

A Hard Teaching of our Faith

August 15, 2021

Our Savior's Way Lutheran Church

Pastor Tyson Labuhn

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Can you have faith without trust? Every day people trust that certain things will happen. That the sun will rise in the morning and set in the evening. Days will come and go. Your car will start, and you can go where you need to go. People have faith in the ordinary things, and believe it or not, they can also have faith in the extraordinary things as well, especially when it comes to faith in Jesus.

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In human terms though, when we apply logic to His statement...this is a hard teaching to believe. And not surprisingly, the Jews who heard Jesus speak this message in the synagogue that day in Capernaum began to grumble. Just like we do at times when we try to rely on our own strength and reasoning when we ought to simply trust and believe in Jesus. And even though grumblers don't take their complaints to the one who can resolve their issue, Jesus

knowing them as He did, tried to help them better understand. He said to them, that, unlike their forefathers who ate the manna in the wilderness and died, if they ate the bread of life, they would have eternal life and He would raise them up again on the last day.

It was a hard message for them and others to hear, so much so that even some of His own disciples began to grumble. So, He said to them, ***“Do you take offense at this? What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before?”*** (v.61b, 62)

In our world today there are some who apply their own wisdom and logic to Jesus and His message and have trouble believing. It certainly doesn't help that the world continues - as it has in the past - to challenge what God has to say. It seems the world offers all kinds of temptations for people to give in to and to give up on God.

And when that happens, in our sinfulness, we think that we're somehow wiser than God and His Word. And somehow, because of our dominion over the rest of creation, we don't really have to listen or pay attention to God or His Word. Instead, in our own reasoning and logic, we should simply do what we want, when we want, so that we can simply please ourselves.

“Don't they know who I am?” That's what the man said to his wife who was next to him at the DMV when he went to get his license renewed. While the clerk behind the counter regarded him as just another person, he continued to do his job as he had for countless others before him. But the man's wife who knew who he was and where he had come from, replied, *“Yeah, you're the plumber's son who just happened to get lucky.”*

Where earthly wisdom and human intelligence ends, faith continues to believe in the hard teachings of Jesus. Jesus knows everything there is to know about us. He knows the very words that we need to hear, what we need to understand and believe. Through His Word, He brings to us His Spirit to help us believe in the Good News, that through His death and resurrection our sins are forgiven and we receive eternal life.

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