



“The King in His Power”

Matthew 17:14–21

The Authority of the King

Matthew 17:14–21 – “When they came to the crowd, a man came up to Jesus, falling on his knees before Him and saying, ¹⁵ “Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is a lunatic and is very ill; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. ¹⁶ “I brought him to Your disciples, and they could not cure him.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered and said, “You unbelieving and perverted generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him here to Me. ¹⁸ And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured at once. ¹⁹ Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not drive it out?” ²⁰ And He said to them, “Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. ²¹ But this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”

Intro: Jesus, Peter, James, and John are making their way down the mountain after the transfiguration

- Jesus had just revealed His glory to them, proving that He truly was the Son of God.

And when they get to the bottom of the mountain...they run into a problem.

- A desperate father with his demon-possessed son, and nine disciples who are powerless to do anything about it.

So let’s look at this story that shows us The King in His Power...

1. The desperate father (vv.14–15)

Matthew 17:14–15 – “a man came up to Jesus, falling on his knees before Him and saying, ¹⁵ “Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is a lunatic and is very ill; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water.

Mark 9:17b–18a – “...possessed with a spirit which makes him mute; ¹⁸ and whenever it seizes him, it slams him to the ground and he foams at the mouth, and grinds his teeth and stiffens out.”

Luke 9:38 – “And a man from the crowd shouted, saying, “Teacher, I beg You to look at my son, for he is my only boy.”

2. The powerless disciples (v.16)

“I brought him to Your disciples, and they could not cure him.” (v.16)

Matthew 9:6b–8 – “Get up, pick up your bed and go home. ⁷ And he got up and went home. ⁸ But when the crowds saw this, they were awestruck, and glorified God, who had given such authority to men.”

Matthew 10:8 – “Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.

3. An unbelieving generation (v.17)

“And Jesus answered and said, “You unbelieving and perverted generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him here to Me.” (v.17)

Jeremiah 17:9 – “The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?”

1 Peter 5:8b – “Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

4. An obedient demon (v.18)

“And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured at once.” (v.18)

(Mark 9:25b–26) “Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit saying to it, “You deaf and mute spirit, I command you, come out of him and do not enter him again.”²⁶ After crying out and throwing him into terrible convulsions, it came out; and the boy became so much like a corpse that most of them said, “He is dead!”

Mark 9:27 – “But Jesus took him by the hand and raised him; and he got up.”

Leviticus 19:31 – “Do not turn to mediums or spiritists; do not seek them out to be defiled by them. I am the LORD your God.”

5. The disciples’ little faith (v.19–20)

“Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not drive it out?”²⁰ And He said to them, “Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.” (vv.19–20)

Romans 10:17 – “So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”

1) Faith is acting on our belief.

John 1:12 – “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.”

2) Faith is believing the truth.

1 Timothy 6:12 – “Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”

“But this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.” (v.21)

Conclusion: The ‘littleness’ of the disciples’ faith led to failure in ministry.

- Let’s make sure that doesn’t happen to us.
- When you have prayer and fasting as a regular part of your life, you’ll always be ready.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. (v.14–16) Was it reasonable for the disciples to expect to heal the boy? (Read Mt.10:5-8)?
2. (v.18) Does Jesus find healing difficult, like the disciples did? Why?
3. (v.20) Why couldn’t the disciples drive it out (note: how they asked the question (v.19)?
4. What is faith? How do we get more faith?
5. (v.20) How is faith like a mustard seed? In what way does faith move mountains?
6. Do you ever feel like the disciples, trying to minister, but it doesn’t seem to be working?
7. Rick Warren said, “You only believe what you do.” Do you agree? Why or why not.