
"And I brought him to Your disciples, and they could not heal him." (Matthew 17:16)

I. Healing Power

- a. Some believe that personalized demons do not exist, but modern psychology has given them acceptable names (addictions, compulsions, and obsessions).
- b. In this story the disciples needed the Lord's help even though they were called to help the unnamed father and son. (Read Mark 9:14-29; Luke 9:37-43)
- c. The key theme in this narrative is "unable." This story is more about instructing the disciples in the ability to heal.
- d. "Why couldn't we do it?" This was a private conversation and genuine question.
- e. Christians do not need to know the name for the demons because whatever it is named, Jesus is Lord over the demonic. We only need to know, trust, and call on *the* name...Jesus is Lord.
- f. It is not the size of the faith that matters but the quality of the faith.

II. Jesus Helps the Powerless

- a. Why were the nine disciples unable to help the father with the possessed son? Because they did not have the mustard-seed of faith, for the situation.
- b. Jesus calls them faithless (unbelieving) and twisted (separated).
- c. The disciples are like many Christians today, powerless without prayer. We often lack the faith needed for a particular situation.
- d. Remember, Jesus had given the disciples power and authority (Matthew 10:1, 8). Did they lose it?
- e. Perhaps the nine were jealous because they had not been called to go to the mountain top.
- f. Whatever the reason, based on the Lord's response, they neglected prayer. Without prayer there can be no power over the demonic or circumstance.
- g. The disciples trusted in the power that they had demonstrated before. What must Jesus feel as He looks at powerless believers today?
- h. Faith is the one thing Jesus must see if He is to use His mighty power among us.
- i. Do you think the Lord positions us to shake up and stimulate our faith for growth?
- j. A faith that is alive and growing is what pleases our Lord and Savior.
- k. This is an important lesson. The more settled and established a church becomes, the more it needs to learn afresh that it can achieve nothing without sincere dependence on the Lord.

III. Practical Application of the Text

- a. *All things are possible for one who believes* (Mark 9:23). God works through His servants who act in faith.
- b. We all began our Christian walk with a mustard seed faith, but that faith must be cultivated, or it will not grow.
- c. *Faith as a grain of a mustard seed* suggests not only size, but also *life and growth*.
- d. In every seed there is life. Contained in the seed there is a process (seed, time, harvest)
- e. If we want to see what we are praying for, it begins with a faith that speaks. Then faith requires us to wait in belief.
- f. As a child of God, where are you in the process of seed, time and harvest?