

Lutheran Confessions

Small Catechism, taken from A Short Form of Confession

...Then {after the confession} the confessor shall say:

God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith. Amen.

Furthermore:

Do you believe that my forgiveness is God's forgiveness?

Yes, dear confessor.

Then let him, say:

Let it be done for you as you believe. And I, by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive you your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Go in peace.

A confessor will know additional passages with which to comfort and to strengthen the faith of those who have great burdens of conscience or are sorrowful and distressed.

The Large Catechism, V. 33-35

33] Thus we have the entire Sacrament, both as to what it is in itself and as to what it brings and profits. Now we must also see who is the person that receives this power and benefit. That is answered briefly, as we said above of Baptism and often elsewhere: **Whoever believes it has what the words declare and bring.** For they are not spoken or proclaimed to stone and wood, but to those who hear them, to whom He says: **34]** *Take and eat*, etc. And because He offers and promises forgiveness of sin, it cannot be received otherwise than by faith. This faith He Himself demands in the Word when He says: *Given and shed for you.* As if He said: For this reason I give it, and bid you eat and drink, that you may claim it as yours and enjoy it. **35]** **Whoever now accepts these words, and believes that what they declare is true, has it.** But whoever does not believe it has nothing, as he allows it to be offered to him in vain, and refuses to enjoy such a saving good. The treasure, indeed, is opened and placed at every one's door, yea, upon his table, but it is necessary that you also claim it, and confidently view it as the words suggest to you.

(Bente, F., *Concordia Triglotta*, Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Northwestern Publishing House, 1997).

Put it into Practice

These questions have been put together to help you as you extend and apply tonight's Scripture to your life.

Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth the right hand of Your majesty to help and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN**

(Collect for The Third Sunday after the Epiphany)

Word of God: St. Matthew 8:1-13 (on back)

Questions to Ponder in Prayer

The Leper is healed

- Following Jesus' Sermon on the Mount(ch. 5-7), the great crowds are amazed at his authoritative teaching(Read Mt 7:28-29). Coming down from the mountain, St. Matthew records the public miracles which Jesus performed(Read Mt 8:17). Jesus taught to create faith and healed out of compassion(Mk 1:41, Lk 4:40). But what do the words and acts(Mt 9:35) reveal about Jesus?
- What does the leper do and say? What does the leper believe about Jesus?
- Does the leper demand physical blessings of Jesus? Can Jesus give physical blessings? To what does the leper entrust his diseased body?
- Jesus touched the leper! Why? Mt 8:17
- How does Jesus heal? Mt 8:3 Is Jesus' word powerful? Effective?
- Jesus sends the leper to the Jerusalem priest to keep the law(Lev 14:1-32). Why? What reason does Jesus give?
- Why does Jesus sternly warn the leper not to speak of this, when it was witnessed by great crowds? How could the leper's witness ruin the "for a proof to them?"
- Did the man keep quiet(Mk 1:45)? What was the unintended result?

The Centurion's Servant is healed (Mt 8:5-13 = Luke 7:1-10 Luke informs us that the centurion "came to Jesus" through his official representative.)

- Does the centurion demand physical blessings of Jesus?
- When Jesus determines to come and heal the man, why did the centurion consider himself so unworthy(v.8,10)? Luke tells us he had donated a synagogue(Lk 7:5)!
- Luke shows us that the man didn't expect Jesus to come in person. What is the centurion's concern? (See Acts 10:28, Eph 2:11-22)
- What analogy does the centurion give for his unusual request in verse 8? (v. 9)
- What does Jesus praise about this gentile centurion? Which verse reveals his A. Knowledge of sin, B. Trust in Jesus' Word. C. Knowledge of Jesus' person
- According to Jesus, what will the kingdom of heaven(church) be like?
- Who are the sons of the kingdom? What happens to unbelieving sons(Jn 8:37-41)? What is described as "outer darkness" and "weeping, gnashing of teeth?"
- "as you have believed" --What did the centurion believe? See question 13A,B,C
- When was the servant healed? (Gen 1:3)

6:30 PM "Learn by Heart"

Through simple repetition those present will inwardly digest...

Hymn "**Lord of the Church, We Humbly Pray**" ASBH #77

Confessions One & Two
John 14:23-24

7:00 PM "Catechesis"

+ Opening Verses

"O Lord, open my lips..." p.224

+ Ascription of Praise

"Praise to you, O Christ. Alleluia." p.225

Reading

St. Matthew 8:1-13 (back)

Hymn

"**Lord of the Church, We Humbly Pray**"
(Augustana Service #77, insert)

Catechesis on...

St. Matthew 8:1-13 (back)
Liturgy
Catechism

--*prayer based on reading*

+ Responsive Prayer for Catechesis
(insert)

Ten Commandments

Lord's Prayer

Apostles' Creed

Psalm 100

Collect of the Day

Prayers based on the text

The Collect for "The Children of the Church"

Benedicamus

Benediction

Catechesis on St. Matthew 8:1-13

¹ When He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him. ² And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." ³ Then Jesus put out *His* hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. ⁴ And Jesus said to him, "See that you tell no one; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

⁵ Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, ⁶ saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." ⁷ And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." ⁸ The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹ "For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this *one*, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does *it*."

¹⁰ When Jesus heard *it*, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!" ¹¹ "And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. ¹² "But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

¹³ Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, *so* let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour. (NKJV)

The Object of Faith is the Gospel Message

"For everything that comforts, that offers the favor and grace of God to transgressors of the Law, is, and is properly called, the Gospel, a good and joyful message that God will not punish sins, but **forgive them for Christ's sake**" (FC SD V, 21).

Galatians 3:12, "Yet the law is not of faith...."

Romans 4:5, "But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness." (also Romans 10:14)

Faith is the Trust of the Heart

"Now **he that knows that he has a Father gracious to him through Christ, truly knows God**; he knows also that God cares for him, and calls upon God; in a word, he is not without God, as the heathen. For devils and the ungodly are not able to believe this article: the forgiveness of sins. Hence, they hate God as an enemy, call not upon Him, and expect no good from Him. Augustine also admonishes his readers concerning the word "faith," and teaches that **the term "faith" is accepted in the Scriptures** not for knowledge such as is in the ungodly but **for confidence** which consoles and encourages the terrified mind (Ap XX, 24-26).

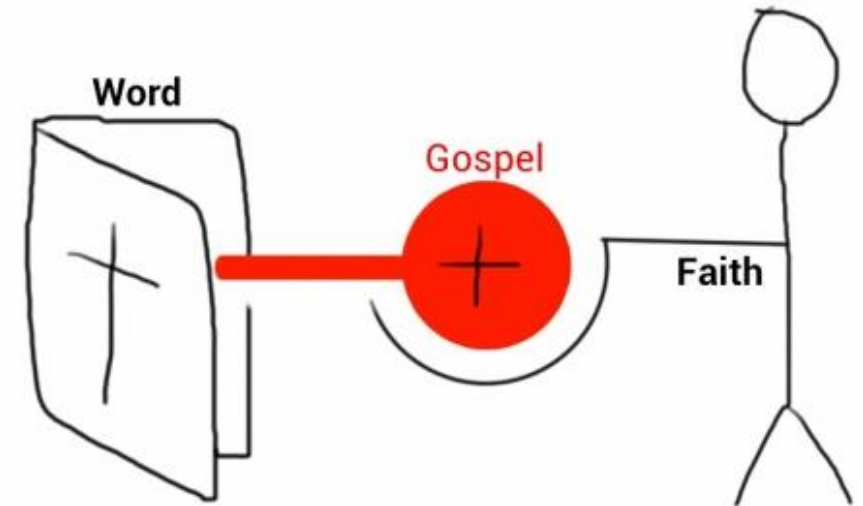
Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

A Fruit of Faith: Trust in God's Word

"And after God through the Holy Ghost in Baptism has kindled and effected a beginning of the true knowledge of God and faith, we should pray Him without ceasing that through the same spirit and His grace, **by means of the daily exercise of reading and practicing God's Word**, He would preserve in us faith and His heavenly gifts, strengthen us from day to day, and keep us to the end. For unless God Himself be our schoolmaster, we can study and learn nothing that is acceptable to Him and salutary to ourselves and others" (FC SD II 16).

1 Corinthians 15:1-2, "Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, **if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.**

Catechesis On St. Matthew 8:1-13



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