
The Deliverance Of A Demonic Lunatic

Matthew 17:14-21; Mark 9:14-29; Luke 9:37-42

Matthew, Mark, and Luke record this particular healing miracle, which again involved the **demon-possessed**.

By way of **background**: Prior to this, **Jesus** had taken **Peter, James, and John** up into a mountain, where He was transfigured (*appeared in radiant glory*) before them (**Matthew 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36**). **Matthew**, and **Mark** both record what happened as **Jesus, Peter, James, and John** made their way down the mountain (**Matthew 17:9-13; Mark 9:9-13**), and the miracle involving this **demoniac** took place after they came down from the mountain. When **Jesus** and these three came down from the mountain they saw a great multitude of people around the other **nine**, and the **scribes** were questioning them (**Mark 9:14**). When the multitude saw **Jesus** they ran toward Him (**Mark 9:15**), and **Jesus** proceeded to ask the **scribes** why they were questioning the **disciples** (**Mark 9:16**). Before the **scribes** could answer the question, the **father** of a **demon-possessed** son came kneeling before **Christ**, telling Him how he had brought his son to the **apostles** in hope that they could deliver him from the **bondage** and **control** of the **demon**, but they were unable to do so (**Matthew 17:14-16; Mark 9:17-18; Luke 9:38-40**). **Jesus** proceeded to have the **demoniac** brought to Him, and He delivered him from the **demon!** In doing so, He released the **demoniac** from the awful **oppression** of the **demon**, and the **father** of this one from an overwhelming **burden**, and He also taught His **apostles** a valuable lesson about **faith!**

I. A MIRACLE IN A DESPERATE SITUATION

① **The Father Of The Demoniac Had An Overwhelming Burden:**

The **father** came and knelt before **Christ**, pleading for mercy; *“Lord have mercy on my son”* (**Matthew 17:15**). **Luke** has it; *“I beseech thee, look upon my son”* (**Luke 9:38**). In those words *“my son”* there is **disturbance** and **trouble** of mind and heart! **Luke** in his account records; *“look upon my son: for he is mine only child”* (**Luke 9:38**). There is great **emotion** in those words! These are the words of one who is **anxious** and very **fearful!** These are the words of a man who is experiencing great **anguish** and **distress!** These are the words of a man who is in great **turmoil!** These are the words of a man who is greatly **pained, grief-stricken**, and at the point of **despair!** These are the words of a man who is **weighted down** with a heavy burden, a man being **crushed** with the weight of his burden. These are the words of a man who is greatly **troubled**, one who

is **unsettled**, and **restless**, extremely **concerned** and **saddened!** He went on to tell **Jesus** that he had brought his son to the **apostles**, hoping that they could deliver him, but **“they could not”** (**Matthew 17:16; Mark 9:18; Luke 9:40**). These are the words of a man who is extremely **disappointed!** These are the words of a man who is **despondent**, **disheartened**, and **discouraged!** This is a man who is **overwhelmed**, and **desperate!**

② **The Condition Of This Man’s Son Was Critical And Seemingly Hopeless:**
Matthew, Mark, and Luke all record the description of this man’s son:

○ He Was Under The Control Of This Demon:

The **father** in describing the **influence** that the **demon** had upon his **son**, said **“And wheresoever he (the demon) taketh him”** (**Mark 9:18**). This phrase is indicative of the fact that this man’s son was in the absolute **bondage and control** of this **demon**.

○ He Was Lunatick:

The **father** said **“for he is a lunatick”** (**Matthew 17:15**). That is, as a result of this **demon-possession**, his son was **insane**, a **maniac**, and a **madman!** **THIS MAN’S SON WAS OUT OF HIS MIND!**

○ He Was Painfully Vexed:

The **father** in describing his **son** said in **Matthew 17:15** that in addition to being **“lunatick”** he was **“sore (painfully) vexed”** That is, he was extremely **irritated** by this **demon** to the point of **exasperation!**

○ He Was Suicidal:

The **father** in describing his **son** said in **Matthew 17:15** as a manifestation of his son’s **lunacy** and **irritation**; **“for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water”** The **father** is saying; **“my son, he is out of his mind, he lives in torment and misery, and he frequently tries to commit suicide”**

○ He Was Mute:

The **father** in describing his **son** said in **Mark 9:17** **“Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb (mute) spirit”** As a result of **demon-possession**, he could not **speak!**

○ He Was Deaf:

Jesus referred to this **“spirit”** (demon) in **Mark 9:25** as a **“dumb (mute) and deaf spirit”** As a result of **demon-possession**, he could not **speak**, and he could not **hear!**

○ *He Was Greatly Harmed:*

The **father** in describing his **son** said in **Mark 9:18** “**he (the demon) teareth him (breaks and shatters him, and throws him into convulsions), and he foameth (like a mad animal), and gnasheth with his teeth” (rage). **Luke** records “and bruising (wounding, and injuring) him” (**Luke 9:39**).**

○ *He Was Continually Getting Worse:*

The **father** said of his son in **Mark 9:18** “and pineth away” He was in a state of **weakness** and **decline!**

○ *He Was Defiled:*

The **demon** that possessed and controlled this individual is referred to as a “**foul** (repulsive) **spirit**” (**Mark 9:25**), and an “**unclean** (filthy and defiling) **spirit**” (**Luke 9:42**). This **father’s son** manifested **disgusting** and **repulsive** behavior!

For years this **father** had dealt with the affliction of his **son**. **Mark** records that when **Jesus** asked the **father**; “**How long is it ago since this came unto him?**” and the **father** responded “**of a child**” (**Mark 9:21**). No doubt, both **father** and **son** were **desperate** and **tired**, and the **father’s** appeal in **Mark 9:22** “**if thou canst do anything, have compassion on us, and help us**” reflects both **desperation** and **exhaustion!** **THIS FATHER AND SON NEEDED A MIRACLE IN THEIR LIVES!** They were both **suffering** terribly, they were both **afflicted** and **hurting**, they were desperately needing the **restoration** and **help** that only **God** could give! **THEY HAD IN THEIR LIVES MORE THAN THEY COULD BEAR! THEY HAD IN THEIR LIVES WHT MAN COULD NOT CURE! THEY WERE IN DESPERATE NEED OF A MIRACLE!**

③ **Jesus Rebuked The Faith Of The Multitude:**

Following the **father’s** declaration that the **apostles**, “**could not**” **Jesus**, in the hearing of all rebuked their lack of **faith** (**Matthew 17:17; Mark 9:19; Luke 9:41**).

④ **The Instruction Of Jesus Concerning The Situation:**

This **father** had pleaded concerning his **son’s** **desperate** and seemingly **impossible** and **hopeless** situation, and hearing of the man’s circumstances, and knowing that they were in need of a miracle, **Jesus** gave instruction for the **son** to be brought to Him (**Matthew 17:17; Mark 9:19; Luke 9:41**). **HE WAS TO BE BROUGHT TO JESUS, JUST AS HE WAS!** Again, this man’s son is **insane** (*out of his mind, a maniac, and a madman*), and **Jesus** says “**bring him unto me**” This man’s son is living a life of **torment**, and **misery**, he is **suicidal**, and on a path of **ruin**, and **Jesus** says “**bring him unto me**” This man’s son is in **bondage**, he is **broken** and **shattered**, he is like a mad **animal**, he is in a **rage**, and he is **wasting away**, and **Jesus** says “**bring him unto me**” This man and his son were in a **hopeless** and **impossible** situation, and **Jesus** says “**bring him unto me**” **THIS IS STILL THE LORD’S INSTRUCTION TODAY! THIS IS**

WHERE THE ANSWER IS FOUND! The very One who gave **sight** to the **blind**, **hearing** to the deaf, **relief** to the infirm, **release** to the possessed, and **cleansing** to the defiled, the One who has dried more tears than anyone, the One who has brought more **hope**, more **cheer**, and more **comfort** than anyone, says to each one of us *“Bring (whatever it is) unto Me”* There is **no battle He cannot win**, and He stands in the midst of the battle as the prevailing One and says *“Bring the battle to Me”* There is **no problem that He is not the solution for**, and He stands in the midst of the problems as the solution, and says *“Bring the problem to Me”* There is **no need that He cannot provide**, and He stands in the midst of the need as **God’s** provision, and says *“Bring the need to Me”* There is **no obstacle that He cannot overcome**, and He stands in the midst of the obstacles and says *“Bring the obstacle to Me”* There is **nothing broken that He cannot mend**, and He stands in the midst of that which is broken and says *“Bring that which is broken unto Me”* There is **nothing ruined that He cannot restore**, and He stands in the midst of the ruins and says *“Bring that which is ruined unto Me”* There is **no load that He cannot carry**, and He says *“Bring the load unto Me”* There is **no life that He cannot salvage**, and He stands in the midst of lives that need salvaging and says *“Bring the life unto Me”* There is **no storm that He cannot calm!** There is **no wayward direction that He cannot reverse!** There is **no wound that He cannot heal**, and He stands in the midst of it all, with this instruction *“Bring it unto Me”*

⑤ **The Instruction Of Christ Was Obeyed:**

Jesus made no promise, He simply said; *“Bring him unto Me”* and the **son** was brought to **Christ (Mark 9:20)**. IN ALL SITUATIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES, MAN IS SIMPLY TO OBEY WHAT THE LORD SAYS!

⑥ **The Father’s Faith Is Tested And Challenged:**

As this **demon-possessed son** is brought to **Christ**; the **demon** made an all-out effort to destroy the one he possessed (**Mark 9:20; Luke 9:42a**). The **Lord** permitted this to be done, in order to **test the father’s faith**, and to **bring him to further dependence upon Christ (Mark 9:21-22)**. **Jesus** then **challenged the faith of this father (Mark 9:23)**, causing him to confess his own weakness, and to further depend upon **Christ (Mark 9:24)**.

⑦ **The Miraculous Power Of Christ Exhibited:**

Christ exercised His **authority** over **Satanic** forces; **Matthew** records *“And Jesus rebuked the devil” (Matthew 17:18)*. **Mark** records that **Jesus** said *“I charge thee come out of him” (Mark 9:25)*, and **Luke** records *“And Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit” (Luke 9:42)*. The result of this display of **Christ’s** authority was, *“and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour” (Matthew 17:18)*, *“and came out of him” (Mark 9:26)*, and *healed the child, and delivered him again unto his father” (Luke 9:42)*. THE SON WAS BROUGHT TO JESUS, AND JESUS MADE RIGHT WHAT WAS WRONG! Again, **Luke** records; that **Jesus** *“healed the child, and*

delivered him again unto his father” Imagine the **joy** of this **father** when his **“son”**, his **“only child”** was brought to him, in his **right mind**, no longer **suicidal**, no longer **dumb and deaf**, no longer in the **bondage**, and under the **control** and **sway** of the demon, no longer **animal like**, no longer in a state of **rage**, no longer **wounded**, and **injured!** As the **father** looked at his **“son”** his **“only child”** HE SAW A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON! Looking at his **“son”** HE SAW THE RESULT OF THE MIRACULOUS POWER OF CHRIST! The **son** was **set free** and **released**, AND THE FATHER HAD THE WEIGHT OF THE WORLD LIFTED OFF OF HIM! **Father** and **son**, had experienced a miracle! **Jesus** said **“bring him unto Me”** AND WHAT NO ONE ELSE COULD DO WAS DONE!

II. JESUS TEACHES THE APOSTLES CONCERNING FAITH

① **The Apostles Approached Christ Wondering Why They Lacked The Power To Heal This Man:**

Matthew, **Mark**, and **Luke** all record the father’s words concerning the **apostles**; **“they could not”** (**Matthew 17:16; Mark 9:18; Luke 9:40**). THEY HAD AUTHORITY TO CAST OUT DEMONS (**Matthew 10:1**). Yet three times over it is stated **“they could not”** THERE WAS A POWER FAILURE ON THEIR PART! The **apostles** now approach **Christ** with the question; **“Why could not we cast him out?”** (**Matthew 17:19; Mark 9:28**). **Jesus** puts the reason for their **inability** entirely upon themselves **“Because of your unbelief”** (**Matthew 17:20**).

② **Jesus Told Them That They Needed A Certain Kind Of Faith:**

Jesus spoke about a **faith** attended with **power**, a **miracle-working power**, a **power to move mountains!** This power lies in what is compared to **“a grain of mustard seed”** and is identified as **“faith”** **Jesus** said **“If (a conditional clause) ye (personal) have (present tense) faith as (indicating a comparison) a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain (pointing to the mountain that Christ, Peter, James, and John had just descended) remove hence to yonder place, and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you”** (**Matthew 17:20**). This raises the question; **“What is faith as a grain of a mustard seed?”** In answering this question, an explanation of **faith** is necessary. **Faith** is to be **persuaded** in spite of what is seen with the human eye. **Faith** is **confidence** in God. **Faith** is **dependence** and **reliance** upon God. **Faith** is **unreserved trust** in God. **Faith** is **surrender** to God. **Faith** is **leaning** upon God, **resting** upon God, and **cleaving** to God. **Faith** is **looking** to God, **coming** unto God, **fleeing** to God, and **casting** self upon God. **Faith** is **living** in the reality of God.

○ **In Light Of What Faith Is, It Becomes Clear What Mustard Seed Faith Is Not:**

The question of the **disciples** to **Jesus** was **“Why could not we cast him out?”** **Jesus** said **“If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed”** (**Matthew 17:20**). The **“mustard-seed”** is one of the smallest seeds! However, **Jesus** is not saying to the **disciples** **“You could have cast the demon out, if you just had a tiny bit of faith”** He did not say **“If ye had**

faith the size of a grain of mustard seed” But, *“If you had faith as a grain of mustard seed”* JESUS IS NOT COMMENDING LITTLE OR TINY FAITH! In fact **Jesus** consistently rebuked such **faith**; He said in **Matthew 6:30** *“O ye of little faith”* and to **Peter** in **Matthew 14:31** *“O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?”* and to the **disciples** in **Matthew 16:8** *“O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves?”* JESUS DOES NOT REBUKE LITTLE FAITH AND THEN COMMEND IT SOMEWHERE ELSE! **Jesus** was not suggesting that all they needed was a little, or tiny faith! He was not saying that they needed a little or tiny bit of persuasion in God, or a little or tiny confidence, in God! Or a little or tiny bit of dependence, and reliance upon God! Or a little or tiny bit of trust and surrender to the Lord! He was not saying that they needed just to lean upon God just a little bit! HE WAS SAYING THAT THEY NEEDED A SPECIAL KIND OF FAITH! When **Jesus** speaks of *“faith as a grain of mustard seed”* HE IS NOT TALKING ABOUT THE SIZE OF FAITH, BUT THE TYPE OF FAITH!

○ *What Is Meant By Faith As A Grain Of A Mustard Seed:*

“Faith as a grain of mustard seed” is the kind of **faith** that can move mountains, the kind of **faith** that can face impossibilities! The *“Parable Of The Mustard Seed”* (**Mark 4:30-32**) helps clarify what **Jesus** meant by *“faith as a grain of mustard seed”* It is **living, active, growing, strong, visible** and **wonder-working faith!**

③ **Jesus Told Them That Such A Faith Is Obtainable:**

“Howbeit (nevertheless, however), this kind (“faith as a grain of a mustard seed”), goeth not out (the activity of such faith) but by prayer and fasting” (**Matthew 17:21**). This speaks of the fact, that not only is such a **faith** obtainable, but should be desired and sought after!

This particular miracle was beneficial in so many ways; the **demon-possessed son** was **delivered from the awful oppression of the demon**; the **father** was **relieved of a tremendous burden**; the **apostles** were **told the reason for their power failure in Christ’s service**, and **instructed concerning the faith that they needed**; and the **multitudes** were **amazed at the power of Christ** (**Luke 9:43**).
