

THE HEALING OF THE DEMON-POSSESSED EPILEPTIC BOY

(Part 31 – series *The Miracles of Jesus*)

TEXT: Mark 9:14-29

INTRODUCTION: The story of Christ's healing of the "lunatic" boy is found in all three synoptic gospels. Combining Matthew's account with Mark's, we arrive at a full and true version of what Jesus actually said to His disciples after the miracle. This was not a public miracle. As soon as the crowd started running together rapidly, Jesus cured the boy (v. 25). He obviously wrought this miracle to teach His powerless disciples a lesson about faith in Him. If we would attain to the faith that moves mountains, we must follow the divine prescription for unbelief written by the Great Physician of souls.

OUTLINE: This miracle is all about faith. We see three levels of faith set forth in it.

I. Missing faith (the scribes)

(v. 19)

A. Put to silence (vv. 16, 17)

B. Put to shame (v. 19)

II. Mustard-seed faith (the father)

(v. 24, Matt. 17:20)

A. Expects faith in others (v. 18)

B. Looks to Christ for more faith (v. 24)

C. Receives what it asks for (vv. 25, 26)

III. Mountain-moving faith (the disciples)

(vv. 28-29, Matt. 17:19-21)

A. Born out of failure (vv. 18b, 28, Matt. 17:20a)

1. Occasional defeat prevents us from getting into ruts.

2. Occasional defeat magnifies the Master in our eyes.

3. Occasional defeat drives us to prayer.

B. Bestowed on those who fast and pray (v. 29)

1. Faith needs prayer.

a. For the hard cases

b. For the perpetuation of faith

2. Prayer needs fasting.

- a. Letting go of the visible to grasp the invisible

“It is only in a life of moderation and temperance and self-denial that there will be the heart or the strength to pray much.”

Andrew Murray

- b. “Starving the devil by starving yourself” (Spurgeon)

CONCLUSION: It was “Jesus only” on the Mount of Transfiguration (v. 8). Now it is Jesus only in the valley. Faith in Christ alone secures not only eternal life, but His present power. Past success in our Christian life is no guarantee of future victory. We must exercise living faith in Christ Himself as Lord and Conqueror in the spirit-realm if we would experience the greatest answers to our prayers for others.

Will we receive Jesus’ prescription for our unbelief and spiritual anemia? That’s the main reason that He wrought this amazing miracle!