

Third Sunday after Pentecost  
13-06-2021  
St Cuthbert's Anglican Church – Tweed Heads

1 Samuel 15:34–16:13 Saul rejected – Samuel anoints David

Psalms 20 Prayer for Protection – Place your Trust in God

2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17 Walk by faith not Sight  
Everyone in Christ is a New Creation

Mark 4: 26-34 Two parables – The Growing Seed  
The Mustard Seed

### Introduction

This morning I believe the theme coming through from our Bible readings is all about faith. So firstly, I would like us to look at how we are called to put our Faith in God through what Jesus has done for us. Secondly, I would like to look at how this is a wonderful encouragement, as we hear that those in Christ are a new Creation. And finally, I would like to look at how we are called to into action as those who have faith are called to “Walk by Faith, not by Sight”.

### Faith

Faith is an interesting word and used differently to mean different things to many people. In terms of the Christian Faith, it means finding the ultimate meaning and purpose to life itself.

Apologists down the ages have pointed to the Gospel message of Jesus Christ, and acknowledged that Jesus didn't say he was just a good teacher or role model. Jesus claimed much, much more than that.

It's not in today's readings, but I think it points very clearly to what we have faith in as Christians. In chapter fourteen of John's Gospel, we hear a dialogue between Jesus and two of his disciples Thomas and Phillip.

When Thomas asks Jesus how can he know the way, Jesus doesn't say “This is the way to God” or “That is the way to God”, Jesus says to Thomas, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

And then we hear Phillip:-

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.

So, when we talk about Faith as Christians, it means that knowing and believing that Jesus is the way to God. The God who created us. It is through Jesus that we understand what it is to truly live as we are meant to, in a relationship with the God who created us.

### Those in Christ are a new Creation

Those who accept Jesus become a new creation.

Who here today feels like a new creation? The other night I stayed up to watch the tennis, so I certainly didn't feel like a new creation when I got up in the morning. But I do know deep within my being that I am secure in God, by what Jesus has done for me.

I think people are often not sure. I think people are wondering about the meaning and purpose of life. So much effort goes into what we can do for ourselves, but it is only when we fully and totally hand our lives over to God that we can know the depth and meaning of Life.

The paradox is this – it is only when we fully hand our lives over to God, that we can fully realize the depth and fullness of what it means to be human. We must give up before we can receive.

It is only when a seed dies, that the new plant begins to grow.  
If we die with Jesus, we become a new creation.  
We are transformed to live new lives for Him.  
Sometimes this needs to happen again and again in our life.

### Walk by Faith – not by sight

And, as those who have put our faith in Jesus, we are called to walk by faith and not by sight.

It may be helpful here to look a little more at what the bible tells us about faith. In the letter to the Hebrews in Chapter 11 verse 1 it says:-

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

What about Sight? - Where do we put our trust?

If we only think about what we can see we may end up focusing only on earthly things.

As New Creations we are called to be followers of Jesus. We know that it is only in Jesus that we can come into a relationship with God and that is Good, but Jesus called those who believed in him, to follow him. And Jesus told his followers, to go and make more followers.

In our reading from the second letter to the Corinthians this morning it says:-

“And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.”

Is Jesus always before us like this? How do we know?

Are we placing all of our faith, and all of our trust, and all of our hope, in Him? Are we living our lives for Jesus? I believe, we say we believe in God, but we then often try to do things in our own strength.

The Parable of the Growing Seed in today's gospel, tells of how the sower knows that the seed is going to grow, but doesn't know how. The sower has to trust that it will grow and prepare for the harvest.

Likewise, as we live our lives we need to place our faith in God. We don't know exactly how he will use us and what we will be called to do for Him, but we have to live with the expectation that in the end he will bear us up.

We need to fully surrender to Jesus, accept that his incarnation, life, death, resurrection and ascension, is the only thing that can give us access to God. We need to walk by faith and not by sight.

### Conclusion

Today we've heard that those who die with Christ will become a new creation, and we've talked about those who become new creations will live by faith and not by sight.

If we are fully surrendered to God, God can use us to achieve things we never thought possible.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed is a wonderful example of what is possible. God chose David, the smallest and youngest son of Jesse.

I encourage you again, to fully surrender yourself to Jesus, to walk by faith and not by sight, and to prepare for the new creation God is working in your life. Amen.