

## **FAITH IS SAYING YES**

Genesis 12:1-9, Romans 4:13-25, Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Faith is saying “yes” to God, even when we cannot yet see where he is leading us. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our readings today are all about people who said “yes” to God before they could see the whole journey ahead.

In the first reading, God calls Abram: “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.” There is something remarkable about that call. God does not provide a map. God does not explain every detail. God simply calls, and Abram responds. He leaves what is familiar and walks toward an unknown future because he trusts the One who is calling him.

Most of us would prefer certainty. We would like to know where the road leads before we take the first step. Yet faith often works differently. Faith is not seeing the entire path. Faith is trusting God enough to take the next step.

That same pattern appears in the Gospel. Jesus passes by a tax collector named Matthew and says only two words: “Follow me.” There is no lengthy explanation. There is no detailed plan. Yet Matthew rises and follows. He does not ask for explanations or guarantees. Faith often begins with a simple response to God's invitation.

Jesus sees in Matthew not merely a tax collector, but a disciple. Others may have seen a man defined by his profession or by his reputation, but Jesus sees the possibility of a new future. Matthew trusts Jesus enough to leave behind what is familiar and begin a new life.

The same faith is seen in the ruler who comes to Jesus carrying grief and desperation. His daughter has died, yet he comes believing that Jesus can help. In the face of loss, he chooses hope rather than despair.

We see it again in the woman who has suffered for twelve years. For years she has carried disappointment and suffering, yet she still reaches out toward Jesus. Her faith is not loud or dramatic. It is simply the faith that refuses to give up.

Neither knows exactly what Jesus will do. But both trust him enough to come to him. What connects Matthew, the ruler, and the woman is that each entrusts themselves to Christ. Their circumstances are different, but all three respond to his invitation with faith.

Faith does not remove difficulties from our lives. Faith brings us closer to Christ in the middle of them.

That is important because faith is often misunderstood. We sometimes think faith means never having doubts, never asking questions, or never struggling. But the Bible presents faith differently. Faith is not the absence of uncertainty. Faith is trusting God in the midst of uncertainty.

That is why Paul, in our reading from Romans, points us back to Abraham. He reminds us that Abraham trusted God's promise even when it seemed impossible. As Paul says, Abraham "hoped against hope." He believed not because circumstances were easy, but because he trusted the God who had spoken.

The same invitation is given to us.

Many of us are living with questions. We wonder about the future. We carry concerns about family, work, health, relationships, or the direction of our lives. Sometimes we wish God would reveal everything at once.

But often God gives us enough light for the next step rather than the entire journey. And perhaps that is because faith grows not by seeing everything clearly, but by learning to trust the One who walks with us.

As Christians, we are not called to have perfect faith. We are not called to possess all the answers. We are called to keep responding to God's invitation day by day.

Sometimes that "yes" may mean beginning something new.

Sometimes it may mean letting go of something familiar.

Sometimes it may mean trusting God through grief, uncertainty, or suffering.

Sometimes it may simply mean taking one small step of obedience when we cannot yet see what lies ahead.

The good news is that God remains faithful. The God who guided Abraham, called Matthew, healed the woman, and brought hope to the grieving ruler is the same God who walks with us today.

Abraham said yes.

Matthew said yes.

The ruler said yes.

The woman said yes.

And through their faith, God opened a new future before them.

The question for us today is simple: **Where is God calling us to say "yes" today?**  
Amen.