

A transcribed copy of the sermon on October 2nd 2022 at All Saints' Church Princeton, NJ given by the Reverend Jane Milliken Hague

When I was in high school, I blew out my knee in a skiing accident.

And it hurt, hurt, hurt for many, many days months. Since I was hanging out with a bunch of o evangelical fundamentalist charismatic Christians, I was told that I should pray about it because it hurts so badly.

And I went to a healing and prayed about it.

And it still hurt.

And so I was led to believe that I didn't have enough faith.

That because my knee continued to hurt, I didn't have the faith I needed in God for the healing.

Well, in essence, what I also needed was an ACL repair and a brand new knee many years later.

But I always wondered if I'd had enough faith, then. Could it have been healed?

We Christians do not frequently give people enough credit for the faith they already have.

When the disciples turn to Jesus and said, increase our faith. Jesus looked at them and said, "you already have enough faith. You have enough faith that is about as strong as a tiny little mustard seed. That's all you need."

Frequently, many of us do not want to throw a mulberry bush into the sea. But that was part of the gospel. If you had enough, you could do that. But we have enough, and that was what Jesus was telling the disciples.

Look at the disciples, they had given up everything, they had followed Jesus up hill and dale. They had already as Jesus was saying, we're on the way to Jerusalem and certain death.

And yet the disciples too, thought they didn't have enough faith and begged Jesus for more. And Jesus told them, "You have enough."  
But as Christians, as Americans, we frequently say we always need more. We don't have enough, we need more. We want more.

And so we go online and buy more.

I don't feel when I get angry that I have enough faith and forgiveness, when that person cuts me off on the highway and I'm angry. Is it because I don't have enough faith that I want to crowd their bumper, that I want to race in front of them and slow down?

Is it because I don't have enough faith? Have you ever felt that way?

Have you ever felt well, if I had enough faith, then my loved one would still love me? Or if I had enough faith my loved one would not be in pain. If I had enough faith, it wouldn't be raining so hard.

If I had enough faith? and yet Jesus's answer was, you have enough.

The disciples had just been told that they needed to continue to forgive. No wonder they didn't think they had enough faith. Because forgiveness is one of those things that we never feel like we can do enough of. The disciples had just been told by Jesus, keep forgiving, keep forgiving, keep forgiving, and they're like really, really?

And yet they had enough faith to continue to follow Jesus.

Faith, in the Greek; pistis, means trust or commitment.

It means more than just belief of a cognitive understanding in your head. It means more than a belief of the dogma that we say or have to believe in. No.

Faith means that you are here.

That's all it takes.

Faith means that you hope for, and that means hope for. It's progress, not perfection. You hope for perseverance, you hope for enough, to feel enough.

Faith means that you risk, you stand up to the bully. You stand up for justice and truth, that you go into this world with no fear. Faith, means that you keep persisting to believe.

The disciples had enough faith. They just didn't feel it in their hearts.

They had enough faith to continue to follow Jesus. Even when they doubted, even when they were fearful, even when they didn't want to continue to risk persecution.

They kept spreading the good news.

They had enough belief to say, "yes I believe." Even on the days that we say the Nicene Creed and think do I really believe all this? We have enough to be here.

All Saints' is going through a tremendous transition right now. You've come off the pandemic. You're also in the midst of saying goodbye and grieving for father Hugh to have left, to retire.

You're saying hello to me and trying to figure out what that means.

You're preparing and hoping and praying for the next Rector that will come and stand here and say welcome to All Saints'.

In the meantime, we have enough faith and on those days that you don't feel like it, you have it.

The that you still get angry that you're trying to forgive that you're fearful that you don't have enough hope that you're searching for joy.

We come back to each other on a Sunday morning or on Zoom.

We come back and say, I don't have enough faith and the person next to you says it's okay I do today.

Let me let me, you can borrow it from me.

Or you come here and you have enough faith, if you turn to the person and you say "I got it. Today I woke up with faith."

Coming to church being amongst each other is like a transformer.

You walk in and you're not quite sure, or you walk in and you are strong and you know you're sure and then it kind of goes into this transformation of electricity. You kind of sparkle all around and you say I have enough today. I will leave here with enough, even if it's as small as a little mustard seed.

We have enough. We have enough today. We have enough for the next year. We have enough to prepare for the next Rector. Here at All Saints' we have enough faith. Come borrow it or come share it with us.

Amen