

Christian Faith is Active in Love

by Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin

The 16th Sunday after Pentecost
9 September, A.D. 2018
Isa 35.4-7a; Jms 2.1-10, 14-18; Mk 7.(24-30) 31-37

Introduction

James 2:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

That is, faith without _____ is not faith at all,
at least not Christian faith.

CCT: Christ heals our souls by His Word and—by
grace—makes us participants in His life of
_____.

I. Saved by Grace: The Syro-Phoenician Woman

Mark 7:24–30 (ESV)

²⁴ And from there he arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon.

What's the significance of this?

Gen 3.15; Gen 12.3

And he entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden. ²⁵ But immediately a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. ²⁶ Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ And he said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs."

What is Jesus really saying to her? Why say it like this?

²⁸ But she answered him, "Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."

What does the woman's response say about her faith?

Isaiah 53:6 (ESV)

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Ephesians 2:8–9 (ESV)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

²⁹ And he said to her, "For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰ And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.

How did Jesus ultimately show He was the Savior of the World?

II. Faith Active in Love

Blessings & greetings from your Capital Campaign Committee!

The Phase One goal was to pay off enough debt to restore a full-time Minister of Music to our staff and--along the way--help our local, regional, and international mission partners.

Though--thus far--we did not quite get to our goal, there is a lot to celebrate!

In the last three years, this campaign, thus far, has:

- † Paid down almost **\$550,000** of our debt
- † Provided over **\$15,000** to help build a new Lutheran school in the Dominican Republic
- † Provided over **\$12,000** to help homeless families recover and find a more permanent home through Family Promise of Western Waukesha County
- † Provided over **\$17,000** in tuition support to the Lutheran High School Association of Greater Milwaukee.

This campaign has deepened our relationships with our community, with our mission partners, and helped--even in subtle ways--thousands of people, in Oconomowoc, Waukesha County, Greater Milwaukee, and the Dominican Republic.

The Free to Serve committee met and agreed to distribute all tithes and offerings through the official end of the campaign on August 31, 2018. All special Free to Serve offerings arriving after August 31st will go directly to debt reduction.

If you have questions about what your pledge was, please contact the church office at 262.567.5001.

Our LORD has blessed us richly and given us the opportunity to bless others through the Free to Serve capital campaign.

Thank you to all who contributed to the campaign!

In Christ,

Dr. Pete Sheild



**WOULD YOU LIKE TO
SPONSOR A RADIO
BROADCAST?**



Our radio broadcast over WTKM is a very important outreach for our congregation. Below are the dates open for 2019. Please prayerfully consider sponsoring one of these Sundays. The cost is **\$95.00**. We praise God for this valuable community outreach.

| | | | | |
|---------|---------------|---------|----------|---------|
| Jan. 6 | Mar. 24 | Jun. 2 | Sept. 8 | Nov. 24 |
| Jan. 20 | Mar. 31 | Jun. 16 | Sept. 15 | Nov. 28 |
| Jan. 27 | Apr. 7 | Jun. 23 | Sept. 22 | Dec. 1 |
| Feb. 3 | Apr. 14 | Jun. 30 | Oct. 13 | Dec. 8 |
| Feb. 10 | Apr. 21 (6am) | July 7 | Oct. 20 | Dec. 15 |
| Feb. 17 | Apr. 21 (8am) | July 14 | Oct. 27 | Dec. 22 |
| Feb. 24 | Apr. 28 | July 28 | Nov. 3 | Dec. 29 |
| Mar. 10 | May 12 | Aug. 4 | Nov. 10 | |
| Mar. 17 | May 19 | Aug. 18 | Nov. 17 | |

If you are interested in sponsoring a Broadcast please fill out the bottom portion of this page and hand it into the church office. Thank you. Any questions please call Heather in the church office 567-5001.

NAME _____

DATE- 1ST CHOICE _____ 2ND CHOICE _____

Please dedicate to (i.e. in memory of, wedding anniversary, to the Glory of God, in honor of...etc.)

What do you think the Syro-Phoenician woman did (or didn't do) after Jesus' gracious act?

A. Participants in the Divine Nature

2 Peter 1:4 (ESV)

⁴ by which he [God] has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

B. God at Work in Us

Ephesians 2:8–10 (ESV)

¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

C. Called to Work

2 Thessalonians 3:6–7 (ESV)

⁶ Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you,

James 2:14–17 (ESV)

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

"The works that James calls for are identical with those which Christ finds in the justified on Judgment Day (Matt 25.35-40 [hungry are fed, naked are clothes, etc.])

"James can hardly be seen as putting faith in a position lower than works, since he is intent on demonstrating that his faith is indeed alive. James wants to talk about faith, not works! "Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith" (v.18). Faith is the substance, and works are the characteristics of that substance." (D.P. Scaer, *James: The Apostle of Faith*, 89)

D. The Three Spheres of Service

1. The Church

2. The Home

3. The Community

Conclusion