

FAITH SHOWN BY WORKS

Nicolas Edwards

James penned, “...Faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works” (Jas. 2:17-18). “Shew” means to exhibit, to show by making known, to show by way of proving, to expose to the eyes, to give evidence or proof of a thing. Works are proof or evidence of faith or the lack thereof. Faith unexpressed is really no faith at all! Let’s be impressed with the faith of some.

NOAH. “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith” (Heb. 11:7). Noah’s faith is proven by his preparation. “Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he” (Gen. 6:22).

ABRAHAM. “By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither

he went” (Heb. 11:8). You can read about this in Genesis 12 where it is recorded, “So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken to him...” (Gen. 12:4). This is faith! Furthermore, “By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, that in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure” (Heb. 11:17-19). This occurred in Genesis 22, where Abraham rose up early in the morning, gathered all of the supplies, journeyed three days and “stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.” This is why it can be said that “Abraham believed God” (Rom. 4:3; Gal. 3:6; Jas. 2:23). He proved it! He would not be the friend of God, if he had not done what the Lord said!

MOSES. “By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king’s commandment. By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches

than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible. Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them” (Heb. 11:23-28).

SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO. When commanded to fall down and worship Nebuchadnezzar’s golden image, though it meant being thrown into a burning fiery furnace, they said, “We will not” (Dan. 3:18). They served God (Dan. 3:17) and that meant being faithful to Him by refusing to do that which was wrong. They “yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God” (Dan. 3:28). This is the kind of faith that “quenched the violence of fire” (Heb. 11:34).

It would not mean much if these men claimed to have faith, but never proved it. We need the kind of faith that these men had! This is what faith is and looks like. People of faith prepare, do all that God commands, obey, withhold nothing, choose to suffer affliction rather than enjoy pleasures of sin and refuse to do that which is wrong, no matter what the sacrifice!

MATTHEW, THE GOSPEL OF FULFILLMENT

John Edwards

The gospel according to Matthew, written by Matthew the publican (or tax collector), is the gospel of fulfillment. "That it might be fulfilled", and similar expressions, occur many times throughout the book. Take note of these:

BORN OF A VIRGIN AND HIS NAME "IMMANUEL" (Mt. 1:22-23; Is. 7:14).

BORN IN BETHLEHEM (Mt. 2:5-6; Micah 5:2).

FLIGHT TO EGYPT (Mt. 2:15; Hosea 11:1).

SLAYING OF CHILDREN BY HEROD (Mt. 2:16-18; Jer. 31:15).

HE WOULD BE CALLED A NAZARENE (Mt. 2:23).

JOHN THE BAPTIST, A VOICE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS (Mt. 3:3; Is. 40:3).

JESUS' MINISTRY IN GALILEE (Mt. 4:12-16; Is. 9:1-2).

HEALING THE SICK (Mt. 8:16-17; Is. 53:4).

JOHN THE BAPTIST PREPARING THE WAY (Mt. 11:10; Mal. 3:1).

GOD'S SPIRIT UPON HIM, MEEK AND GENTLE (Mt. 12:14-21; Is. 42:1-2).

HEARING, SHALL NOT HEAR (Mt. 13:13-15; Is. 6:9).

SPEAKING IN PARABLES (Mt. 13:34-35; Ps. 78:2).

DRAW NIGH, BUT HEARTS FAR FROM HIM (Mt. 15:7-9; Is. 29:13).

TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM (Mt. 21:1-5; Zech. 9:9).

ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION WHEN JERUSALEM DESTROYED (Mt. 24:15; Dan. 9:23, 27).

JESUS TAKEN BY FORCE (Mt. 26:52-54).

FALSE WITNESSES ACCUSING (Mt. 26:60-61; Ps. 27:12).

SILENT WHEN ACCUSED (Mt. 26:62-63; Is. 53:7).

BETRAYED FOR THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER (Mt. 27:9; Zech. 11:12).

MONEY GIVEN TO THE POTTER (Mt. 27:10; Zech. 11:13).

GARMENTS PARTED, LOTS CAST (Mt. 27:35; Ps. 22:18).

CRUCIFIED WITH THIEVES (Mt. 27:38; Is. 53:12).

MOCKED AND INSULTED (Mt. 27:39-40; Ps. 22:6-8).

BURIED WITH THE RICH (Mt. 27:57-60; Is. 53:9).

RESURRECTED (Mt. 28:9; Ps. 16:10).

This is a reminder that
"...the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost"
(2 Pet. 1:20-21).

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