

SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 29, 2026

"Flimsy Faith"

a Palm Sunday sermon with
Pastor David Rawley

SERVICES

@8:30 & 10:45

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

FOR ALL AGES

9:50-10:35

@Otterbein Church

of the United Brethren in Christ

146 LEITERSBURG ST. | GREENCASTLE, PA 17225-1324



"The Denial of St. Peter," a ca. 1623 oil-on-canvas painting by Gerrit van Honthorst (Dutch, 1592-1656)

SELF-CENTERED faith is SHALLOW

Shallow (self-centered) faith says, “I believe. Now, where can I **squeeze God into** MY schedule... Budget.. Life agenda?

- *What would I like God to do for me?*

CONVENIENCE. BENEFIT.

“I hope **God appreciates** my faith and will (therefore) keep my life happy!”

SHORT SIGHTED faith is TRENDY

Sunday... Jesus looked like a
conqueror... adoring crowds!



Friday... Jesus looked like a
loser... beaten and disfigured.



Shortsighted (trendy) faith says, “I’ll get involved if others do! I’m **less concerned** about truth or commitment than popularity and image.”

- *What are my friends doing [about faith]?*

ACCEPTANCE. CIRCUMSTANCES.

”I hope my **friends appreciate**
my loyalty!”

CASUAL faith has no personal
COMMITMENT. No relationship with God.
No problem with self-contradiction...
cheering or jeering.

SHALLOW faith asks SHALLOW questions. “How will this benefit me?”
“Is this what others are doing?”

Jesus (Jn. 6:53-58) gave an unpopular, hard to understand teaching. Many “believers” grumbled (61) and deserted (66) him. The parade [*Sunday*] became a Kangaroo court [*Friday*].

Simon Peter said, “We (the 12) will not leave. We believe that YOU ARE the Holy One of God. We believe that YOU HAVE the words of eternal life.” (vs. 69)

This is NOT faith based on circumstance, convenience, or peer approval. It is faith that is based on certainty. Truth. Conviction. Commitment. Authenticity. **This is REAL faith.**

Casual faith is counterfeit faith. It looks real when the crowd is yelling “Hosanna!” but reveals its illegitimacy when the crowd is hostile. This CANNOT BE the FAITH that saves and transforms. This CANNOT BE what God desires.

John 12:42-46 At the same time many (even among the leaders) believed in Him. But because of the Pharisees, they would not confess their faith for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue, for they loved praise from men even more than praise from God.

Then Jesus cried out, “When a man believes in me, he does not believe in me only but in the One who sent me. When he looks at me he sees the One who sent me. I have come into the world as a light so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.