

**Wednesday with the Word**  
**Wheat Street Baptist Church**

Rev. Ralph Basui Watkins, MFA, DMin, PhD  
Servant Pastor

**Believing is Seeing: Walking by Faith and Not by Sight**

**Luke 13:1-5 CEV**

About this same time Jesus was told that Pilate had given orders for some people from Galilee to be killed while they were offering sacrifices.

**2** Jesus replied: Do you think that these people were worse sinners than everyone else in Galilee just because of what happened to them? **3** Not at all! But you can be sure that if you don't turn back to God, every one of you will also be killed. **4** What about those eighteen people who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them? Do you think they were worse than everyone else in Jerusalem? **5** Not at all! But you can be sure that if you don't turn back to God, every one of you will also die.

The people had turned from God. They were offering sacrifices but they weren't following God. They had turned from God and God's way. As a person of faith we have not just give to God we have be followers of God. When you follow God you have to be a person of faith who walks by faith. People of faith, live by faith, walk by faith and to do what God calls us to do which is done by faith.

You have to believe it to see it!

What do you see?

Can you see what God is doing and what God is going to do? (they go together)

**People of Faith Produce: Faith as Fertilizer**

**Luke 13:6-9**

**6** Jesus then told them this story:

A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard. One day he went out to pick some figs, but he didn't find any. **7** So he said to the gardener, "For three years I have come looking for figs on this tree, and I haven't found any yet. Chop it down! Why should it take up space?"

**8** The gardener answered, "Master, leave it for another year. I'll dig around it and put some manure on it to make it grow. **9** Maybe it will have figs on it next year. If it doesn't, you can have it cut down."

What is the manure we need to grow?

What should we expect in our lives as signs of our growth?

What does a growing Christian look like?

What type of fruit should we display?

### **Galatians 5:16-26 CEV**

**16** If you are guided by the Spirit, you won't obey your selfish desires. **17** The Spirit and your desires are enemies of each other. They are always fighting each other and keeping you from doing what you feel you should. **18** But if you obey the Spirit, the Law of Moses has no control over you.

**19** People's desires make them give in to immoral ways, filthy thoughts, and shameful deeds. **20** They worship idols, practice witchcraft, hate others, and are hard to get along with. People become jealous, angry, and selfish. They not only argue and cause trouble, but they are **21** envious. They get drunk, carry on at wild parties, and do other evil things as well. I told you before, and I am telling you again: No one who does these things will share in the blessings of God's kingdom.

**22** God's Spirit makes us loving, happy, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, **23** gentle, and self-controlled. There is no law against behaving in any of these ways. **24** And because we belong to Christ Jesus, we have killed our selfish feelings and desires. **25** God's Spirit has given us life, and so we should follow the Spirit. **26** But don't be conceited or make others jealous by claiming to be better than they are.

### **Luke 13:10-17 - Who is in charge?**

**10** One Sabbath, Jesus was teaching in a Jewish meeting place, **11** and a woman was there who had been crippled by an evil spirit for eighteen years. She was completely bent over and could not straighten up. **12** When Jesus saw the woman, he called her over and said, "You are now well." **13** He placed his hands on her, and right away she stood up straight and praised God.

**14** The man in charge of the meeting place was angry because Jesus had healed someone on the Sabbath. So he said to the people, "Each week has six days when we can work. Come and be healed on one of those days, but not on the Sabbath."

**15** The Lord replied, "Are you trying to fool someone? Won't any one of you untie your ox or donkey and lead it out to drink on a Sabbath? **16** This woman belongs to the family of Abraham, but Satan has kept her bound for eighteen years. Isn't it right to set her free on the Sabbath?" **17** Jesus' words made his enemies ashamed. But everyone else in the crowd was happy about the wonderful things he was doing.

It is always right to do right. It is always the right time to help when God gives you the go ahead and you have the faith to do the work. The enemy is worried about protocol but Jesus is always motivated by need.

"The man in charge said..." we have to ask who is in charge?

Whose is the one(s) to give orders and direction?

Do the people listen to the “man in charge” or the son of God? Jesus saw the woman, he saw her need and he healed her. We have to ask:

- What do the people need?
- What does this person need to be made well?
- What is God calling us to do?

We can never let tradition, protocol or the way we have done it limit what God is calling us to do. Matter of fact God is calling for a new thing but we tend to be constrained by the old thing.

### **Luke 13:18-21 Mustard Seed Faith: The Little is Multiplied by a Great God**

**18** Jesus said, “What is God’s kingdom like? What can I compare it with? **19** It is like what happens when someone plants a mustard seed in a garden. The seed grows as big as a tree, and birds nest in its branches.”

**20** Then Jesus said, “What can I compare God’s kingdom with? **21** It is like what happens when a woman mixes yeast into three batches of flour. Finally, all the dough rises.”

### **Matthew 17:20-21**

Jesus replied: It is because you don’t have enough **faith**! But I can promise you this. If you had **faith** no larger than a **mustard seed**, you could tell this mountain to move from here to there. And it would. Everything would be possible for you.

### **Luke 17:6**

Jesus replied: If you had **faith** no bigger than a tiny **mustard seed**, you could tell this mulberry tree to pull itself up, roots and all, and to plant itself in the ocean. And it would!

### **Luke 13:22-30 The Least of These and the Rest of These: Who We Serve and Lift Up Determines Our Level of Growth**

**22** As Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem, he taught the people in the towns and villages. **23** Someone asked him, “Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?”

Jesus answered:

**24** Do all you can to go in by the narrow door! A lot of people will try to get in, but will not be able to. **25** Once the owner of the house gets up and locks the door, you will be left standing outside. You will knock on the door and say, “Sir, open the door for us!”

But the owner will answer, “I don’t know a thing about you!”

**26** Then you will start saying, “We dined with you, and you taught in our streets.”

**27** But he will say, “I really don’t know who you are! Get away from me, you evil people!”

**28** Then when you have been thrown outside, you will weep and grit your teeth because you will see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets in God’s kingdom. **29** People will come from all directions and sit down to feast in God’s kingdom. **30** There the ones who are now least important will be the most important, and those who are now most important will be least important.

Who has God called us to serve?

Who is (are) the least of these?

Who should we be serving and who should we be following?

**Luke 13:31-35 Don't Be Afraid: What Will Be Will Be**

**31** At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said, "You had better get away from here! Herod wants to kill you."

**32** Jesus said to them:

Go tell that fox, "I am going to force out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, and three days later I'll be through." **33** But I am going on my way today and tomorrow and the next day. After all, Jerusalem is the place where prophets are killed.

**34** Jerusalem, Jerusalem! Your people have killed the prophets and have stoned the messengers who were sent to you. I have often wanted to gather your people, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. But you wouldn't let me. **35** Now your temple will be deserted. You won't see me again until the time when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."

While the Pharisees appear to be warning Jesus, they are really telling Jesus to move on. They appear to have Jesus' best interest in mind but in the end they don't realize that his death is part of the plan.

To do what God has really called you to do you have to move beyond fear of any kind. We can't be intimidated by the forces that try to stop us or redirect us from doing what God has called us to do. We have to move forward. Jesus was clear, I love you, I want to save you but you will not let me.

We have to ask ourselves, will we allow the Lord to save us, lead us, guide us, protect us and show us the way?

Do we trust the Lord enough to keep on doing what God has called us to do in the face of demonic opposition?

In the end, the people who threaten us can't hurt us. The threat to kill Jesus would only result in his resurrection.