

Desperation and Faith

In this world, it is a matter of WHEN not IF we will confront something that feels desperate to us. At times we are confronted by such challenging, hard, confusing, painful situations that we find ourselves experiencing a sense of desperation. This might be how you feel today. It might be your experience tomorrow. We never know when such things will come. When we encounter such situations it can lead down a path of despair or it can be a catalyst for spiritual growth. The key to heading down the path of growth is responding by faith.

Opening Discussion: Are you facing (or have you faced in the past) any situation that creates some level of desperation in your heart? If so, what is the situation?

Read Mark 5:24-34; 7:24-30; 10:46-52 (Ask the follow three questions for each of the passages.)

1. What is the desperate situation?
2. What do you notice about the beliefs and behaviors of the person in the desperate situation?
3. What observations can you make about Jesus as a result of this encounter?
4. What big picture observations on desperation and faith can you make as you consider all of these passages together?

Brian said:

If you want respond to your desperate situation in faith, it starts with knowledge about Jesus. The more you know Him, the more you will go to Him in faith. And the more you go to Him in faith, the more you will see His work in your life. Your faith will grow. Now, you may not be in a desperate situation right now. If so, rejoice! But here's the deal, in this world it is a matter of WHEN, not IF, we will confront something desperate. And so often these are things come crashing into our lives without any warning. And so don't wait to get to know Jesus. Develop a life-style of getting to know him.

5. Are you developing a life-style of getting to know Jesus? What does this look like for you? What needs to change?

Brian said:

Go to Jesus with your desperate situation. We can't go to Jesus physically, but we can go. We go through prayer . . . I'm not saying that if you have a medical condition you shouldn't go to the doctor or if you have a financial problem that you shouldn't go to a financial advisor. Of course do those things! But sometimes that is all we do and we don't go to Jesus. As well, sometimes instead of going to Jesus we simply try to numb the pain of our desperate situation. We turn to alcohol or media or working crazy hours or any number of things just to try to avoid the pain. Go to Jesus with your desperate situation. If we are going to grow in our faith, we have to go to Jesus.

6. How quickly and readily do you tend to go to Jesus with your problems?
7. Are there other things that you tend to go to or try before you go to Jesus? If so what and why?
8. What is the main thing that you sense God is saying to you through this study?