

“Because of Your Unbelief”

Lesson 12 – Outline

- I. If it's God's will to heal and Jesus healed this boy (Matt. 17:18), why couldn't the disciples get him healed?
 - A. The disciples who asked Jesus this question, **“Why could we not cast him out?”** believed it was God's will to heal.
 - B. They had already been given power and authority to heal the sick and cast out devils (Matt. 10:1 and 8).
 - C. This is why the disciples were confused.
 - D. The answer Jesus gave in the first part of Matthew 17:20 is very revealing:

Because of your unbelief.

Matthew 17:20a

- E. This is simple, but it's profound.
- II. Every instance where Jesus ministered healing, some degree of faith was involved.
 - A. Some people may argue, “What about in Luke 7:11-16 where Jesus raised the boy from the dead in the city of Nain?”
 - B. It was faith for this widow mother to allow Jesus to interrupt the funeral procession and her grief.
 - C. If faith wasn't present, she and the others there would have reacted very differently.
- III. We just saw that if we were to ask the average person “Why isn't everyone healed,” most people would answer, “Well, it's because they don't have enough faith.”
 - A. It's true that if a person isn't operating in faith, it will hinder them from receiving, but that's not what the Lord said.
 - B. He said it was because they had unbelief.
- IV. Certain versions of the Bible render Matthew 17:20 inaccurately, saying, “Because you have so little faith.”
 - A. If you were to look at the majority of the translations, especially the more literal ones, this verse is rendered **“Because of your unbelief,”** not “Because you have so little faith.”
 - B. Most people have this concept that if they are believing God, that automatically means they don't have any unbelief.
 - C. This is not what the Word teaches:

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou

removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

Mark 11:23

- D. If being in faith truly meant you automatically had zero unbelief, why did Jesus include this part about not doubting in your heart?
- E. The truth is, you can believe and disbelieve at the same time.
- V. Consider the parallel passage of this father and his demonized boy in Mark 9:

And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming. And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child. And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us. Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.

Mark 9:20-23

- A. Now look at how this father responded:

And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.

Mark 9:24

- B. The Lord didn't correct him, rebuke him, or say anything like that; He just cured the boy.
- C. This shows that you can have faith and unbelief at the same time.
- D. Imagine a team of horses hooked up to a wagon. Under normal circumstances, they would have enough power to move that wagon. But if an equal team of horses was hooked to the other side of the wagon and both teams were pulling at the same time in the opposite direction, the net effect would be zero.
- E. This is what Jesus was saying in the first part of Matthew 17:20.
- F. He didn't tell His disciples, "It's because you don't have enough faith"; He said, "It's because of your unbelief. Your unbelief canceled out the faith you had."
- VI. Translating this "Because you have so little faith" makes no sense when you look at the rest of Matthew 17:20:

For verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

- A. Jesus was saying, “If your faith is only the size of a mustard seed, nothing would be impossible to you.”
- B. You don’t need big faith; you just need a faith that isn’t canceled out, counterbalanced, or negated by unbelief pulling in the opposite direction.

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Lesson 12 – Discipleship Questions

1. Read Matthew 17:17-20. What happened when Jesus rebuked the devil?
2. **“The child was _____ from that very hour.”**
3. When Jesus says **“For verily I say unto you,”** what does that mean about what follows?
 - A. It’s absolutely true.
 - B. It shouldn’t be taken literally.
 - C. Get ready for a good joke.
 - D. It’s a parable.
 - E. Don’t believe it.
4. Read Matthew 10:1. Could the disciples heal only a few manner of sickness and disease?
5. Read Matthew 10:8. Jesus’ instruction here was _____.
 - A. Irrelevant.
 - B. Debatable.
 - C. A command.
 - D. All of the above.
 - E. None of the above.
6. According to Mark 6:13, did the disciples have experience casting out devils?
7. Read Luke 9:6. What did the disciples do besides heal people everywhere?
8. According to Luke 7:11-16, what did Jesus have when He saw the widow mother?
9. What did Jesus tell the young man to do?
10. The people glorified God, saying “A great _____ is risen among us.”
11. According to Mark 5:28, what was this woman certain of?
 - A. That God would heal her demonized daughter.
 - B. That God wanted her well.
 - C. That she needed a new perm.
 - D. All of the above.
 - E. None of the above.

12. According to Mark 11:23, what Jesus says here applies to _____.
13. Read Mark 9:20-24. How frequently did the spirit cast the boy into the fire and the water to destroy him?
14. What did Jesus say was possible to those who believe?

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Lesson 12 – Scriptures

Matthew 17:17-20

Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. [18] And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. [19] Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? [20] And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

Matthew 10:1

And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

Matthew 10:8

Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

Mark 6:13

And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them.

Luke 9:6

And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing every where.

Luke 7:11-16

And it came to pass the day after, that he went into a city called Nain; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people. [12] Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her. [13] And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not. [14] And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. [15] And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother. [16] And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people.

Mark 5:28

For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.

Mark 5:34

And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

Mark 11:23

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

Mark 9:20-24

And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming. [21] And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child. [22] And oft-times it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us. [23] Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. [24] And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.