

Getting Humbled

A new CEO comes to work

The Disciples → Self Sufficiency

The disciples have been learning humility the hard way

“Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” (Mark 4:40)

“The disciples did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.” (6:52)

“Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened?” (8:17)

“Get behind me, Satan!” (8:33)

Today:

“O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you?” (9:19)

A big crowd and a big failure

Powerless because prayerless

The real Jesus

One way historians determine truthfulness of ancient documents is their willingness to include information embarrassing to the author or cause.

The Boy's Dad → God Sufficiency

Admitting need

Note on the “epileptic” features of the boy’s condition

Admitting a lack of faith

Note on “all things are possible for one who believes”

(What misconception is Jesus challenging here? “If you can?”)

Trusting God with your most prized possession

So...

1. We have to choose. Will we embrace self-sufficiency or God-sufficiency?
2. It is not the size of your faith, but instead the object of your faith that matters.
3. Foreshadowing the Gospel
 - a. Human powerlessness to defeat the power of evil (v. 18)
 - b. A faithless generation, undeserving of God’s love (v. 19)
 - c. The offer of salvation, to be received by faith (v. 23)
 - d. The man demonstrates as much faith as he can, Jesus does the rest (v. 24)
 - e. Salvation received, the power of evil defeated by Jesus in his life. (vv. 25-26)
 - f. The boy is like a corpse, people thought he was dead (v. 26)
 - g. But Jesus raised him up, foreshadowing the final resurrection (v. 27)

Questions for Personal Study

1. Did you ever make a blunder in a very public way? What did that teach you about yourself, God?
2. Why is pride such a barrier to seeing God work in your life?
3. What do we learn from the father’s example in this passage?
4. How can you trust Jesus with your greatest treasure?