

The Miracles of Jesus

Lesson Twenty-Nine

Casting a Demon out of a Lunatic Boy

Text: Matthew 17:14-21; Mark 9:14-29; Luke 9:37-45

Introduction:

1. As Jesus came down from the Mountain of Transfiguration with Peter, James and John, they asked Him about the coming of Elijah.
2. Upon reaching the multitude, they noticed the scribes questioning the other apostles. {*This seems to indicate that they were back in the region of Galilee.*}
3. Thus, Jesus was presented with a child who was tormented by a demon.

I. The Miracle

- A. The man's son suffered terribly at the hands of this demon.
 1. His father was greatly distressed for this was his only child.
 2. Notice that the demon is referred to as a "spirit."
 3. It rendered the child both deaf and dumb (Mark 9:17, 25).
 4. It would take hold of or seize him. {*We get the word "catalepsy" from this Greek word. It seems to indicate something similar to epilepsy.*}
 5. He would suddenly cry out as the demon tore him – literally, to hurl to the ground, break, or cause convulsions (cf. Mark 9:20).
 6. It would cause him to foam at the mouth, grind his teeth and leave him bruised and dried up or withering away (desiccated).
 7. Since he was a child, this demon had tormented him by causing him to fall into the fire or into the water.
 8. In Matthew's account, his father says that he is a lunatic.
 - a. This word literally means, "moonstruck."
 - b. Then, it was believed that epilepsy was affected by the moon's phases.
 - c. This word can also refer to insanity or feeble-mindedness.
- B. Jesus' disciples could not cast the demon out of this child.
 1. This presented an opportunity for some to doubt the power and authority of Jesus
 2. It provided the scribes with ammunition to use in their attacks on Jesus.
 3. Remember, the apostles had been given power to cast out demons (Matthew 10:1; Mark 6:7, 13; cf. Luke 10:17-20).
 4. Here, they were hindered by a lack of faith (Matthew 17:20; Heb. 3:19; 12:1).
 5. They were also lacking in true dedication (Matthew 17:21).
- C. After rebuking the crowd, Jesus rebuked the demon and the child was healed.

II. The Manifestation

- A. Jesus proved His power remains, even when His followers fail.
- B. Thus, He showed His deity and authority over demonic powers.

III. The Message

- A. Consider the contrast from the Mount of Transfiguration to the valley of demonic power.
- B. Our faith must grow continually! (Cf. Matthew 13:31-32; 1 Corinthians 13:2)
- C. When we fail, we should seek to learn the reason why.
- D. There is a need for sacrificial devotion to the Lord and His Way.