

The Greatness of God

Today's lesson comes just after the Transfiguration. Jesus had just taken Peter, James, and John up to a high mountain, where he was transformed before them, displaying the glory of God. Have you ever considered the significance of this moment? And, what do Jesus and the disciples encounter just as they return? The mountaintop experience is followed by an everyday failure to trust. The ups and downs we experience in life are often the product of failing to trust God. Today we're going to look at two parts of this story — and then make the application at the end — which I think will fit well into some of the things we want to accomplish this summer as we enter into this new focus in our vision plan.

I. 9:37-39 - Demonic Activity

- A. This is one of the most severe and extreme cases of demon possession in Scripture.
 - 1. The disciples couldn't heal him.
 - 2. Luke says it is his **only child**.
- B. The boy was terribly afflicted...
 - 1. seizures - **foams** at the mouth. Grinds his teeth. Makes him stiff.
 - 2. Slams him to the ground - excessively violent.
 - 3. Pushed into the fire or water. Couldn't speak or couldn't hear.
 - 4. It **scarcely** ever leaves him. Ongoing, relentless, and prolonged.

II. 9:40-42a - Faithless Disciples

- A. 9:40: *I begged your disciples to drive it out, but they **couldn't**.*
- B. The disciples had the ability to cast out demons.
 - 1. Luke 9:1: *He gave them power and authority over **all** the demons and to heal diseases.*
 - 2. They had done this before: Mark 6:13 - *They drove out many **demons**, anointed many sick people with oil, and healed them.*
- C. Matthew 17:19 - *Why couldn't we drive it out?*
 - 1. 17:20 - Because of your **little** faith," he told them.
 - 2. "You unbelieving and perverse generation, how long will I be with you and put up with you?"
 - a) It had to be frustrating. They had a twisted view of God and, as a result, were faithless.
 - b) They had to do what must we do—learn that if God said it, to believe it.

III. As We Close...

- A. Defining faith properly: *Faith is believing what God said because he said it.*
 - 1. Theological definition: *a conviction practically operative on the character and will.*
 - 2. Conviction that trusts in what has been said and operates on the character and will.
- B. This is at the heart of everything you do in the Christian life.
 - 1. Matthew 17:20: *For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will tell this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. **Nothing** will be impossible for you.*
 - 2. If God said he will do it, he will do it ... if you believe.
 - a) James 1:6b-7: *For the **doubter** is like the surging sea, driven and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord,*
- C. They knew it was God. Luke 9:43: *And they were all astonished at the **greatness** of God.*
- D. Jesus is still in the work of delivering tortured souls today. Don't be part of a faithless and perverted generation.