

17:14-27

● REVIEW...

- o Seeing the Light...
 - Jesus took THREE disciples up to the top of Mount Hermon...
 - There He was TRANSFORMED - reveled in ALL of His glory [God almighty]
 - Moses and Elijah came to meet with Him - the LAW and the PROPHETS!
- o Being the Light...
 - Peter woke up - and seeing Jesus - he wanted to make THREE tents [stay on the mountain]
 - But he should have been LISTENING rather than SPEAKING...
 - Because the voice of the Father said - this is My Beloved Son - listen to Him!
- o Understanding the Light...
 - As they left the mountain - the disciples asked why the SCRIBES say Elijah must come FIRST...
 - Jesus - quoting Malachi - said Elijah did come FIRST [John the Baptist]
 - And just as they had KILLED him - they would also KILL Jesus!

● 1ST - LESSON IN FAITH... vs. 14-21

- o 1st - Unable to Help... vs. 14-16
 - Evil Spirit... vs. 14-15
 - When they had come to the multitude a man came to Him - kneeling down to Him and saying:
 - Lord have mercy on my son - for he is an epileptic and suffers severely.
 - For he often falls into the fire and often into the water!
 - When they arrived off the mountain - there was a MULTITUDE waiting for Jesus...
 - One man came and KNELT - asking the Lord [κύριος] to have MERCY on his son...
 - EPILEPTIC [σεληνιαζομαι] - to touched by the moon [lunatic]
 - This was NOT a physical sickness - it was SPIRITUAL...
 - The BOY had been struggling with a DEMON since he was little - **Mark 9:21**
 - Mark tells us that the DEMON would throw the boy into the FIRE and WATER - **Mark 9:22**
 - Globally - suicide is the FOURTH leading cause of death of youth between 15-29 years old...
 - And the rate has been increasing steadily over the past 20 years...
 - The world sees the PROBLEM - but they are looking at PHYSICAL solutions...
 - But the world is not just PHYSICAL [what we can see] - it is also SPIRITUAL [cannot see]
 - And PHYSICAL solutions do NOT work for SPIRITUAL problems!
 - We have an ENEMY who seeks to KILL and DESTROY lives - **John 8:44**
 - He is the one who whispers LIES in the ears of our YOUTH...
 - He tells them they are NOT good - NOT smart - NOT pretty - and NO one cares...
 - And the ONLY way we can help them - is by going to the root of the PROBLEM - stop the LIAR!
 - Wrong answer... vs. 16
 - So I brought him to Your disciples - but they could not cure him!
 - He brought his SON to the disciples - but they did NOT have the POWER [δύναμαι] to help...
 - A VERY large crowd had gathered - people being NOSY...
 - This gave ammunition to the SCRIBES - casting doubt about the DISCIPLES - **Mark 9:14**
 - But the reason the DISCIPLES could not HEAL [θεραπεύω] - was MEN were not the ANSWER!
 - PSYCHOLOGY [ψυχικός] - means the study of the psyche - natural mind [ψυχή]
 - On the surface - there appears to be some wisdom in PSYCHOLOGY ...
 - But at its core it DENIES that God is the solution [or that even He exists]
 - PSYCHOLOGY presents the wisdom of MEN as the answer to the problem!

- **I Corinthians 2:14** – “The natural man [ψυχικός] does not receive the things of the Spirit of God - for they are foolishness to him...”
 - The world does not label PSYCHOLOGY as RELIGION – but it is...
 - It is the RELIGION of MAN – teaching we have the POWER [δύναμις] to HEAL [θεραπεύω]
 - But before we run to a PSYCHIATRIST [just a man] for help...
 - Perhaps we should ask how THEIR life is going - before we give them OUR problems...
 - All they have to offer is the wisdom of MEN – which has NO power [δύναμις]!
- o 2nd - Faithless... vs. 17-18
- Lacking faith... vs. 17
 - Jesus answered and said: O faithless and perverse generation how long shall I be with you?
 - How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me!
 - Jesus answer was QUICK - this was a FAITHLESS generation...
 - FAITHLESS [ἄπιστος] - the word means to LACK [ἄ] faith [πιστος]
 - But the problem was NOT with how much FAITH - everyone has FAITH - **Romans 12:3**
 - The PROBLEM was WHERE they put that FAITH - they refused to put it in God...
 - PERVERSE [διαστρέφω] - meaning to TURN away from [God]
 - Even with Jesus standing RIGHT in front of them - they were still NOT looking to Him...
 - Therefore - He commanded them [imperative] - bring the CHILD to Me!
 - Most people [even Christians] do NOT understand FAITH...
 - They think of FAITH in terms of QUANTITY - the more FAITH the better...
 - But the word means to TRUST [πείθω] - or to have CONFIDENCE...
 - And we could have all the CONFIDENCE in the world - all FAITH...
 - But if we TRUST in something other than Jesus [διαστρέφω] - our FAITH is useless [ἄπιστος]
 - FAITH is they KEY that opens up a door - the question is what DOOR are we opening!
 - Removing Doubt...
 - The moment the DEMON saw Jesus - it threw the child convulsing to the ground - **Mark 9:20**
 - Jesus turned to the Father and said: If you have the power [δύναμις] to believe...
 - ALL [πάντες] power [δυνατός] is available to those who have FAITH [πιστεύω]
 - **Mark 9:24** - “The father... cried out and said with tears: Lord I believe. Help my unbelief!”
 - The father did have FAITH [πιστεύω] - but he also DOUBTED [ἀπιστία]
 - So with TEARS in his eyes he pleaded with Jesus to HELP him!
 - I believe God can do anything – and for Him NOTHING is impossible...
 - I BELIEVE - but I also DOUBT - my problem is I need to see to BELIEVE!
 - It is NOT wrong to admit we have DOUBTS [God already knows]
 - But take those DOUBTS to the Lord - spend time Him - **Romans 10:17**
 - Then our DOUBTS will disappear - as we SEE the POWER [δυνατός] of God at work...
 - It has been said that seeing is BELIEVING – but that is not the case - **II Corinthians 5:7**
 - It is by BELIEVING we get to SEE God do the impossible – and that establishes our FAITH!
- o 3rd - Showing power... vs. 18
- Over the enemy...
 - Jesus rebuked the demon and it came out of him. The child was [healed] from that very hour!
 - REBUKE [ἐπιτιμάω] - meaning to give HONOR [τιμάω]
 - When Michael the Archangel fought with the Devil over the body of Moses...
 - The same word is used - the Lord REBUKE [ἐπιτιμάω] you - **Jude 1:9**
 - Jesus is making a point - the Lord is the one who gets the HONOR...
 - JESUS commanded the DEMON to come out [imperative] - and NEVER come back - **Mark 9:25**
 - And the boy was [passive] HEALED [θεραπεύω] that very hour!
 - **I John 4:4** - “He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world!”
 - If we come at satan in our own POWER - we are doomed to fail...

- The only way to take on our enemy is with the POWER [δυνατός] of God...
- Then our enemy does NOT stand a chance - Jesus is the ultimate POWER...
- In Christ we have VICTORY - no weapon can defeat us - **Isaiah 54:17**

▪ Over death...

- When the DEMON came out - the boy stopped moving - people thought he died - **Mark 9:26**
- But Jesus took him by the hand - and he ROSE up [suggesting he had died]
- ROSE up [ἀνίστημι] - same word used to describe Jesus RISING from the dead!
- Jesus does not just have POWER over the enemy - He has POWER over death...
- Which is where we see the real CONTRAST between the POWER of MEN and GOD...
- MEN might be able to HEAL someone with medication...
- But MEN cannot bring someone back to LIFE who was DEAD!
- **I Corinthians 15:57** - "Who gives us the victory [over death] through our Lord Jesus Christ."

o 4th - Nothing impossible... vs. 19-21

▪ Failure... vs. 19-20

- Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said: Why could we not cast it out?
- So Jesus said to them: Because of your unbelief!
- The DISCIPLES came to Jesus - AWAY from the crowd [embarrassed]
- Asking WHY did they NOT have the POWER [δύναμαι] to cast out the DEMON...
- The answer from Jesus was the same - UNBELIEF...
- UNBELIEF [ἀπιστία] or [ὀλιγόπιστος] in the MGNT - the problem was their FAITH...
- They thought THEY could cast out the DEMON - their FAITH was in themselves!
- If we do NOT have enough money - our answer is we will try harder...
- If we do NOT feel well - our answer is we will get better...
- Because we like to use the word I - I will go take care of it - I will make it happen!
- But the ONLY word that should follow I is CANNOT - because we have NO power [δύναμαι]
- And if we are LOOKING to ourselves for the ANSWER - we have a FAITH problem!

▪ Mustard Seed... vs. 20

- Assuredly I say to you - if you have faith as a mustard seed you will say to this mountain.
- Move from here to there - and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you!
- AMEN [ἀμήν] - if you have FAITH [πίστις] - in the RIGHT place...
- Even if it as little as a MUSTARD seed [smallest seed]
- You will [indicative] say to THIS mountain [they are the base of mount Hermon]
- Move [imperative] - and it will MOVE [indicative]
- Because NOTHING will be impossible [ἀδυνατέω] for you!
- If I believe I can RUN at over 200 kilometers per hour - IMPOSSIBLE...
- But if I believe I can MOVE that fast when inside a FERRARI - very POSSIBLE!
- We serve a God for whom NOTHING is impossible - **Matthew 19:26**
- Therefore if we put our FAITH [trust] in God - NOTHING is impossible [ἀδυνατέω] for us...
- NOT because of who we are - but because of who HE is!

▪ More Jesus... vs. 21

- However this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting!
- Jesus does add one final insight - the KIND of demon that was in the boy...
- KIND [γένος] - apparently NOT all demons as the same - **Ephesians 6:12**
- And some of them take more EFFORT to cast out [prayer and fasting]
- But note - Jesus did NOT do anything special to cast it out - He just told the DEMON to go!
- We PRAY - to take the time to TALK to God...
- We FAST - to take to FOCUS on God [rather than eating]
- So the answer to even the toughest problem - is just MORE Jesus!

● 2ND - HOPE OF OUR FAITH... vs. 22-23

- o 1st - The Gospel... vs. 22-23
 - Now while they were staying in Galilee Jesus said to them:
 - The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men.
 - And they will kill Him - and the third day He will be raised up!
 - After they left Mount Hermon - and had returned to the Galilee...
 - Jesus told them again - He would be given over [betrayed] to men [religious leaders]
 - They would KILL [indicative] Him - but after THREE days he would RISE [indicative]
 - This was NOT bad news - it is the very HEART of the Gospel...
 - The WHOLE reason why Jesus became a MAN [ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου]
 - This is WHAT they were to put their FAITH in - because it is the ONLY way to be FORGIVEN!
 - It might seem like Christians are arrogant - because we say we have the ONLY way to heaven...
 - People might argue what about MUSLIMS - BUDDHISTS - who really believe...
 - The problem is NOT their FAITH - it is what they are TRUSTING in to save them!
 - The reason why there is only ONE way to heaven - **John 14:6**
 - Is because there is only ONE solution to the problem of sin...
 - The wages of SIN is death - and we all are SINNERS - so we all deserve HELL - **Romans 6:23**
 - But Jesus came to PAY the price for our SIN - He paid our DEBT...
 - He lived a PERFECT life [the only one] - and then He DIED in our place!
 - **John 3:16** - "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son - that whoever [puts their FAITH] in Him should not perish but have everlasting life!"
- o 2nd - Missing the point... vs. 23
 - They were exceedingly sorrowful!
 - When the DISCIPLES heard the GOOD new [the Gospel]
 - They were VERY [σφόδρα] sad - because they did NOT understand FAITH...
 - They were still looking at what they WANTED [king] - and missing who Jesus was [savior]!
 - Too many people treat God [I declare] - like He is some kind of mystical GENIE...
 - So long as we come in FAITH - we can tell God what to do...
 - But then when it does not happen we are VERY [σφόδρα] sad - as if God made a mistake!
 - FAITH is not us telling God what we WANT Him to do - it is God telling us what He will do...
 - FAITH means we come in HUMILITY - to submit to the plans of the Lord [κύριος]
- 3rd - PRACTICAL FAITH... vs. 24-27
 - o 1st - Temple Tax... vs. 24-25
 - When they had come to Capernaum - those who received the temple tax came to Peter and said:
 - Does your Teacher not pay the temple tax? He said: Yes!
 - When the DISCIPLES came to CAPERNAUM - Peter was cornered...
 - The TAX collectors accused Jesus of NOT [indicative] paying the TEMPLE tax...
 - TEMPLE tax [δίδραχμον] - was the half SHEKEL tax required by the LAW - **Exodus 30:12-16**
 - Peter [hard head] was quick to defend the Lord - YES - they would PAY...
 - But it was NOT a required TAX - it was only to be paid if there was a CENSUS...
 - It was a deterrent - because God did not want Israel to count the people!
 - If Israel was preparing to go to Battle - they might COUNT how many troops they had...
 - And trust in their strength of NUMBERS - rather than trusting in the LORD...
 - But God does NOT care about numbers - the THREE hundred men of Gideon - **Judges 7:2**
 - Even today we tend to look - and to and trust in NUMBERS...
 - One of the FIRST questions someone will ask about a church - how many people come...
 - We see quantity as a sign of blessings - but God does not look at numbers...
 - God looks at the heart - He wants His people to look to put their FAITH in Him!
 - o 2nd - Sons of the King... vs. 25-26

- Other People... vs. 25
 - When he had come into the house Jesus anticipated him saying: What do you think Simon?
 - Whom do the kings of the earth take customs or taxes - from their sons or from strangers?
 - The moment Peter came into the house - Jesus was READY...
 - He asked SIMON [listen] what he THOUGHT - who PAYS the taxes...
 - The SONS of the KING - or everyone else [ἄλλος]
- Free... vs. 26
 - Peter said to Him: From strangers. Jesus said to him: Then the sons are free!
 - Peter knew the right answer - the TAXES come from everyone else [ἄλλος]
 - To which Jesus made the POINT - then the SONS are FREE!
 - We are NOT strangers in the Kingdom of God – we are SON - I John 3:1
 - Therefore we are NOT required to give pay any TAXES [tithe] - II Corinthians 9:7
 - Because there is no TAX for the sons and daughters of the KING...
 - We can GIVE if and when we desire – God loves his kids to give cheerfully!
- o 3rd - Provision... vs. 27
 - Yes be Yes...
 - Nevertheless - lest we offend them go to the sea. Cast a hook and take the fish that comes first.
 - When you have opened its mouth you will find a piece of money.
 - Take that and give it to them for Me and you!
 - Peter had already agreed to PAY the TEMPLE tax...
 - And Jesus NOT wanting to cause a SCANDAL [σκανδαλίζω]
 - Matthew 5:37 - “Let your Yes be Yes - and your No - No.”
 - We need to be careful and KEEP our WORD – be true to our YES and NO...
 - Too often we speak - then we stop to think about what we said...
 - But God expects us to be men and women of our WORD!
 - Ecclesiastes 5:5 - “It is better to say nothing than to promise something that you do not follow through on.” [NLT]
 - Ordinary Miracle...
 - Jesus Commanded [imperative] a FISHERMAN [Peter] to go FISHING...
 - And the FIRST fish he caught would have a COIN in its mouth...
 - COIN [στατήρ] - equivalent to a SHEKEL - the exact amount to pay for them BOTH...
 - Now Peter could have DOUBTED - what are the chances of catching a FISH with a COIN...
 - But instead he had FAITH - that what God said - would be TRUE!
 - I love how God provides using the means that are familiar...
 - He takes care of us SUPERNATURALLY - but with very NATURAL means...
 - All we have to do is BELIEVE [faith] that He is the God who is TRUE to His Word...
 - And we will see the He meets every NEED - exactly what we NEED - just when we NEED it!
 - Matthew 6:33 - “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness - and all these things shall be added to you.”