

Lutheran Confessions

Large Catechism, First Commandment, 4,13-17

4] Therefore it is the intent of this

commandment to require true faith and trust of

the heart which settles upon the only true God, and clings to Him alone. That is as much as to say: “See to it that you let Me alone be your God, and never seek another,” *i.e.*: Whatever you lack of good things, expect it of Me, and look to Me for it, and whenever you suffer misfortune and distress, creep and cling to Me. I, yes, I, will give you enough and help you out of every need; only let not your heart cleave to or rest in any other....

13] Thus you can easily understand what and how much this commandment requires, namely, that man’s entire heart and all his confidence be placed in God alone, and in no one else. For to have God, you can easily perceive, is not to lay hold of Him with our hands or to put Him in a bag [as money], or to lock Him in a chest [as silver vessels]. **14]** But to apprehend Him means when the heart lays hold of Him and clings to Him. **15]** But to cling to Him with the heart is nothing else than to trust in Him entirely. For this reason He wishes to turn us away from everything else that exists outside of Him, and to draw us to Himself, namely, because He is the only eternal good. As though He would say; Whatever you have heretofore sought of the saints, or for whatever [things] you have trusted in Mammon or anything else, expect it all of Me, and regard Me as the one who will help you and pour out upon you richly all good things.

16] Lo, here you have the meaning of the true honor and worship of God, which pleases God, and which He commands under penalty of eternal wrath, namely, that the heart know no other comfort or confidence than in Him, and do not suffer itself to be torn from Him, but, for Him, risk and disregard everything upon earth. **17]** On the other hand, you can easily see and judge how the world practices only false worship and idolatry. For no people has ever been so reprobate as not to institute and observe some divine worship; everyone has set up as his special god whatever he looked to for blessings, help, and comfort. (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

Heavenly Father, as You know us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers that by reason of the frailty of our fallen nature we cannot at any time stand upright, grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN** (*Collect for The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany*)

Word of God: St. Matthew 8:23-27 (on back)

Questions to Ponder in Prayer

1. Look at Mt 8:16-18. Why did Jesus and His disciples get into a boat and travel to the other side of the Sea of Galilee?
2. What do we know already about Jesus’ disciples and their sailing abilities? (Mt 4:18-22)
3. In verse 24, describe the contrast between the storm and Jesus.
4. How do you think the disciples were reacting to this storm?
5. How could Jesus sleep? (1 Jn 4:16-18)
6. Does Jesus have any experience in sailing? (Luke 5:5)
7. At what point do you think experienced sailors would have waked up Jesus for help?
8. What do they ask of Jesus? (v.25) What was their big fear?
9. What help had they given up on by asking Jesus for help? (Ps 147:9-11)
10. Is their action of crying out to Jesus, the prayer of faith talking?
11. Nevertheless, He calls them “you of little faith.” What is little about their faith? What does Jesus ask them?
 - A. Did the disciples have any right to fear? (Phil 4:6, Mt 10:28)
 - B. When should they have come to Jesus? (Luke 18:1, Ps 50:15)
12. Is it significant that Jesus “arose” to help them? (1 Cor 15:17)
13. What is the “great calm?” How does viewing this as synonymous with peace(OT = Shalom) help? (Num 6:24-26, Eph 2:14-18, 2 Cor 13:11)
14. Jesus commands. The winds and waves obey. What kind of man can do this? (Jn 20:28, 1 John 5:20)

6:30 PM “Learn by Heart”

Through simple repetition those present will inwardly digest...

Hymn “**In Peace and Joy I Now Depart**” ASBH #78

Confession, Question Three
Psalm 50:15

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 8:23-27 (back)

Hymn

“**In Peace and Joy I Now Depart**”
(Augustana Service #78, insert)

Catechesis on... (back)

St. Matthew 8:23-27

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 8:23-27

23 Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. 24 And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. 25 Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" 26 But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. 27 So the men marveled, saying, "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"(NKJV)

Great Faith

Matthew 8:10, "When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed {*concerning the Centurion from last week*}, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!"

Matthew 15:28, "Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour."

Little Faith

Matthew 6:30, "Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?"

Matthew 14:31, "And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, 'O you of little faith, why did you doubt?'"

Matthew 16:8, "But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, "O you of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves because you have brought no bread?"

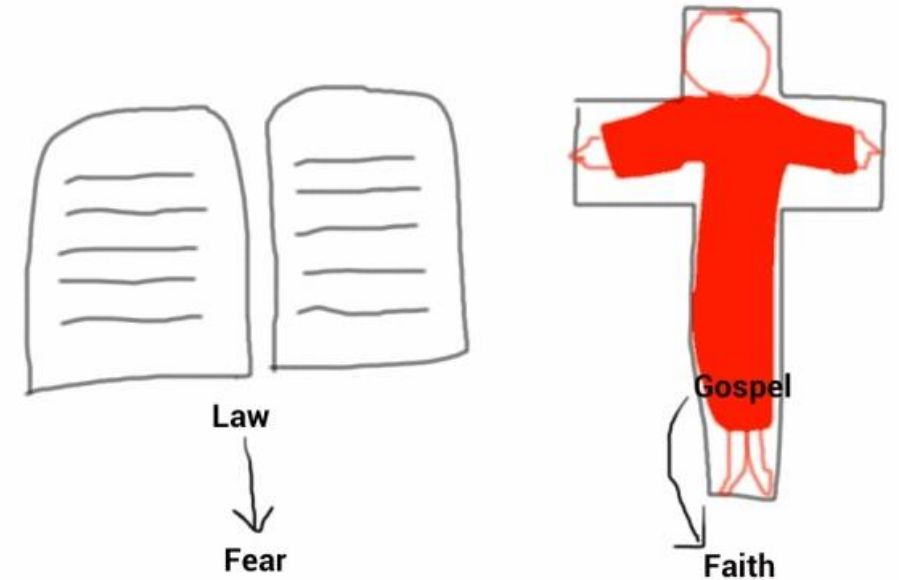
Filial Fear or Servile Fear

"This faith shows the distinction between the contrition of Judas and Peter, of Saul and of David. The contrition of Judas or Saul is of no avail, for the reason that to this there is not added this faith, which apprehends the remission of sins, bestowed as a gift for Christ's sake. Accordingly, the contrition of David or Peter avails, because to it there is added faith, which apprehends the remission of sins granted for Christ's sake. 37] Neither is love present before reconciliation has been made by faith. For without Christ the Law [God's Law or the First Commandment] is not performed, according to [Eph. 2, 18; 3, 12] Rom. 5, 2: By Christ we have access to God. **And this faith grows gradually and throughout the entire life, struggles with sin [is tested by various temptations] in order to overcome sin and death.** 38] But love follows faith, as we have said above. **And thus filial fear can be clearly defined as such anxiety as has been connected with faith, i.e., where faith consoles and sustains the anxious heart. It is servile fear when faith does not sustain the anxious heart [fear without faith, where there is nothing but wrath and doubt].** (Ap XII 36-38).

Jesus' Perfect Faith in the Father

"For this reason, then, His obedience, not only in suffering and dying, but also in this, that He in our stead was voluntarily made under the Law, and fulfilled it by **this obedience**, is imputed to us for righteousness, so that, on account of this complete obedience, **which He rendered His heavenly Father for us, by doing and suffering, in living and dying,** God forgives our sins, regards us as godly and righteous, and eternally saves us" (FC SD III 15).

Catechesis On St. Matthew 8:23-27



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