MYSTERY & MAJESTY

– 21 –

Bring it to Jesus

The Transfiguration of Jesus last week:

- on the mountain
- Jesus' face shone like the sun
- His clothes became white as light
- Moses and Elijah appeared
- The Father spoke from heaven: "This is My beloved Son."
- And then they come down the mountain.

Today Jesus casts out another demon. Matthew 17, Mark 9, Luke 9. Mark has the longest account. Luke the shortest.

Matthew 17:14-16 14 And when they came to the crowd, a man came up to him and, kneeling before him, 15 said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he

has seizures and he suffers terribly. For often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. 16 And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him."

- He comes down from glory back to the brokenness of humanity.
- They come down the mountain and there is crowd arguing with the disciples because there is a father who was trying to bring his demon possessed son to Jesus, met the disciples and didn't see Jesus and asked them to cast it out.
- A daily desperate need and pursuit of Jesus is necessary no matter your position.
- The father throws himself at the feet of Jesus and he prays the most honest prayer; "Lord, have mercy."

The disciples are powerless to do anything. Why?

Matthew 17:17-18 17 And Jesus answered, "O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." 18 And Jesus rebuked the demon,

and it came out of him, and the boy was healed instantly.

- They are powerless because of a lack of faith.
- They've cast demons out before in Matthew 10
- Faithless and twisted generation – Speaking to the disciples and likely the crowd.
- It is a reference to Deuteronomy 32:5
- Israel saw God's power repeatedly, experienced his provision and still failed to trust him.
- They are twisting what they learned from him.
- The powerlessness of the disciples is not powerlessness in Jesus.
- Jesus doesn't struggle with the demon.
- Mark says when the demon sees Jesus it convulsed the boy.
- Jesus commands the demon out and its gone.

Matthew 17:19-20 19 Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" 20 He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain,

‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”

- The disciples ask Jesus for correction.
- You can be hardened by failure or you can learn from it.
- Their faith is inconsistent even though they are not unbelievers.
- Mark records the father saying “I believe, help my unbelief.”
- The mustard seed is famous for smallness.
- Jesus has already used mustard seed imagery in Matthew 13.
- Jesus is emphasizing smallness but not contradicting himself.
- Faith doesn't dictate what God must do.
- Faith trusts what God can do and submits to what God chooses to do.

How do I live with greater faith and dependence on God?

Mark 9:29 And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.”

- V21 isn’t “missing” from Matthew.
- It’s not in our oldest manuscripts so some modern bible translations don’t include it.
- The phrase is still found in Mark.
- Some manuscripts of Mark include “prayer and fasting”.
- The oldest manuscripts only include “prayer”.
- Prayer teaches you dependence on God.

Luke 9:43 And all were astonished at the majesty of God.