



Oct 6, 2019 Luke 17:5-10 & Hab. 1: 2-3, 2: 2-4

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Fr. Robert Beck ([subscription](#))

Stone, Naomi [In the Light of Faith](#)

Rolheiser, Fr. Ron. [Thinking Small](#)

[Monastery Sunday Homilies](#) 10/2/16

[Faith is.....](#)

ENTERING THE SCENE:

In the ancient Middle-Eastern world every family, even relatively poor ones, had at least one servant. The very poorest families gave some of their children to other families as servants to ensure that they would be fed. The master in this parable apparently has only one servant who both tends the fields and does the cooking. The thrust of the story is clear and straightforward. Good servants do what they are told. A master never has to thank a servant for doing what was expected.

Pilch, John J. [The Cultural World of Jesus-Cycle C](#). Collegeville, MN. The Liturgical Press. 1997. . [Page 146](#).

Luke 17:5-10

5 The apostles said to the Lord, "**Increase our faith!**"

6 He replied, "If you have **faith as small as a mustard seed**, you can say to this **mulberry tree**, 'Be **uprooted** and **planted** in the **sea**,' and it will **obey** you. 7 Suppose one of you had a **servant plowing** or **looking after the sheep**. Would he say to the **servant** when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and **sit down to eat**'? 8 Would he not rather say, '**Prepare my supper**, get yourself ready and **wait on me** while I

eat and drink; after that you may **eat and drink**'? 9 Would he **thank** the **servant** because **he did what he was told to do**? 10 So you also, when you have **done everything you were told to do**, should say, 'We are **unworthy servants**; we have **only done our duty**.'"

DISCUSSION QUESTION: The disciples were staggering under what seems like an impossible task. They pleaded to have their faith increased. When was the last time you also pleaded for more faith?

PRAYER: Brother Jesus, you never shielded the disciples from the real cost of following you. They remembered their struggle to persevere in this story. Then you added that almost impossible requirement that they should do what they do because it is their duty and not to expect extra applause because they fulfilled their roles. No one could ever say you lead them down some garden path. Now you give me the secret of how to do the same as they did. Help me as I press on. Amen.