

Luke 9 pt 5 vs. 37-42

³⁷ Now it happened on the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, that a great multitude met Him. ³⁸ Suddenly a man from the multitude cried out, saying, "Teacher, I implore You, look on my son, for he is my only child. ³⁹ And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out; it convulses him so that he foams *at the mouth*; and it departs from him with great difficulty, bruising him. ⁴⁰ So I implored Your disciples to cast it out, but they could not."

⁴¹ Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." ⁴² And as he was still coming, the demon threw him down and convulsed *him*. Then Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the child, and gave him back to his father

Last time we looked at Jesus on the Mt w/ Peter, John, James

1. Thank God for those mountain top experiences?
 - a. **They encourage and strengthen our faith**
 - i. Like a breath of fresh air
 1. The Lord would like to take the weak among us to that place
 - b. **Because there is a valley below full of hurting people**
 - i. It's not about us
 - ii. It's about who God wants to touch through us

I. Problem

II. Solution

- Disheartened father
- Demonized boy
- Defeated disciples

I. Problem of the disciples

1. On their journey down the mountain, a crowd is around the 9 disciples
2. The scribes are arguing & debating with the disciples
 - a. Anytime the power of God is not present, debates happen

- b. You don't read about many debates in the book of Acts
- 3. The crowd acknowledge Jesus and run to Him
- 4. "What are you discussing with them?"
- 5. Father makes his case about his only son that's tormented
 - a. I told your disciples to cast it out, and they could not do it
 - b. This is a problem
 - c. They are His ambassadors in His absence
 - d. Whatever He is supposed to do, they're supposed to do
 - i. Healing, casting out demons, preaching the gospel
- 6. "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you and bear with you?"
 - a. We get a glimpse of the humanity of Jesus
 - i. He's frustrated with the wayward who refuse to believe
 - ii. Much like a shepherd would be when his sheep continue to stray
 - iii. He doesn't hate them, He's being honest with them
 - iv. Much like in Luke 24:25 "O foolish ones and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken..."
 - v. Reproof coming from His lips, there is no offense taken
 - b. He is speaking to both the disciples and everyone watching
 - c. Luke 9:1 tells us that Jesus gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases
 - d. For some reason, they were unable to help
 - i. I'm so glad we have this account here, because although we may have been given power, we sometimes fail

ii. Just as He didn't give up on them, He won't give up on us

II. Solution

1. **Bring your son here [to Me]**
2. Regardless of how challenging this is, to the point that the disciples where unable to handle it, Jesus said. Bring him here
3. Jesus is giving us the solution to all problems
 - a. Small problems & big problems, all problems.
4. Our job as believers, is to bring the hurting and lost before God in prayer
 - a. Although the father should have brought his son earlier, it's not too late
 - b. If you have not prayed like you should for others, it's not too late
5. **How long has this been happening to him?**
 - c. When God asks a question, it's not that He doesn't know
 - i. Jesus is sharing in the process
 1. What troubles you Hagar?
 - a. My eyes are on you
 2. What are you doing here Elijah?
 - a. You are never alone
 3. Where are your accusers?
 - a. I don't condemn you
 - i. I'm here to cleanse & restore you
 - ii. He's saying, "I feel your pain"
 - iii. I want to walk on this journey with you
 1. You are not alone
 - iv. The creator wants to walk with you
 - v. **How long has your situation been like this?**
 1. **What troubles you?**

2. **What are you doing here?**

3. **Where are your accusers?**

a. **God wants your freedom**

b. From childhood: It often throws him into the fire & into the water
i. It wants to destroy him

c. If you can do anything, take pity and help us

d. **If You Can '?**

e. This indicates he had no idea who Jesus is

i. Our Lord Jesus spoke and the world came into existence

ii. Everything and everyone bows the knee before Him

1. Every demon in hell

2. All sickness & disease

a. He's Lord of all

iii. Jesus doesn't take offense

iv. He say's **all things are possible to him who believes**

1. So long as our faith is based on what scripture tells us

3. Faith begins where the will of God is known

a. Anything outside of that is assumption

b. God is not responsible for our assumptions

f. I believe Lord, help my unbelief

i. One of the most honest prayers recorded

ii. "You desire truth in the inward parts"

1. I believe you can

a. I've seen you do it with others

2. But this condition has lasted so long...
 3. I'm not sure I have enough faith, my doubt grows every day
 4. But I'm bringing him to You
 - a. Your followers let me down
 - b. But I'm bringing him to You
6. So far, this poor child has been tormented by demons
- a. They're out to kill him
 - b. Oh the compassion of God on hurting people
 - c. **1 John 3:8** For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.
 - d. **Ez 33:11** 'As I live,' says the Lord God, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'
 - e. **Is 61** The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
Because the Lord has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners;² To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn
 - f. **Is 63:9** In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; He lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.
 - i. But the sinner must turn to God
 - ii. **Or someone must bring them to God**
 1. God will not force Himself on anyone
 - g. **Jesus heals the boy & and gives him back to his father**

- h. **Is 41:10** Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God, I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand
 - i. But we need to ask Him for help
- 7. No rebuke from Jesus to the boy or his father
 - j. As if to say go in peace
 - k. You're forgiven & free
- 8. Wait Lord, demand something from this man
 - d. Rebuke him, scold him, criticize him ... command him to follow You
 - e. True love gives a choice, God will never force anyone into relationship
- 9. Meanwhile, the defeated disciples are probably embarrassed & confused
 - a. Why couldn't we cast it out?
- 10. **Alan Carr:** The saddest aspect of this whole scene is not the condition of the boy; ..., or the anguish of the father. The saddest part of this whole account is the powerlessness of the disciples.
 - b. **Matthews** account tells us it was lack of faith & prayer
 - c. **Marks** account is was lack of prayer
- 11. **Every setback, problem, apparent failure is an opportunity to learn something & grow**
 - d. There will be some unexpected challenges that believers face that require a lifestyle of prayer and believing God
 - e. They had to learn to rely on God's power by faith through a personal ongoing relationship in prayer
 - f. Jesus would not be around physically much longer
 - i. They had to learn the foundational aspect of faith
- 12. **G Campbell Morgan:**
 - g. Prayer is the activity of faith

- h. Prayer is that resting of the soul in Jesus...
 - a. It's the ongoing dialogue and intimacy with God
13. It's the reason why the disciples asked Jesus, teach us to pray
- i. They recognized the secret was His prayer time
14. He doesn't condemn them, He gently guides them through
15. They learned the lesson in Acts 2
- j. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit & Power