



MATTHEW 17:14-27

MESSIAH ON A MISSION (PART 34)

“THE DOWN TO EARTH JESUS”

ANALYSIS OF MATTHEW 17

Jesus is transfigured. (1-13)

Jesus expels a dumb and deaf spirit. (14-21)

Jesus again predicts his sufferings. (22-23)

Jesus performs a miracle to pay the temple tax. (24-27)

JESUS EXPLAINS PROPHECY ABOUT ELIJAH: (MALACHI 3:1; 4:5)

1. John The Baptist, “if you are willing to accept it,” was Elijah. (Matt. 11:10-14)
2. Elijah himself had, in fact, “come first” by appearing there on the mountain. (Matt. 17:3)
3. An Elijah-like figure may yet appear before Jesus' second coming. (Rev. 11:3-6)

1. The disciples in the valley portray a discouraged church.

2. The possessed boy is indicative of a world that is oppressed and bound in the grip of evil spirits and enslaving, tormenting lusts.

3. The religious leaders who were there portray the dead religion of the present age. (Mark 9:14)

4. Then Jesus came back, bringing the disciples with Him. In the fellowship of the saints from other ages, they had been with the Lord of glory.

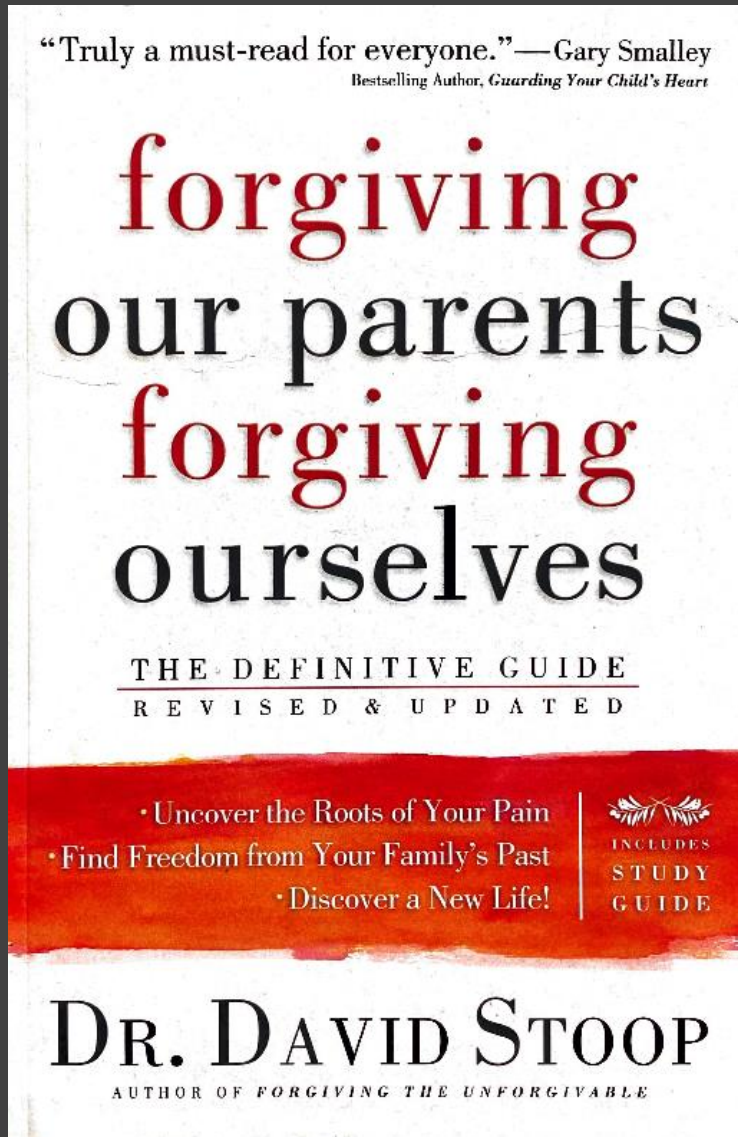
KEY VERSE:

"Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

(Matthew 17:20)

*“When You Find a
Hill Worth Dying On,*

*Don’t Find a Valley
to Settle for”*



You may feel that your family of origin wasn't dysfunctional since your father wasn't an alcoholic....

The truth is, however, that, due to the fallen nature of all parents (and children), all families are flawed and therefore dysfunctional to a certain degree. Addictive and compulsive behaviors (addictions to food, sex, work, and so on) are extremely common in even "the best of families," and such behavior is almost always linked to some form of dysfunctional family background.

DAVE CARDER, ET AL., SECRETS OF YOUR FAMILY TREE

(forgiving our parents forgiving ourselves, 24)

Forgiveness breaks the cycle. It does not settle all questions of blame and justice and fairness; to the contrary, often it evades those questions. But it does allow relationships to start over.

In that way, said Solzhenitsyn, we differ from all animals.

It is not our capacity to think that makes us different, but our capacity to repent, and to forgive. Only humans can perform that most unnatural act, and by doing so only they can develop relationships that transcend the relentless law of nature.

Philip Yancey, "An Unnatural Act"

(forgiving our parents forgiving ourselves, 122)