we can and God will do what we cannot.

(John 11:39, 41)

39 Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, “Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days.” 41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.

Examples:

- Blind Bartimaeus.

{ (Mark 10:50)
} “And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus.”

- The woman with an issue of blood – she did what she could.

(Mark 5:27)

“When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment.”

- David and Goliath – David used his sling and stones.

(1 Samuel 17:40)

“Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd’s bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine.

3. THE RELEASE BY FAITH

- Let go and let God be God!

(1 Peter 4:12)

“Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you.”

(1 Peter 1:7)

“that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

- Faith is not a suit to repel troubles.
 - Lazarus was dead and a stone was put over his grave.
 - Jesus came but the women thought it was too late.
 - Jesus brings hope.

(John 11: 21-22)

21 Now Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.”

4. THE REVELATION BY FAITH

(John 11:25-26)

25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

(John 11:27)

Martha said “Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

5. THE RESTORATION BY FAITH

- God will not do what you don’t undo which was done without faith.
 - The stone had to be removed (V. 39).
 - The “clothes of the dead” must come off for your restoration (V. 44).
 - What have you done to hinder your faith? - Undo it for a miracle to happen.

CONCLUSION

(John 11:40)

Jesus said to her, “Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?”

- Change your mind.
- Change your confession.
- Change your behavior.

You will see the glory of God!