

Fourth Monday of Easter ~ 4/30

"Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father." (John 14:11-12)

Reading the gospel accounts of Christ's life leads one to believe that He had a lot of special gifts and that He readily shared them with the people. He cured diseases and blindness. He made lepers whole, and the lame were returned to full health. He even raised the dead. These were extraordinary works. I really cannot ever recall meeting such a miracle worker in my lifetime. I certainly could never claim to be such a healer. So how could Jesus say that we could do greater works that He did? The key word in this passage from John is the word, *believe*. Those who believe in Jesus can do these great things. Understanding why we don't see more tremendous miracles is about understanding levels of belief.

When we sit in a room on a calm day we may look up at the light switch on the wall and be certain, or at least ninety-nine percent certain, that if we walk over and flip the switch the lights will go on. Sitting in that same room on a day when lightening is striking all around us and the wind is howling we may not be as certain that when we flip the switch that light will come on. At any rate, we would not want to bet our lives on the outcome. Even on the calm day we probably wouldn't risk our lives on the probability that the light will come on.

To believe like Jesus believed is to know beyond any doubt that when I say to my neighbor, "Stand up and walk" that my neighbor will do exactly that. To believe as Jesus did means that even in the most turbulent of times if I seek out the light of Christ He will be there to guide my footsteps. To believe as Jesus did means that when I have done all I can do and I am being crucified in my humanity that I will still know that my sacrifice shall not have been in vain.

If we think that we will never have this deep of faith then we never will. If we believe that we are meant to be miracle workers in our homes and workplaces then we will see amazing things. The dis-ease in our families, in our country and in our world will only begin to be healed when the followers of Jesus believe that it will be so. To work miracles we must be willing to walk into the fires of hell and know beyond a shadow of a doubt that we will not be left in ashes.

Questions for Reflection

- 1. What hinders my belief in the power of God that lives within me?*
- 2. I have worked miracles in my lifetime. Can I name those instances and can I build on them?*

Prayer: Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief!