

Jesus On Purpose: The Path Of A Resurrected Heart

PART 23— “WHEN YOU COME DOWN THE MOUNTAIN”

Revelation Must Survive Reality

Matthew 17:14–27 / Mark 9:14–32 / Luke 9:37–45

Last week Jesus showed Peter, James, and John the **DESTINY**.

They went up the mountain and saw **GLORY**.

But Luke tells us:

“On the next day, when they came down from the mountain...” (Luke 9:37)

Yesterday: **Glory**.

Today: **A suffering child**.

Yesterday: **Moses and Elijah**.

Today: **A desperate father**.

Yesterday: **The voice of God**.

Today: **Disciples who cannot cast out a demon**.

Welcome to ministry!

You cannot live on the mountain. Eventually you have to come down.

And when you do, Jesus asks a deeper question:

CAN THE REVELATION YOU RECEIVED ON THE MOUNTAIN SURVIVE THE REALITY WAITING FOR YOU IN THE VALLEY?

Because the Resurrected Heart isn't proven by what we experience on the mountain.

It is revealed by how we live when we come back down. And we must learn to identify unbelief, reject it and immediately go to Holy Spirit for comfort and help.

I. YESTERDAY'S POWER CANNOT REPLACE TODAY'S DEPENDENCE

Matthew 17:14–18

When Jesus reaches the crowd, literally stepping off the mountain, there is a large crowd waiting for them and a desperate father approaches:

“Lord, have mercy on my son...” Matthew 17:15

Then he says something troubling:

“I brought him to Your disciples, and they could not heal him.” Matthew 17:16

Wait.

They couldn't?

These are the same disciples Jesus had already sent out. Remember:

“He gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out...” Matthew 10:1

They had:

Authority.

Experience.

Previous success.

They had done this before. But they couldn't do it now.

There is a warning here for all of us.

You cannot live on:

Yesterday's miracle.

Yesterday's faith.

Yesterday's surrender.

Yesterday's prayer life.

Yesterday's encounter.

Yesterday's power cannot replace today's dependence.

The Resurrected Heart continually returns to:

“Jesus, I still need You.”

(Mark adds an important detail. When the disciples later ask why they failed, Jesus says, “This kind cannot come out by anything but prayer” — Mark 9:29. Whatever interpretive questions surround “this kind,” the emphasis on prayer reinforces dependence. Authority was never meant to make the disciples independent of the One who gave it.)

II. MUSTARD-SEED FAITH — THE POWER IS NOT IN THE SIZE

Matthew 17:19–20

Afterward the disciples privately ask Jesus:

“Why could we not drive it out?” Matthew 17:19

That's a good question. And Jesus answers:

“Because you don't have enough faith...” Matthew 17:20

Then He says:

“If you have faith the size of a mustard seed... nothing will be impossible to you.” Matthew 17:20

We've seen the mustard seed before.

Jesus used it to describe the Kingdom: Something incredibly small... carrying disproportionate potential.

Now He uses the same image for faith.

So Jesus isn't saying: *“Work yourself up until you have gigantic faith.”*

The mustard seed is tiny. The power isn't in convincing myself: **I have enough faith! I have enough faith!**

The power is in WHO my faith is placed in.

Small faith genuinely surrendered to a great God can accomplish what human strength cannot.

This is not: FAITH IN MY FAITH.

It is: FAITH IN JESUS.

(This protects us from turning faith into another form of human achievement. The point is not that sufficiently intense belief gives us control over reality. Biblical faith remains trust in God—His power, His character, His will. The mustard seed keeps the emphasis on dependence rather than spiritual self-confidence.)

And that brings us right back to the Resurrected Heart:

I don't have to be enormous when the One I trust is.

III. JESUS BRINGS THEM BACK TO THE CROSS — AGAIN

Matthew 17:22-23

They have just watched Jesus deliver the boy. Another demonstration of extraordinary power.

So what does Jesus talk about next?

His death.

***"The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men; and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day."* Matthew 17:22-23**

Again? (This echoes all the voices over the years telling me..."Mark, another endtimes, Jesus is coming back conversation")

Yes.

Because they still don't understand. And notice the pattern Jesus keeps establishing:

MIRACLE → CROSS

GLORY → CROSS

DELIVERANCE → CROSS

POWER → CROSS

FAITH → CROSS

Why?

Because Jesus will not allow them to conclude:

"If God's power is with us, nothing bad can happen to us."

That's not resurrection theology.

Resurrection theology says something much greater:

"Even if something happens to me, death does not get the final word."

That's completely different. The Kingdom's power does not make us invincible **in this age**.

It gives us a hope that reaches **beyond this age**.

Jesus isn't teaching: **"Follow Me and avoid death."**

He's teaching: **"Follow Me and death itself will eventually lose."**

(This is why Jesus keeps returning to His death after displays of power. He is reshaping their understanding of victory. He is reshaping your understanding of victory. They/you/us still instinctively associate Messiah with immediate triumph. Jesus is teaching them that God's greatest victory will come through what appears to be catastrophic defeat.)

IV. THE RESURRECTED HEART MUST REMEMBER WHAT JESUS SAID

Matthew 17:23

There is a detail here that is easy to miss.

Jesus says: ***"They will kill Him..."***

But He doesn't stop there. ***"...and He will be raised on the third day."***

And Matthew tells us: ***"They were deeply grieved." Matthew 17:23***

They heard: **"THEY WILL KILL HIM."**

But somehow they still aren't living from: **"HE WILL BE RAISED."**

We've seen this before.

Peter did the same thing.

Jesus announced death **and resurrection...** and Peter reacted only to death.

Isn't that us?

God speaks a promise... but the heart gets consumed by the problem standing between us and the promise.

We hear the grave louder than we hear the resurrection.

The human heart sees: **What is happening right now.**

The Resurrected Heart remembers: **What Jesus said comes next.**

This is why **revelation must survive reality**.

On the mountain they saw glory.

In the valley they saw suffering.

Jesus says: **Don't allow what you see in the valley to make you forget what I showed you on the mountain.**

(This may be one of the most practical definitions of faith in this whole section: holding onto what Jesus has revealed when present circumstances appear to contradict it.)

V. THE SON WHO IS FREE CHOOSES TO SURRENDER HIS RIGHTS

Matthew 17:24-27

And then Matthew gives us this strange little story. With a HUGE lesson for us Americans Patriots or just whiny self-endowed privileged Americans.... (pun intended.... with a smile)

They arrive in Capernaum.

The collectors of the temple tax ask Peter:

"Does your teacher not pay the two-drachma tax?" Matthew 17:24

Jesus asks Peter:

"From whom do the kings of the earth collect customs or poll-tax, from their sons or from strangers?" Matthew 17:25

Peter answers:

"From strangers."

Jesus says:

"Then the sons are exempt." Matthew 17:26

***Think about what Jesus is saying.

- Whose temple is this? His Father's.

Who is Jesus?

- We just heard the Father declare:

"This is My beloved Son." Matthew 17:5

Jesus has every right to say:

"I DON'T OWE THIS."

And apparently He doesn't.

But then:

"However, so that we do not offend them..." Matthew 17:27

He pays it anyway.

Don't miss the beauty of this.

We have just seen Jesus:

Shining like the sun.

Declared the beloved Son.

Commanding demons.

Healing the impossible.

Predicting His resurrection.

And now...

He voluntarily gives up a right He legitimately possesses.

That's the Resurrected Heart.

The human heart says: **"I KNOW MY RIGHTS."**

The Resurrected Heart says:

"I know who I am, therefore I don't need to fight for every right I possess."

Jesus is so secure in His identity that He can surrender His rights without losing Himself.

****(This is not teaching that Christians should never assert legitimate rights or confront injustice. Jesus Himself sometimes confronts wrongdoing directly. The point here is that possessing a right does not mean we must exercise it every time. Love, witness, and the Father's purpose can sometimes call us to voluntarily lay something down.)*

And isn't that exactly what Jesus is about to do at the Cross?

He has every right. Every authority. Every power.

Yet:

"He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." Philippians 2:8

The coin is small.
But the heart behind it points toward Calvary.

THE THREE-WEEK JOURNEY

Now look at what Jesus has done across these three messages.

- PART 21 — IDENTITY

“Who do YOU say that I am?”

YOU ARE THE CHRIST.

Before I can follow Him, I must know **WHO He is.**

- PART 22 — DESTINY

Jesus reveals His glory.

THE CROSS IS NOT THE END.

He shows them where all of this is going:

GLORY.

- PART 23 — REALITY

Now they come down the mountain.

And Jesus asks:

Will what you believe survive where you actually live?

Because revelation that works only on the mountain isn't enough.

Faith must survive:

the suffering child,

the desperate father,

the unanswered prayer,

the failed ministry moment,

the next crisis,

the coming Cross,

and even the surrender of my rights.

THIS IS THE RESURRECTED HEART JESUS IS FORMING IN US

The Resurrected Heart knows:

- **I NEED JESUS TODAY.** Yesterday's power isn't enough.
- **MY FAITH DOESN'T HAVE TO BE HUGE BECAUSE MY GOD IS.** My confidence isn't in myself.
- **THE CROSS DOESN'T MEAN GOD LOST.** Sometimes God's greatest victory comes through surrender.
- **THE GRAVE IS NOT THE END OF THE STORY.** Jesus said resurrection comes next.

And:

- **I DON'T HAVE TO DEFEND EVERYTHING I AM ENTITLED TO.** Because my identity is secure in the Father.

CLOSING — COME DOWN THE MOUNTAIN

Everybody loves the mountain.

We love:

His presence. His glory. His power. His revelation.

Peter wanted to stay there. But Jesus came down.

- Because there was a hurting boy waiting at the bottom.
- There was a desperate father waiting at the bottom.
- There were struggling disciples waiting at the bottom.
- There was ministry waiting at the bottom.
- And eventually... there was a Cross waiting down the road.

The Resurrected Heart doesn't stay on the mountain admiring Jesus. It follows Jesus down.

Because the purpose of revelation isn't simply to give us an experience.

Revelation prepares us for reality.

- What God shows you on Sunday has to survive Monday.
- What you believe in worship has to survive suffering.
- What you declare when you see His glory has to survive when you cannot see what He's doing.

And that may be the real test:

WHEN YOU COME DOWN THE MOUNTAIN—DO YOU STILL BELIEVE WHAT YOU SAW AT THE TOP?

Because Jesus is teaching His disciples:

Depend on Me again.

Trust Me again.

Surrender again.

Remember what I told you.

Follow Me down the mountain.

And when the road eventually leads to the grave... remember the glory you already saw.

REVELATION MUST SURVIVE REALITY.

Because the heart that can carry resurrection life is the heart that continues trusting Jesus—even after it comes down the mountain.