

A Faith That Matters!

Scripture used: [Mark 10:32-37](#) (NIV) & [Mark 10:41-43](#) (NIV)

OVERVIEW

Pastor Hurmon gave the second week's sermon "A Faith that Matters" in our series *Different*. He reminded us of this series' big idea: that being followers of Jesus should make our lives different than other people's. Similar to [a 2017 commencement speech given by Denzel Washington](#), Pastor Hurmon emphasized the need to put God first, to not just make a living but to make a difference, and to lead a life aimed at blessing others. This is the lesson that Jesus communicated to the crowd following Him to Jerusalem as He prepared to be sacrificed. It's a hard message for many people, since their faith is not yet mature. We are broken people and may respond out of our brokenness, instead of our faith in God. This week's passage described how the crowd was "afraid", the disciples were "astonished", and even the twelve were "indignant". And it's okay that they responded that way. Eventually we will accept Jesus' radical message, if we undergo the process of discipleship that He laid out for us.

KEY POINTS

- 1) **The church is a collection of broken people.** We expect individuals to be broken, so it shouldn't be a surprise when groups of people also act in broken ways. Being broken doesn't mean we can't get a lot of value out of church, though. There are several ways we benefit from church:
 - a. **To gain influence.** Church is a place where we can align ourselves with God's will. Our broken self can be used to bring about His kingdom on earth.
 - b. **The value of ritual.** It can be comforting to see friends at church, engage in worship and music, and listen to teaching. These rituals are formative and enjoyable.
 - c. **For specific reasons.** We may have specific burning questions that need to be answered. Or we may have specific hurts that need to be healed. Or we have specific needs that need to be met. Church offers us answers, healing, and comfort.
- 2) **Our faith changes as we deepen our relationship with Jesus.** As we mature, our faith proceeds through 3 stages, which are captured in the reactions of three distinct constituencies.
 - a. **The Crowd.** These people recently started following Jesus. But they don't really have a relationship with Him. They probably joined because they liked the stories, the healing miracles, and the idea that they could be a part of a growing, exciting movement. But the crowd became "afraid" as Jesus began teaching about the deeper aspects of faith.
 - b. **The Disciples.** These people had been following Jesus for some time. They were deeply committed to Jesus because of everything He had done over the last few years. They heard many sermons, and understood some of the key ideas. But the disciples were "astonished" by the intensity of Jesus' sermons as they approached Jerusalem.
 - c. **The Twelve.** These people were the chosen few, the ones who spoke the most with Jesus, and received in-depth explanations about the parables. But even they were "indignant" at how James & John tried to maneuver to be closer to Jesus in the Kingdom of Heaven. They weren't truly ready to serve others before themselves. They were obsessed with rank and place. They were unclear about their role in the greater mission. They were lowly men who were redeemed by Jesus, but not in the way they had envisioned.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - There is no greater way to have a lasting impact on the world than becoming God's instrument. By lining up with God's will, our brokenness becomes a part of His plan to redeem the world! That can seem overwhelming, but Jesus meets us exactly where we are. Are you more excited or nervous to deepen your relationship with Jesus? Why?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Pastor Hurmon described three steps toward a mature Christian faith. Each step corresponded to a group that was following Jesus on his way to Jerusalem. Assess your faith right now. To which group do you belong? Are you a member of the Crowd, the Disciples, or the Twelve?
- 3) **DO** - It's easy to get discouraged when we see people who are farther along in their walk with God. But that's the devil trying to keep you away from Jesus. Don't let the perfect become the enemy of the good. Keep going, step by step, toward a relationship. Pray right now: "Jesus, help me to live like you!"