



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“Matthew 17:14-23” on March 4/7, 2021

CONNECT

How did last week's passage we read/discussed from Matthew 17:1-13 affect your week?

DISCOVER: MATTHEW 16:21-28

What did the passage say (in your own words) or did you take away from the sermon this week?

How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?

Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn't understand, phrases that didn't make sense, etc.)?

MATTHEW 17:14-20 Describes the scene Jesus, Peter, James and John had just experienced the Transfiguration on a high mountain. Coming down from the mountain, they found the other disciples in a crowd around a demon-possessed boy whom the disciples had been unable to heal. Read Matthew 10:1 to learn of the authority given the disciples to heal; then read Mark 9:14-29 and Luke 9:37-43 to see how they described this story.

- Jesus expressed his frustration with not only the disciples, but the 'faithless and twisted generation' gathered there as well. What things must have fueled His frustration at what He found in this situation?
- Are we living in a faithless and twisted generation? What indicators do you see in our everyday living, and what do we as Christians do with that?
- Can you describe a time when you had a spiritual 'mountaintop experience' that was encouraging and empowering, only to find that a return to everyday life tested the reality of your ability to use or apply that experience effectively?
- Our sinful human nature leads us to want to be the main character or centerpiece in our story of life; how can we prepare to live our lives demonstrating that God is the centerpiece of our story rather than ourselves?

Jesus used this opportunity to teach about the power of faith and the power of prayer.

- Why did Jesus say the disciples couldn't drive out the demon as He had done? Consider all three gospels' telling of the story.
- How often to you find yourself tempted to act on your own strength when God has put something on your heart that you know you must act on? Why are we so tempted to do this, and how can we overcome the temptation?
- When God gives us His forgiveness, understanding, and protection, are we using these things so that others can see Him? Is He the centerpiece of your story?
- Do you have enough faith to ask God to equip you to carry out His mission for you, then completely trust in His strength to accomplish that mission?

RESPOND

- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

PRAY

Pray for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.

KEEP READING

Hebrews 11:1-40 and the different Faith testimonies.