

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

Have Faith

Matthew 17:14-21

Recap:

- Peter confesses Jesus as the Christ
- The church built on the foundation of the gospel
The solid rock of Jesus, not the pebble of Peter
- Jesus again talks about His resurrection, but they miss it
- The transfiguration - Jesus as He really is
- My Beloved Son, Hear Him

The Resurrection - the cornerstone of the gospel

Without it, we have no hope

1 Corinthians 15:12-19 NKJV - Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching [is] empty and your faith [is] also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up--if in fact the dead do not rise. For if [the] dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. **And if Christ is not risen, your faith [is] futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.**

[Pray]

17:14-16

Back to the crowds...

Still many coming to Jesus (and His disciples, remember they were given authority to preach and pray) for healing

Side note on healing

Paul & Timothy

Apostle and his disciple, a pastor in Ephesus

Hear how Paul describes Timothy

2 Timothy 1:5 NKJV - when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.

Yet listen to what's going on

1 Timothy 5:23 NKJV - No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities.

Timothy was sick.

Yet he was a man of GENUINE faith

Paul prescribed him medicine!

Dirty water, or slightly alcoholic grape juice?

Timothy would not be drunk, but he would have some relief

In this world, we will be sick - and it's not due to a lack of faith

It's due to a sinful, fallen world!

Paul prayed 3x

God said no. Grace is what you get.

Elisha, double the faith of Elijah...

2 Kings 13:20...Then Elisha ... **died**.

Many will condemn you, belittle you for being sick, say you do not have enough faith

You should never be sick.

LIES OF SATAN

DOCTRINES OF DEMONS

James instructs us to pray and receive prayer when we're sick

And to confess sins, and there may be a link

But it's up to God to heal

And sometimes he doesn't.

Sometimes, his plan is different.

If God wanted us all to be healed, we would be. It'd be a universal truth.

What he wants is our spirit healed, close to Him.

And sometimes that means a wounded body.

BACK TO MATTHEW

The father kneels.

His posture. Not demanding. Pleading.

Asking for mercy.

He knows the healing isn't deserved.

That things are awful.

And there's no hope apart from Jesus doing the work.

Epileptic

*Epilepsy is a brain condition that causes recurring seizures. There are many types of epilepsy. **In some people, the cause can be identified. In others, the cause is not known.***

Epilepsy is common. It's estimated that 1.2% of people in the United States have active epilepsy

Seizure symptoms can vary widely. Some people may lose awareness during a seizure while others don't. Some people stare blankly for a few seconds during a seizure. Others may repeatedly twitch their arms or legs, movements known as convulsions.

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/epilepsy/symptoms-causes/syc-20350093>

Selēniazomai

Moon struck, lunatic (lunar)

Epileptic was tied to the moon in their superstitions

Often falls into the fire and water

Severe burns, I'd imagine disfigured

Probably almost drowned a few times

The panic and worry of a parent seeing their child in distress

When we look at diseases, birth defects, conditions, etc.

Some causes can be identified.

Others have no direct connection to be found.

Sometimes we overhype and say it's always spiritual.

Sometimes we ignore the spiritual.

But many times, there is something nefarious at work causing someone's condition.

So I brought him to your disciples, but they could not cure him.

Whether it was in the crowd that day or perhaps on their previous missions
Their prayers and their actions didn't heal the boy.

The man goes to the Christians, goes to the leadership. He wants God's provision.
But he didn't get there.

Did that stop him?

No, he kept pushing and went straight to the source.

That's faith.

God is able. These people of God ended up not being able to help,
but I know God can still help.

:17-28

A rebuke, but not to the man (I believe)

To the crowds, to the disciples, to the demon

Faithless apistos

Unbelieving, without trust in God, incredulous, not to be trusted, not credible, "incredible
[because] they didn't have faith"

Perverse diastrepho

Distort, turn aside

Oppose and actively plot against plans of God

Turn aside from right path, pervert, corrupt

By now...

They should have had faith

They should have been pure

Jesus had been doing a bunch in their midst

These conditions in a generation become the enemy's playground

*Look at our society, since we became religious, then revolted against the dead religion and
embraced active evil since the 1960s*

Removed God from schools

Punished righteousness and rewarded perversion

Is it any wonder the church in our day-and-age has become ineffective?

Is it any wonder that school shootings, “random” murders, people thinking they’re something other than what they are and pursuing perverse surgery

Faithless. Perverse.

Still looking forward to our Romans study after Matthew

How long shall I be and bear with you?

My answer would be please, always, Lord. Have mercy!

Jesus is fed up! Only a little while with them, then he’s gone. They haven’t learned yet. And they’ll have to have faith that can’t see!

Jesus rebuked the demon, immediately it left. It had no choice to hang around at the command of God

Job, the angels give an account to God

He’s still the boss at the end of the day.

Cured. Final. That’s it. No coming back.

The father’s petition in faith to Jesus was answered

Faith took the place of the demon.

No, Christians cannot be possessed.

1 John 4:4 NKJV - You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

:19-21

They came to him privately

Hey, we uh, failed, why? Why did you rebuke us, too?

Unbelief - it wasn’t just a matter of having faith, it was having faith that works

What are those works?

- Prayer
- Fasting

It takes faith to pray

Sometimes it takes fasting to *really* pray

Do it quietly

Matthew 6:16-18 NKJV - "Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting.

Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. "But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, "so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who [is] in the secret [place]; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

James 2:19-20, 26 NKJV - You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe--and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? ... For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Is your faith dead? Or alive?

- Are you praying?
- Have you fasted?

How badly do you want the answer?

How important is your petition?

DGC - Great prayer and fasting also display earnestness before God that brings answer to prayer. We often pray dispassionately, almost asking God to care about things we care little or nothing about.

Romans 12:3c NKJV - ...God has dealt to each one a **measure** of faith.

metron - instrument of measuring, vessel for a specific quantity, measuring rod, ruler or standard, determined portion

He's given each one a *gallon* of faith

He's given each one a *yard* of faith

But also

He's given each one a container, a vessel to be filled with faith

Your life

Romans 1:16-17 NKJV - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed **from faith to faith**; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

Faith moves us to pray

Prayer builds our faith

And sometimes we don't have enough faith in our tank

Half empty, half full

We leak! We need to be filled. Ask!

Heaven and heavenly reward

We'll all have some measure of reward

- For some, it's just being there
- For others, it's all the people they brought with them

Will it be equally heaven for all of us? In a way, I believe so.

All of our cups will run over.

But what size cup will you have?

- A thimble?
- A big gulp?
- A big oil drum with a straw?

Hebrews 11:1-2 NKJV - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a [good] testimony.

Hebrews 12:1-2 NKJV - Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares [us], and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of [our] faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

But remember, real faith isn't a showy act. It's calm. It's capable. It cures.

Jesus simply rebuked the demon, and it left. It wasn't a huge spectacle

A tough rebuke - faith the size of a mustard seed can move a mountain

I've never moved a mountain! And I confess I've tried!

But if it happened, I'd probably go around bragging about how I moved it!

Faith can move mountains

But maybe it's not the mountain that moves

Maybe it's you!

Over that mountain.

Direction, calling, faith to keep the focus

Nothing will be impossible for you.

Are there things in your life that seem impossible?

Healings? Situations? Relationships? Goals?

Well, where is your faith? What or who is it in?

- Is your faith just in the answer? The healing itself?
- Is it in the people of God or you think are Godly?
- Or is it in the Savior Himself?
- In His plans? In His purposes?
- Is it just for this life? Or for the life to come?

Matthew 19:26 NKJV - But Jesus looked at [them] and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

**Look to Jesus the author and finisher of your faith.
That's when nothing is impossible.**

**When the answer you'd expect doesn't come...
it doesn't matter, because you know that Jesus IS the answer.**

**And when the answer comes you did want...
In a sense, it doesn't matter, because your focus is still
on Jesus who is the one who answered.**