

The Gospel According to Luke- Part 4

A BOY IS HEALED

PART 1

Help my unbelief

READ MARK 9:14-27 (CF. LUKE 9:37-42)

INTRODUCTION

Jesus, after coming to the foot of the mountain with Peter, James and John, now sees a commotion happening among His disciples and the scribes. They immediately rush Him and the father of this boy comes to Him to explain what the commotion is all about. The disciples had been given the authority to exorcise demons by Jesus and now they had run into one that they could not get rid of. This father was desperate to see his son delivered from the pain and suffering of what the demon was causing. Satan's purpose is to steal, kill and destroy and this family knew first hand how much destruction this could cause.

Jesus calmly talks to this father who was desperate for help and asks him some questions but, before all that, He shows His compassion again and asks for the child to be brought to Him. Christ was not too important to deal with children which was very uncommon in His day. Most spiritual leaders appreciated the honor that they received and would not reach out to the children or, for that matter, sinners in general. This child was Jesus' focus at this moment and He knew He had the power and the authority to help. Belief in His authority and power are imperative to our walk with the Lord.

The father says an encouraging thing when Jesus asks him if he believes that He can help his son. Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief. This prayer that was said by this man is a true understanding of the paradox that all Christians are faced with to some degree or another. We believe in Jesus and His power but we still need teaching and help in the areas where we doubt or lack trust. This father's belief was not overshadowed or overpowered by his doubts or unbelief and so he was able to recognize Jesus as the One who could heal his son and above all hope, place his faith in Him. This is something that we all strive for more understanding on and we must come to the place where we are self-aware enough to recognize that we believe, we may just need Jesus to help our unbelief.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Reading the rest of the passage, what did Jesus point out as the reason the disciples couldn't cast out this demon? Is it important for us today to practice this discipline? Why or why not?
2. Why do you think it was important that Jesus was calm in this scenario? What might panic do to the boy or the crowd?
3. Read James 2:14-19. What are the differences between belief and faith? How does that make our faith in Christ different than the demons belief? Why is this distinction important?
4. In what areas do you need help with unbelief? What is holding you back from placing your faith in Christ's ability to take care of you? How can we help each other?
5. What is so difficult about acknowledging doubts in our faith? Why do we hide from doubts? What about that attitude does Jesus want to change in us? Why?

WRAP UP

The father wasn't the only one who was learning at this moment. All of Jesus' disciples were aware that He was teaching them a lesson as well. He was teaching them that there are disciplines that they were to follow to be able to exercise authority that had been given to them by Him. There is training that we all must go through so that we can follow Christ closely. We must train ourselves up in the things of God so that we may experience His glory here on earth.