

Do you run with the crowd or
do you run to win?

Ps Peter Nicholes

Sunday 30th October 2011

Crowd vs Desperate person

*When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, **a large crowd** gathered around him while he was by the lake. Then one of the synagogue rulers, named Jairus, came there. Seeing Jesus, he fell at his feet and pleaded earnestly with him, “My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.”*

Mark 5:21-23

Places open up to us by people not crowds

- ▣ People in powerful positions can be reached by God's power
- ▣ Desperate people turn to God = faith
- ▣ Desperate people believe God can do it!
- ▣ From a person...

... to a room

... to a family

... to a workplace

... to a town

... to a city

... to a

NATION

Crowds vs Desperate people

*So Jesus went with him. **A large crowd** followed and pressed around him. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed."*

Mark 5:24-28

Faith Levels

1. **No faith** – Crowds (unbelief)

Romans 5:4-5

2. **Hope** – Breaks away from the crowd

3. **Little faith** – Thinks about stepping out

Matthew 14:31

4. **Faith** – Moves mountains

Mark 11:22-25

5. **Great faith** – When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, “I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such **great faith.**”

Faith

“Have faith in God,” Jesus answered. “I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”

Mark 11:22-25

Follow the steps first for you and then for others

6 Steps

1. Have faith like God (measure of faith)
2. Speak to the mountain (problem)
3. Do not doubt in your heart (believe)
4. Believe what you say will be done
5. Whatever you asked, believe you will receive it and it will be yours
6. Forgive, if you have anything against anyone

If you don't forgive, God cannot release power from
heaven

Crowd touching vs Faith touch

Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?” “You see the people crowding against you,” his disciples answered, “and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’” But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it.

Mark 5:29-32

Crowds of unbelief vs rooms of faith

While Jesus was still speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. “Your daughter is dead,” they said. “Why bother the teacher any more?” Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, “Don’t be afraid; just believe.” He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James.

Mark 5:35-37

Unbelief vs believing

Crowds vs Faith

See and hear	Believe and act
Spectators	Individuals
Negative report	Positive confession
Touching and pushing	Touching transformation
Dam of unbelief	Only Faith in the room

Measure of Faith

“For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.”

Romans 12:3

Use it or lose it/grows or atrophies

If I can ... Help me with my unbelief

Jesus asked the boy's father,

“How long has he been like this?”

“From childhood,” he answered.

“It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him.

*But if you can do anything,
take pity on us and help us.”*

“If you can'?” said Jesus.

“Everything is possible for him who believes.”

Mark 9:21-23

If it doesn't work, pray again!

He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?" He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around." Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.

Mark 8:23-25