

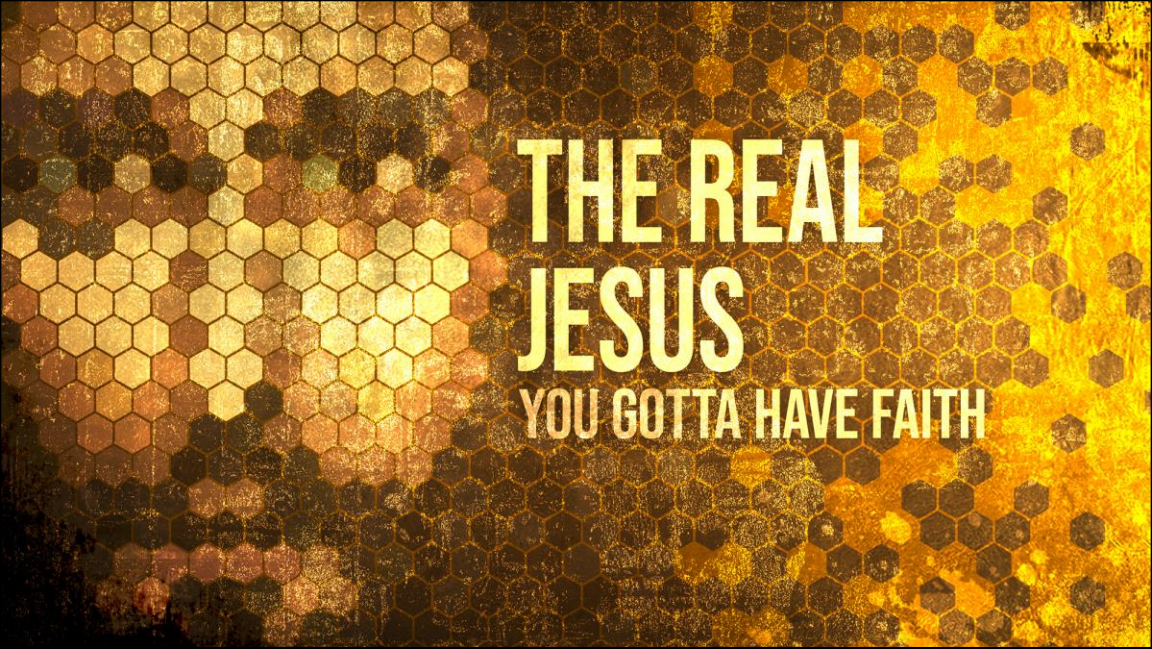
# MARK: THE REAL JESUS

Good Morning Church, I'm Pastor Todd Johnson.

This morning we are continuing our study of the Book of Mark, a study we've entitled ***The Real Jesus***.

And you know one of the things that I love about the Gospels is that they help us to know who Jesus really is...how he thought... what was most important to Him.

The Gospels don't just inform us about the tidbits of His life, but rather they immerse us in who He really is and what He's is about. And that's really helpful, because I WANT TO BE MORE LIKE JESUS. THE REAL JESUS.



**THE REAL  
JESUS  
YOU GOTTA HAVE FAITH**

And this morning we are going to learn more about the nature of FAITH from Jesus' perspective.

We are going to see from our text this morning that our FAITH in Christ can produce AMAZING POWER. But on the other hand, a lack of FAITH in Christ can stifle that same power.

We are also going to unpack 3 Principles of resilient Faith.

But my hope for us this morning is that God's power through Christ will be an active force here at Brandywine, and in our homes, in our schools, our greater community... but in order for that to happen YOU GOTTA HAVE FAITH.

**Pray:**





Illus:

How many of you have every gone skydiving?

I've never gone skydiving. I don't ever want to go skydiving.

You know that a society has reached it's apex when people pay tons of money and willingly jump out of planes not to fight wars, or to fight fires, but just literally just for the thrill of it.

Well this is a picture of a man named Luke Aikins. Luke has recorded just under 20,000 skydiving jumps.

Luke got to the point where jumping out of the plane was no longer a thrill so he decided that we wanted to try to jump out of the plane without a parachute.



And I know what you're thinking, how can a person jump out of a plane without a parachute and not die.

Well, Luke thought of that. If you look at this little square right [point] there. That is what Luke is planning to landing on. It's a 10,000 square foot net.

Raise your hand if you think this is crazy. It is crazy.

But Luke doesn't think so, because he points to the 2 years of planning and preparation that he and a team of engineers and experts put into making this happen.

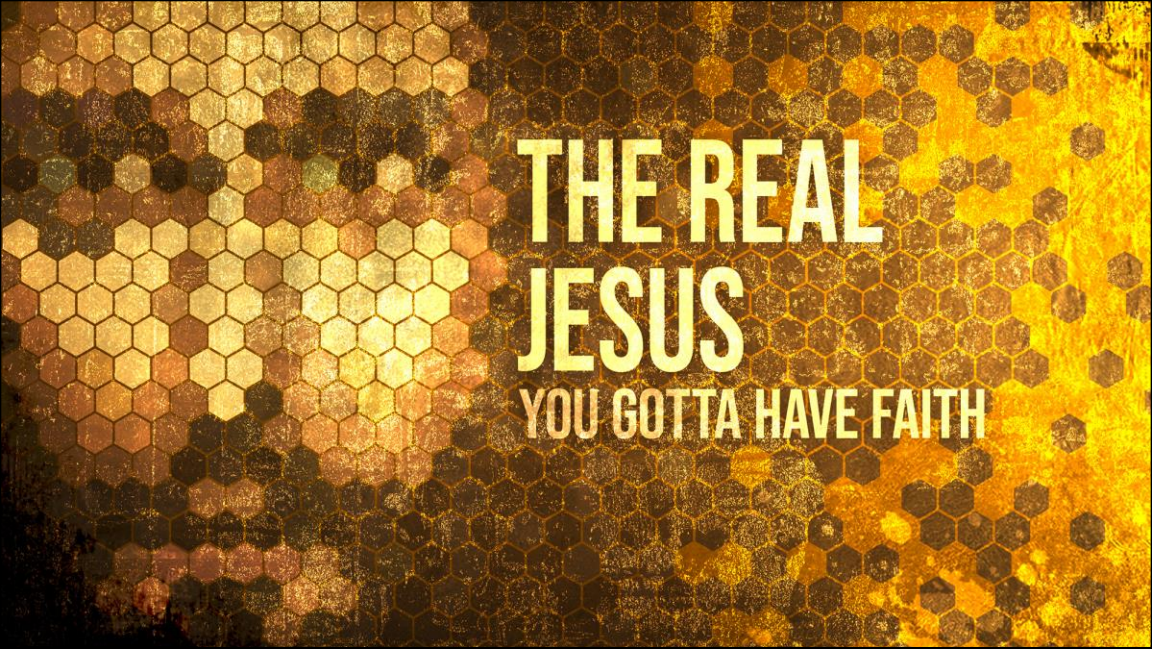


Luke cited the FAITH in his team as the reason why he was confident that he would hit the mark and make it back safely to his wife and two children. *[Yeah, my wife wouldn't let me try this. Whether it was 2 years of preparation or 20.]*

But you know church the reason why I illustrate Luke's story is because its important for us to be reminded of the amazing things that can be accomplished when we possess FAITH in something.

Now this is an example of a man, who had FAITH in other people to help him do something amazing. And this morning we are going to see something quite different. We are going to see people place their FAITH in the SON OF GOD... and what is accomplished makes Luke Aikin's daring feat seem like NOTHING.





**THE REAL  
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Turn with me in your Bibles to Mark chapter 5. We pick up the story in verse 21.

The Gospel of Mark records several stories that are sandwiched in together. Meaning, that the story has layers to it and our text this morning is rich with layers.

Jesus had just healed the demon possessed man and now he is back on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee and almost immediately He is inundated with people.

Most notably one of the synagogue leaders Jairus is desperate because his little daughter is dying. And he asks Jesus if he could come lay hands on her that she might be healed and Jesus agrees to this request.

## Mark 5:24b-26 (NIV)

A large crowd followed and pressed around him. <sup>25</sup> And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. <sup>26</sup> She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse.




Read with me starting in verse 24 as we continue on because this story is about to take a turn.

**Read:**

## Mark 5:27-29 (NIV)

When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, <sup>28</sup> because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.” <sup>29</sup> Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.



### Continue Reading:

I want to take some time to fully develop the situation this woman was in.

The bleeding she experienced and the physical limitations were just the beginning of her suffering.


Because her bleeding made her ceremonially unclean, she could not marry, she could not worship, she would have been on par with the lepers, no one could touch her or her clothing or they would be unclean, and so her misery isn't just physical, its social, and spiritual.

And on top of all that she has spent all she had to get relief and the people treating her only made her worse.



## Mark 5:27-29 (NIV)

When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, <sup>28</sup> because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.” <sup>29</sup> Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.



Church, imagine the desperation of someone in that situation. NO HOPE.

And then you hear about a healer. Some Rabbi who is teaching and healing, and when you hear of this a bit of hope grows within you and then, unbelievably, one day this man Jesus walks by you on his way to heal a powerful man's daughter.

The text tells us that her thinking is, “**If I just touch HIM, I WILL BE HEALED!**” Not I might be, or I could be, she had **FAITH** that she **would** be.

And she was right. Immediately her bleeding stops...and in that moment the outlook of her whole life has changed. She ***believed*** that Jesus could change her life, and she ***committed*** to reaching out to Him. We could learn a lot from her example!

# Faith principle #1

Faith has two  
components, our belief  
and our commitment.




**And that brings us to faith principle #1. Faith has two components, our *belief* and our *commitment*.**

The first component is our *belief* that God exists, and that He loves us and sent His Son into the world to save us.

Faith isn't a vague hope that God might exist; it is a definite belief that what the Bible says about Him is true. The Bible says in *Hebrews 11:6* - *Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

# Faith principle #1

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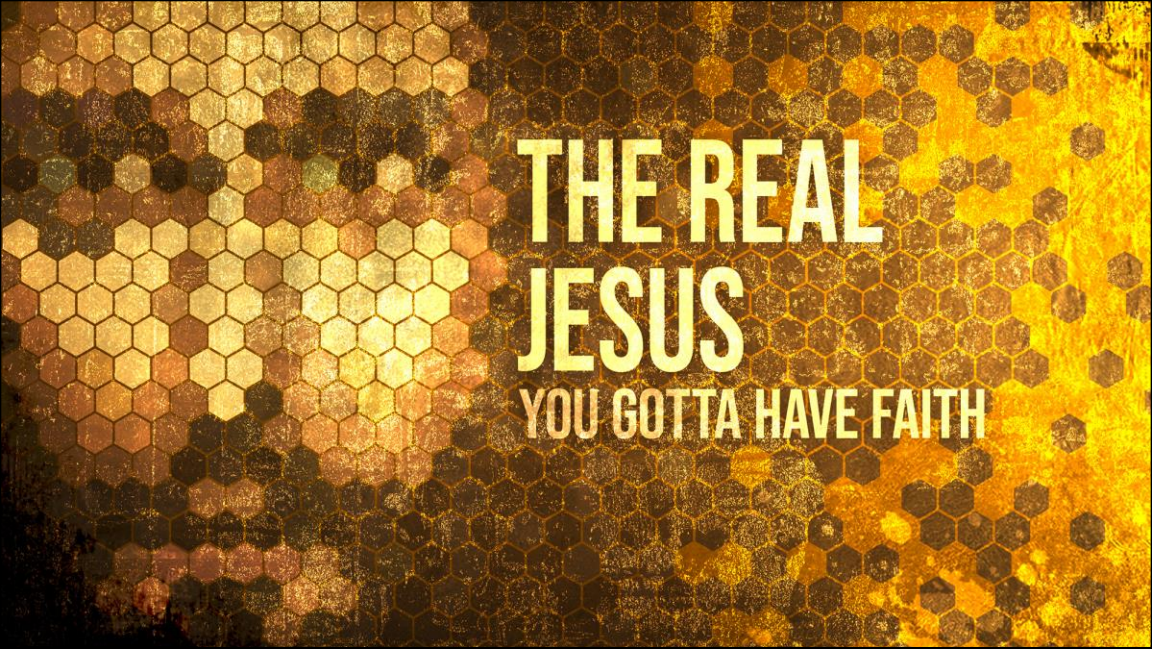
The second component of faith is **commitment**—a definite decision not only to believe in our minds that Christ can save us, but to put our lives into His hands and trust Him alone for our salvation.

You see Church, true faith not only believes Christ can save us, but actually trusts Him to do it. The Bible says in Ephesians 2:8, For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith.

This desperate woman had both components, belief and commitment.

And honestly I think it was her desperation that allowed her to possess this great FAITH.





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What I mean by that is often we are too self sufficient to possess the FAITH the Bible describes.

We are often too caught up in our own self-belief, and commitment to our priorities that we can fail to reach out for Jesus as often as we ought.

***Think about the course of your life***, were the times you reached out for Jesus the most during times when everything was going your way... or times of desperation?

For me that questions is easy. The times of desperation in my life have been emotionally painful, but spiritually rich. They are times that I wouldn't want to live through again, but I wouldn't trade those experiences for the world because REACHING OUT FOR JESUS HAS CHANGED MY LIFE.

# Mark 5:30-32 (NIV)

At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?”<sup>31</sup> “You see the people crowding against you,” his disciples answered, “and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’ ”<sup>32</sup> But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it.



And as we move on in our text we are going to see this woman’s life changed EVEN MORE.

Picking up in verse 30.

**Read:**

## Mark 5:33, 34 (NIV)

<sup>33</sup> Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. <sup>34</sup> He said to her, “**Daughter**, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”



### Continue Reading:

Jesus recognizes that POWER has left left him, but he is seemingly unaware of whose **FAITH** had released that power.

He asks and his disciples are like, “*Uh, we are in a mob of people, who are all touching you... duh Jesus, everyone is toughing you.*” But Jesus wasn’t referring to a physical touch, but rather the touch of desperate FAITH.

This woman was planning on fading into the back, she didn’t want to be recognized. But when she hears Jesus she falls at his feet and she told him the whole truth.

And what happens next is of great significance. **Because Jesus calls her Daughter.**



## Mark 5:33, 34 (NIV)

<sup>33</sup> Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. <sup>34</sup> He said to her, “**Daughter**, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”



This text is so amazing..... On His way to heal Jairus' dying daughter, Jesus stops and cares for **one of HIS daughters**... he finds a daughter in need.

He validates her faith, “*Daughter, your faith has healed you, go in peace, be freed from your suffering.*”


You see church, this woman touching Jesus should have made Him unclean, but instead the touch made the woman clean!

No longer is she defiled, weak, poor, an outcast who approaches sheepishly and speaks with her fearful face to the ground.

Now she is recognized and named as a **faith-filled daughter of God** and she is healed and she walks away in peace. Praise God. Let's GO!

## Faith principle #2

Faith in Jesus brings us  
into the family of God.



And that brings us to faith principle #2 – Faith in Jesus brings us into the family of God.

Now this might seem like a pretty basic principle, but I don't think it is. And the reason I don't think this is basic is because often WE DON'T LIVE with the realization that if we are in Christ we are IN THE FAMILY OF GOD.

Think on this church, if you are in Christ you are a son/daughter of God. If we believed this was true each new day when we rise, I mean really believed it, how might that change things for us?

Because you see often our spiritual life can resemble that of an orphan rather than a child of God.



Illus:

This is Livia. I'd like tell you her story because I think it will help remind us of the POWER FAMILY. You see Livia was a 12 year old girl living in a Romanian orphanage when her life was changed--forever--by an Operation Christmas Child shoebox. If you aren't aware (*Operation Christmas Child, uses gift-filled shoeboxes to demonstrate God's love to children in need around the world.*).

Livia described a lack of food, hygiene supplies, and no feeling of love and happiness. She said, "Some days our food supply was so low that all we had was a piece of bread that was hard as a rock and moldy. We also wore the same clothes for a week. We had only one toothbrush which we shared with hundreds of other children."





Livia longed to feel someone's love and warm embrace. She said, "I wanted to feel like I existed in this world." That all changed when the ministry delivered shoeboxes full of personal hygiene items, school supplies and toys to her orphanage. The same day, an American missionary group also came and Livia met a woman named Connie.

Livia said:

*Before we opened our boxes, they shared with us about people who packed them because they loved us. I was so mesmerized by the word "love." And then, they shared "the greatest news of all." That there's a God, and He gave His one and only son who died on the cross for me because He loves me. God made this possible through a simple gift. It sparked so much love, joy and hope in my life.*

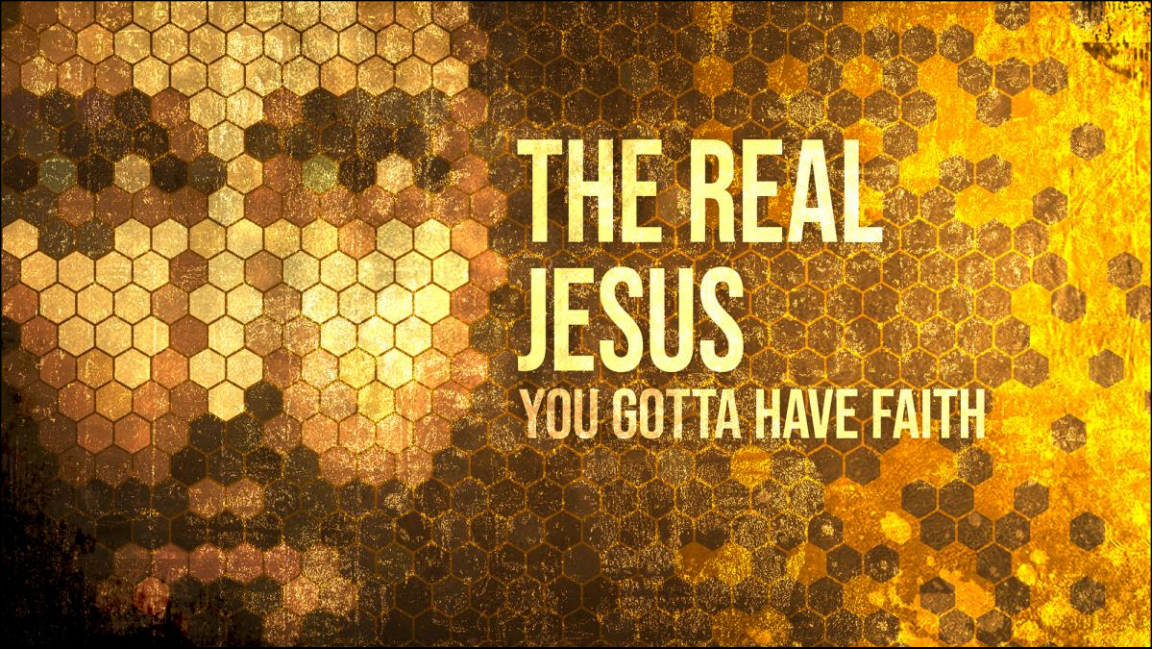


The same year Connie arranged for Livia to stay with a Christian family, and she accepted Christ as her personal Lord and Savior. She said, “I wish I [would’ve] had a mega-sized microphone to tell the whole world I had Jesus in my heart. Two years later when I was 14, Connie came back to Romania, adopted me, and took me home to my brand-new family.” ***This is Livia and Connie today.***

The reason why stories like that penetrate deep inside everyone of us is because we know that we ***are all spiritual orphans*** in need of family.

You would never imagine Connie coming back to the orphanage to adopt Livia, and Livia saying NO. Livia was ***desperate*** for a family.

But you see friends we can become so accustomed to our sonship in Christ that we take it for granted.



**THE REAL  
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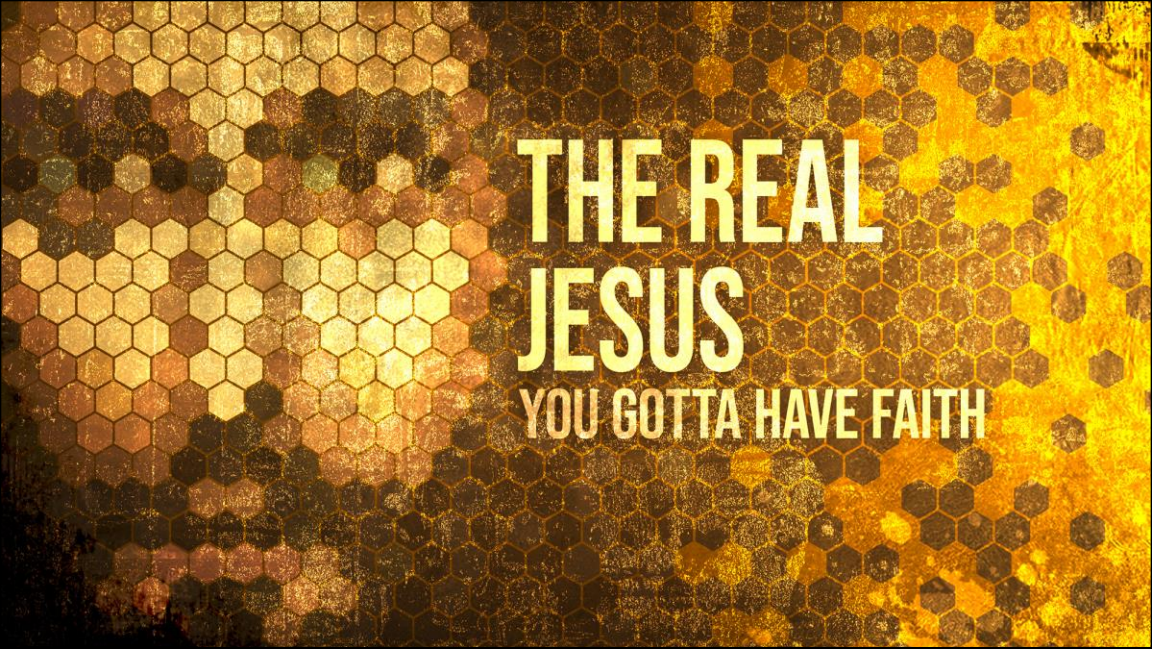
I bet this woman that Jesus encounters in our text **never** took her healing for granted. We don't know that for sure, the text doesn't say that, but I believe that is true because **WHEN YOU KNOW THE DEPTH OF YOUR NEED, YOU VALUE YOUR SALVATION EVEN MORE.**

You see apart of what brings us to Christ is a deep understanding of our need.

We live in a world where most people think they will **SAVE THEMSELVES** through working harder, or going to the “right” healer (religion/self-help/money/relationships, etc.). But just like in the story, counterfeit healers/remedies only make it worse.

There is only one healer... Jesus.





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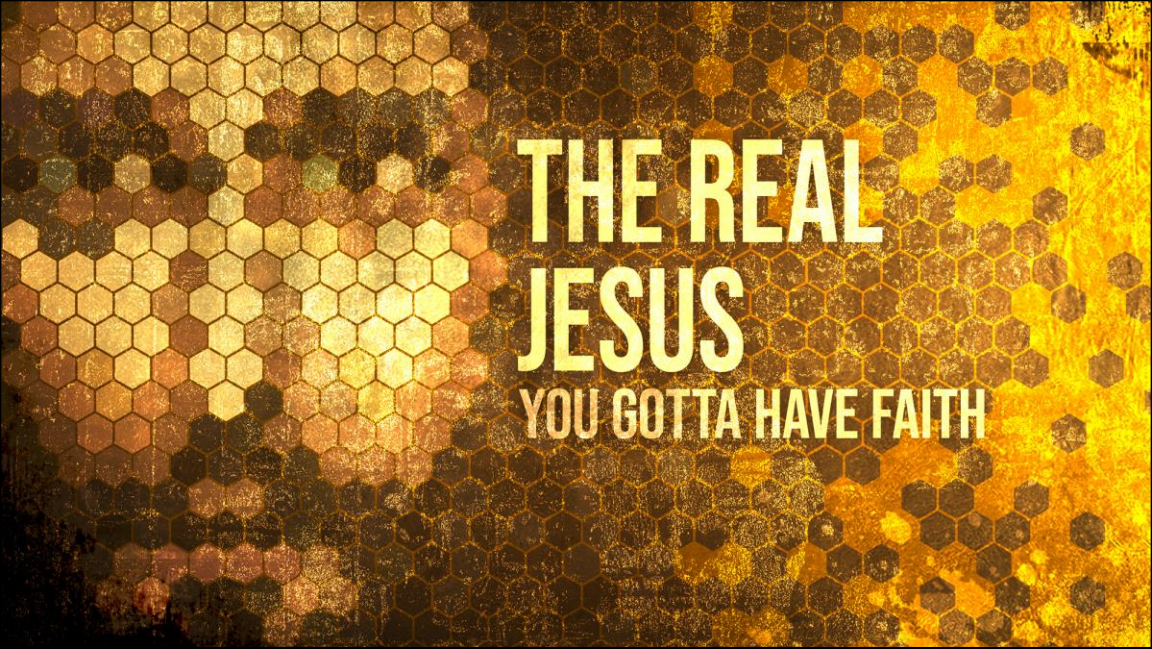
**Back in our text.**

After Jesus heals this woman, messengers arrived with the news that Jairus' daughter had died.

Jesus tells Jairus not to fear, only ***believe***.

He then takes Peter, James and John to the house. They get there to find the home deep in sorrow, it was customary in those times to have people paid to weep at the death of a loved one.

Jesus assures those in attendance that the child was not dead but only sleeping. (Meaning that her rest wasn't going to be permanent). They laugh at Jesus, because they have no idea He has power over death.



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Jesus takes the immediate family to the still child, and taking her by the hand said in Aramaic “*Talitha koum!*”,  
*“Little girl, I say to you, arise.”*

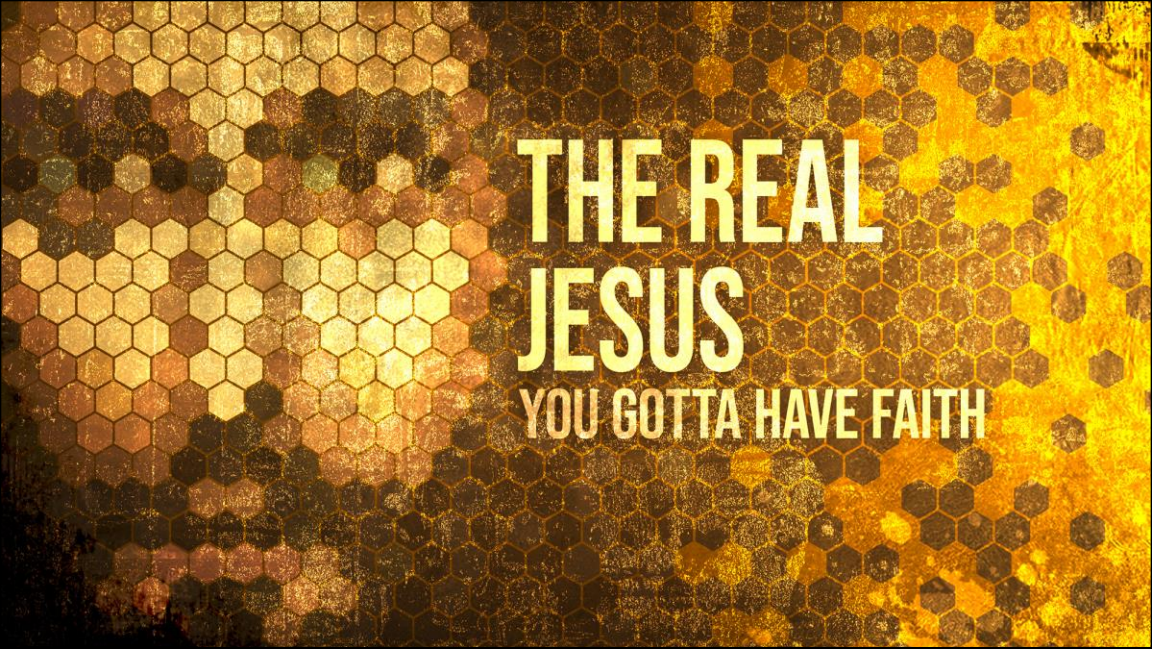
Immediately the 12 year old girl got up and walked. The room no doubt flooded with JOY and AMAZEMENT.

Jesus tells them not to tell anyone about this (yeah right). But it wasn’t time for Him to be revealed yet.

Friends can you imagine the excitement that must have followed this event, and the reason why the news about Jesus spread throughout Judea like wildfire.

This man has power over DEMONS, he can heal any ILLNESS. He can even RAISE THE DEAD.





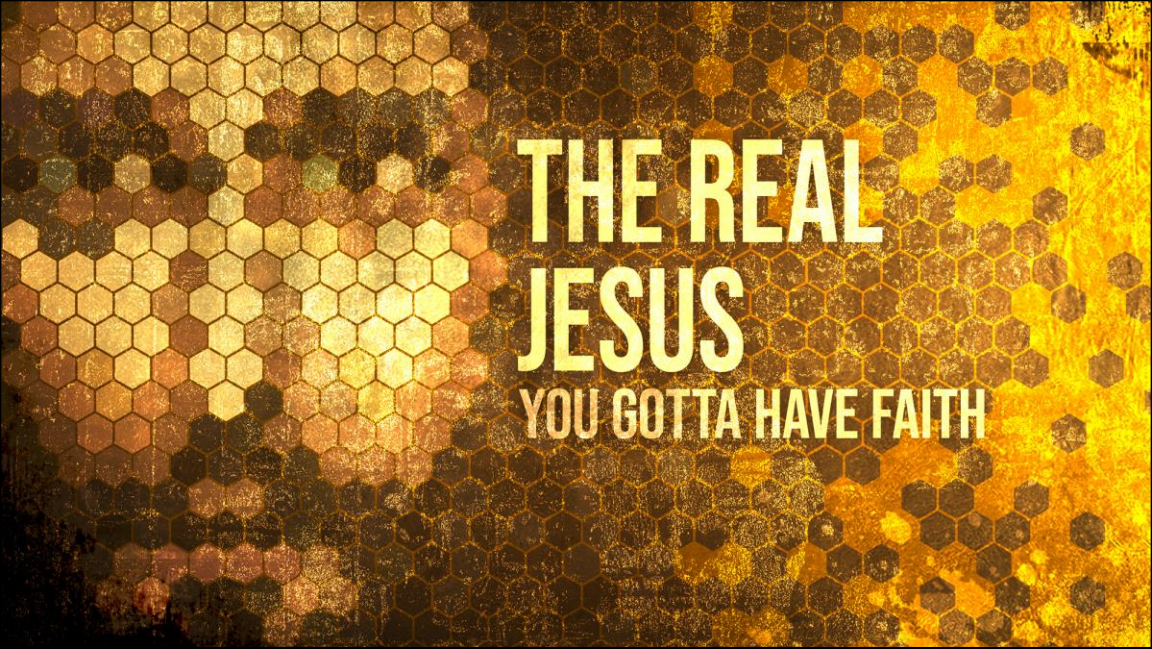
# THE REAL JESUS YOU GOTTA HAVE FAITH

The miracles of Jesus confound us don't they? They can even become a stumbling block to some who have a hard time believing that these things even happened.

Many people feel as though they would need to see the miracle with their own eyes in order to have FAITH. But that wouldn't be FAITH would it?

Jesus could have performed miracles in front of everyone in Jerusalem if he wanted to but again, that wouldn't have been FAITH.

If you want evidence that seeing miracles doesn't always lead to saving faith look no further than Judas, who not only saw many miracles performed but was also given power to perform miracles himself. And yet he still betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.



# THE REAL JESUS YOU GOTTA HAVE FAITH

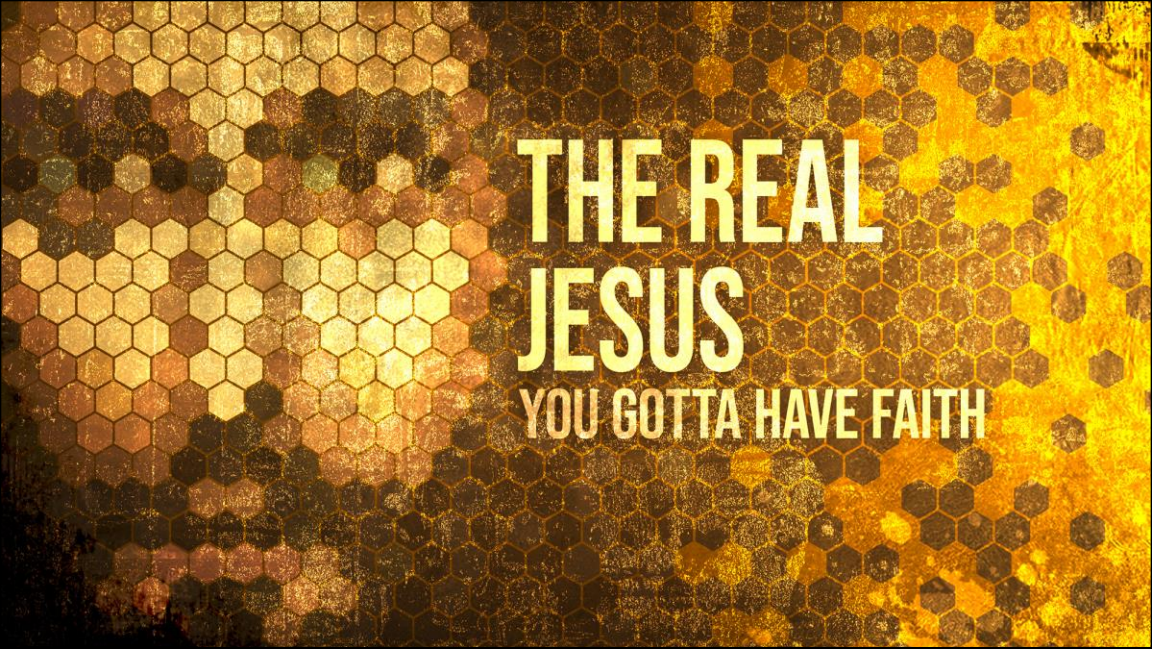
Another example is the Pharisees. The Pharisees looked straight at the Light of the World for three years, but hardly one ray of light reached their inner beings.

You see the presence of light is not enough. The inward operation of the Holy Spirit is necessary for saving faith. The gospel is *light* but only the Spirit can give us *sight*.

**Illus:**

When I was twelve years old I was sitting in my bedroom reading the Gospel of John. I don't remember why I was doing that... I wasn't an avid bible reader at the time. But suddenly the Holy Spirit ***gripped me*** and I remember crying and saying, ***"I can't believe that God would send His Son to die for me."*** I remember repeating that phrase over and over again. You see I had known the Gospel message as a child, but that day my soul knew it in a way it never had before.





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You see before that time in my life I had exposure to the Light, I had seen Jesus, I'd say I even loved Jesus, but I don't think I had saving FAITH until that evening when I was 12.

You see up to that point I had *head knowledge* that Jesus was the Son of God. I *knew* that He died for me, I *knew* that He rose again. I *knew* that I didn't want to go to hell. I **KNEW**.

But on that evening I went from KNOWING about JESUS to BELIVING IN HIM.

And you see friends this is what God is after, He doesn't care how much you know about him, He's not after your brain, he's after your heart.

The splendor of a human heart that trusts it is loved unconditionally gives God more pleasure than Westminster Cathedral, the Sistine Chapel, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, Van Gogh's Sunflowers, the sight of 10,000 butterflies in flight, or the scent of a million orchids in bloom.

**FAITH is our gift back to God**, and he finds it so enchanting that Jesus died for love of it.

-Brennan Manning



Brennan Manning author of The Ragamuffin Gospel and Ruthless Trust... ..writes this, concerning the nature of our FAITH as believers.

**Illus:**  
“The splendor of a human heart that trusts it is loved unconditionally gives God more pleasure than Westminster Cathedral, the Sistine Chapel, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, Van Gogh's Sunflowers, the sight of 10,000 butterflies in flight, or the scent of a million orchids in bloom. FAITH is our gift back to God, and he finds it so enchanting that Jesus died for love of it.

Faith is our gift back to God... He is after our hearts.

# Mark 6:1-2 (NIV)

Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. <sup>2</sup> When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. “Where did this man get these things?” they asked. “What’s this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing?”



Back in our text.

After the amazing resurrection of Jairus’ daughter.  
Jesus heads for home.

I mean after all the amazing events of the past few days,  
I bet Jesus was excited, anticipating the amazing work  
He and His disciples would do in Nazareth.

As we read it didn’t quite work out that way.

**Read:** 

# Mark 6:3-6 (NIV)

Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon?

Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him.<sup>4</sup> Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home."<sup>5</sup> He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them.<sup>6</sup> He was amazed at their lack of faith.

**Continue Reading:**



Jesus returns to his own people and there is a DEEP unwillingness to acknowledge Him as the Son of God.

They thought of Him as nothing more than a carpenter... the Son of Mary.

Perhaps if Jesus had returned to Nazareth as a conquering Hero, they might have accepted Him. But He came in humility and this offended them.

Jesus notes here *that a prophet is generally given a better reception away from home*. It's as if His relatives and friends are too close to him to appreciate His ministry.



## Mark 6:3-6 (NIV)

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***And Church I think this dynamic is important to explore.***

Because similarly we live in a culture where [to many] the name Jesus Christ is nothing more than a curse word when something goes wrong.

We have grown so familiar with the message of the incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection that they no longer strike many Americans with AWE, it's more like, AWE you still believe that?

And the sad thing is while many people turn up their nose at sound of Jesus' name..... those same people are chronically depressed, lacking purpose and deep meaning in life. They are looking around in darkness trying to find light, when THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD is available to them, but their lack of FAITH has blinded them.

# Faith principle #3

**A lack of faith limits the power of Christ in your life.**



**And that brings us to faith principle #3 – A lack of faith limits the power of Christ in your life.**

The people of Nazareth had little faith, and because of that little happened amongst them. And you often see that same reality play itself out today.

In our broken world there are so many reasons why we lack FAITH and therefore miss out on Christ's power in our lives. Some of the most commonly cited/observed reasons for a lack of faith include...

## **GROWING UP IN A FAITHLESS FAMILY...**

In addition there are also the **Intellectual Challenges** about faith that often start between high school and college that can continue on. When faced with challenging questions, a person can assume that the **FAITH** they have is inadequate or irrelevant.

# **Faith principle #3**

**A lack of faith limits the power of Christ in your life.**



**WE ALSO HAVE EMOTIONAL CHALLENGES TO FAITH DON'T WE?**

Some turn away because God didn't answer an important prayer or rescue them from the consequences of a bad decision. They may have been hurt by a church or turned off by hypocritical Christians. One study found that many of the most well-known atheists grew up without a father. It can be challenging to believe in a good and loving heavenly Father when you've had unpleasant experiences or maybe the absence of a father.

**LAST BUT NOT LEAST WE CAN LACK FAITH BECAUSE WE WANT MORAL INDEPENDENCE**

I've had several unbelieving friends who were willing to discuss God and listen to evidence. However they remained unbelievers who would not accept Jesus as their Savior. Why? Sadly, they didn't want to bend their knee to God and give him moral authority in their lives. They wanted to keep doing what they were doing without God interfering.

# Faith principle #3

## A lack of faith limits the power of Christ in your life.



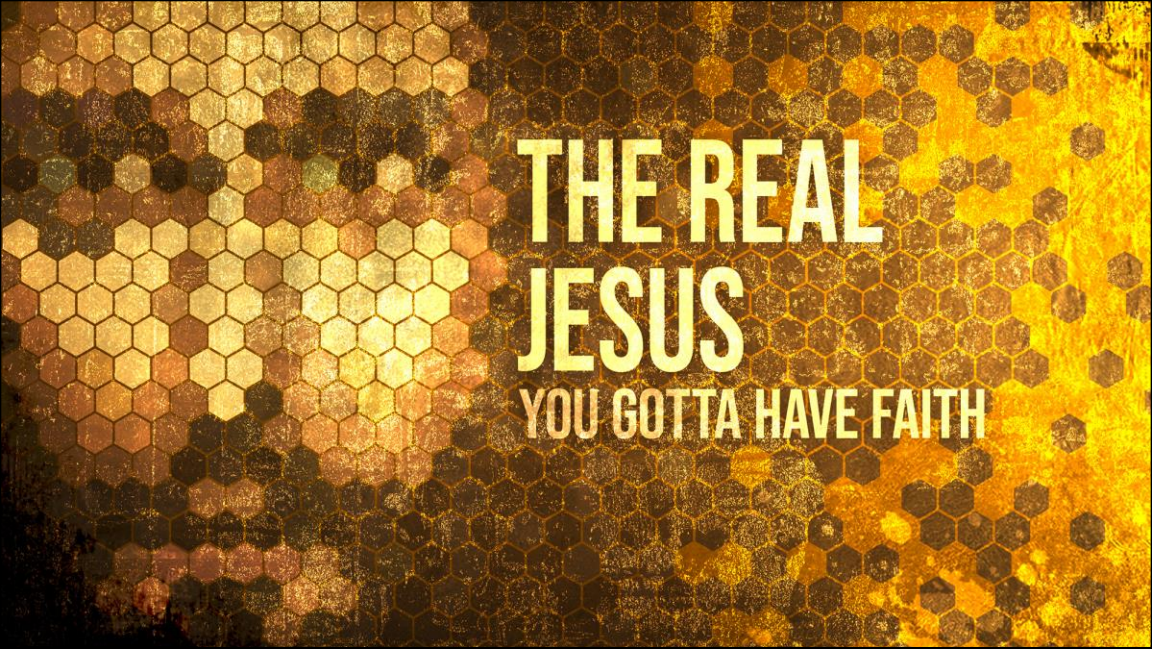
If one of these reasons for of a lack of Faith describes your heart this morning I want to challenge you to read **Hebrews 11**. It's an amazing list of God's power displayed in the lives of those who endeavored to place their FAITH IN HIM. In spite of their doubts, emotional challenges, and desires for independence.

It is recorded for us, so that we might be encouraged to know that WE AREN'T THE ONLY ONES WHO HAVE TO GROW OUR FAITH IN HIM.

Church the reality is... ***Large FAITH is rewarded with God showing up in big ways.***

And you know sometimes in our Christian communities we shy away from talking like this, because false teachers have used "name it and claim it" lingo in order to serve themselves.



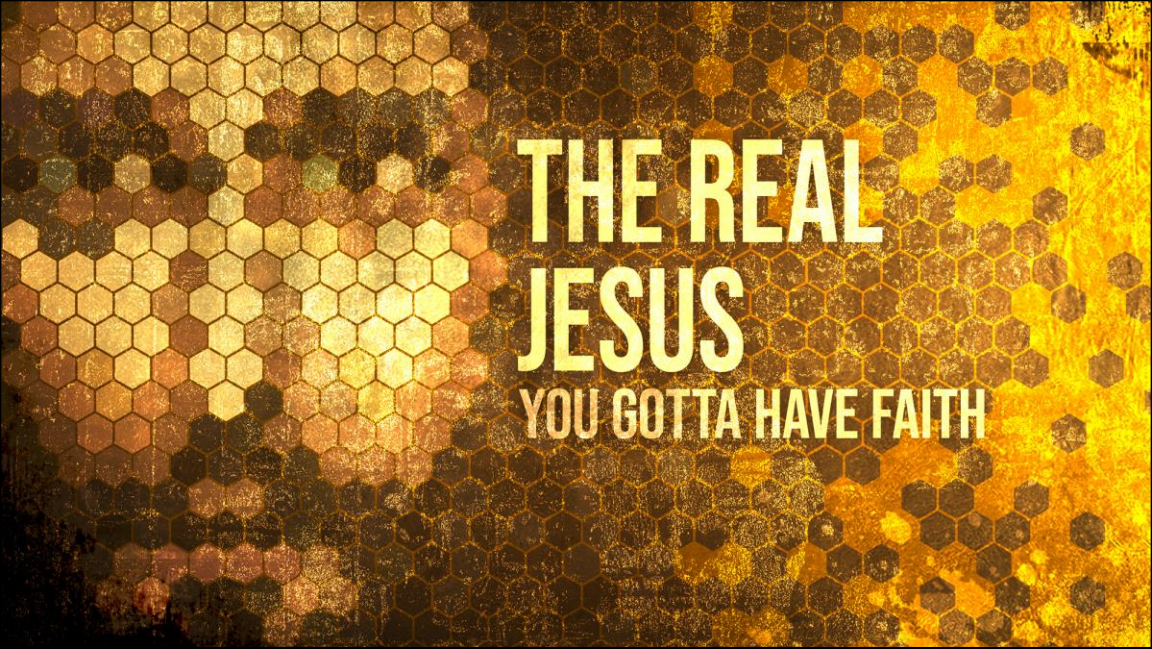


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But just because some people misuse the concept of FAITH doesn't mean that we shouldn't explore it's true POWER in our lives.

And so think about this.....***the God of the Universe, maker of Heaven and Earth, (everything, ever, made by His word).....the one who designed the atoms which make up your body, the one who gave gravity its force of nature.....the same God who coded your DNA, the one who knows what lies at the furthest reaches of the UNIVERSE because He is Omnipresent.....He now comes to you and I personally.....he makes PROMISES TO US, AND ASKS US TO HAVE FAITH IN HIM in the midst of a bad diagnosis, a wayward child, a job loss, our personal failings, you name it.***

He wants our FAITH TO BE IN HIM.....and He is waiting to reward our FAITH with His Great Power.



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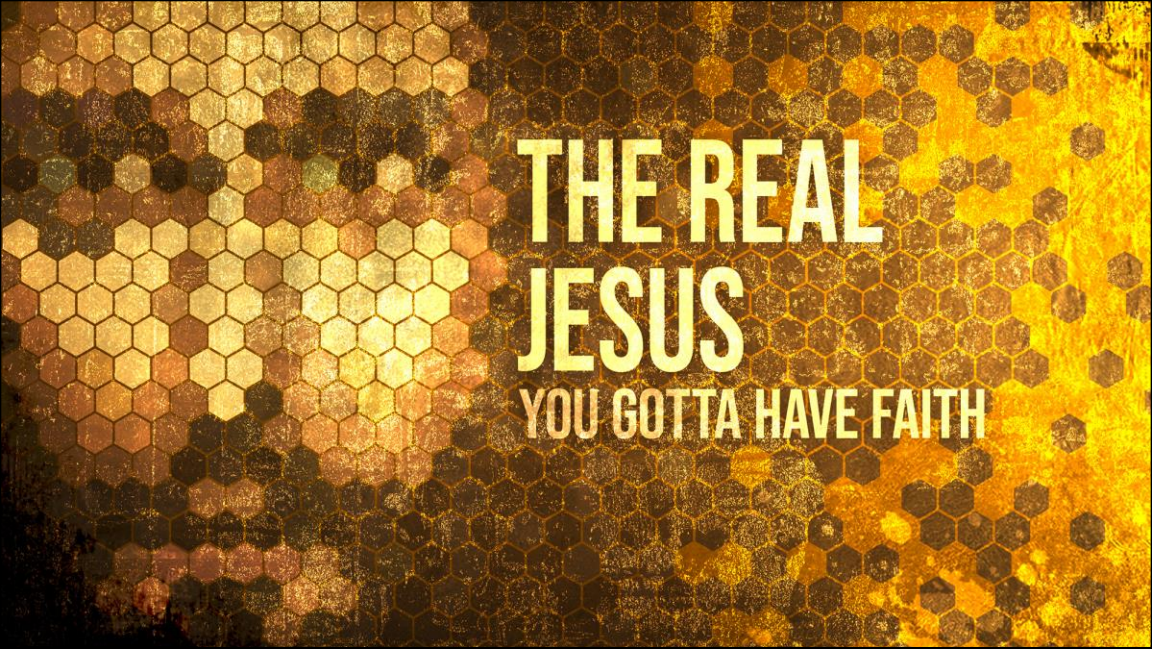
**Illus:**

Two distinguished Christian Professors at Cambridge University, Scientist/Pastor John Polkinghorne and Philosopher Nicholas Beale... (yes there are Christians at Cambridge)...they wrote a book together entitled Questions of Truth....and in it they use the following story to illustrate the nature of **biblical faith**: [Pause]

The story goes like this...

A philosopher, a scientist, and a simple man—none of whom could swim—were trapped in a cove with sheer cliff faces. They split up, but the tide kept coming in. Rescuers lowered a rope with a safety harness for each of them to be saved.



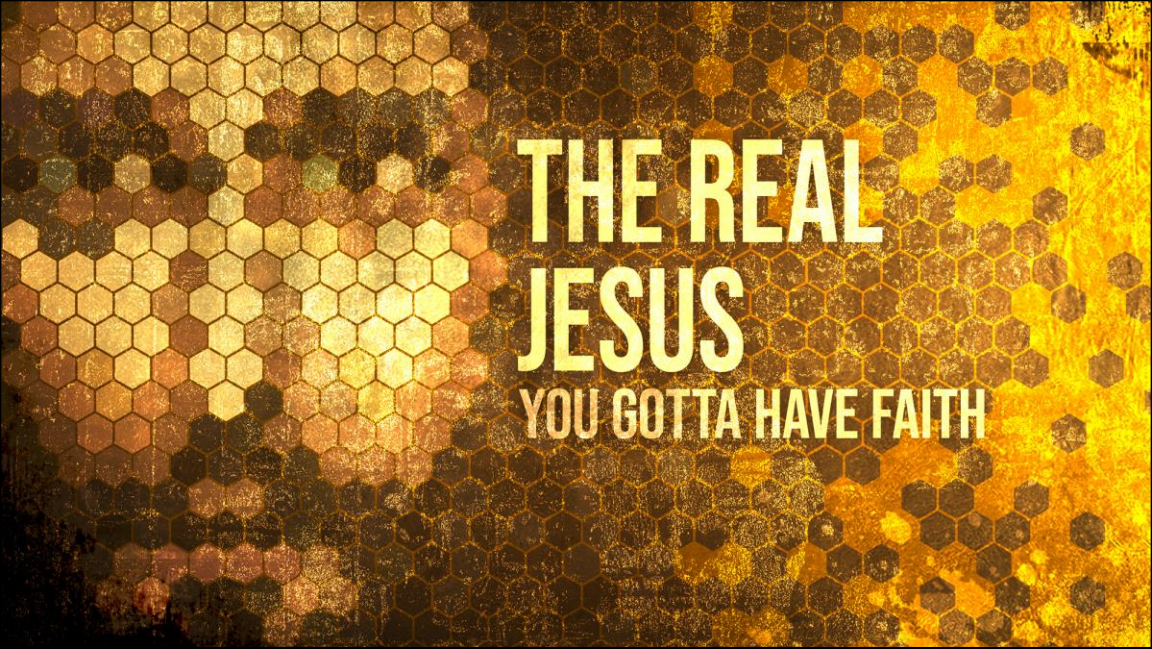


# THE REAL JESUS YOU GOTTA HAVE FAITH

The **philosopher** said, "Ah, this looks like a rope, but I might be mistaken—it could be wishful thinking or an illusion." So he didn't attach himself, and he was drowned.

The **scientist** said, "Ah, this is an 11 mm polyester rope with a breaking strain of 2800 kg. It conforms to the MR 10-81 standard," and then proceeded to give an exhaustive, and entirely correct, analysis of the rope's physical and chemical properties. **But he didn't attach himself to the rope, and he was drowned.**

The **simple man** said, "Ah, I'm not sure if it's a rope or a python tail, but it's my only chance, so I'm grabbing it and holding on with my whole life." **And he was saved.**



**THE REAL  
JESUS  
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Friends that's the type of FAITH JESUS IS LOOKING FOR.

That's what we see from the woman healed, that's what we see from Jairus' family.

Our text this morning displayed two instances of desperate FAITH that allowed Jesus to work wonders.

What wonders might God be able to work in our lives as we stop trying to be self-sufficient, and instead REACH OUT IN DESPIRATION, ***“to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.”*** (Eph. 3:20).