## 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!

## • $1^{ST}$ - Lesson in Faith... vs. 14-21

- o 1<sup>st</sup> 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 [σεληνιάζομαι] 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
    - ullet But the reason the DISCIPLES could not HEAL [ $\theta$ εραπεύω] was MEN were not the ANSWER!
    - PSYCHOLOGY [ψυχικός] means the study of the psyche natural mind [ψυχή]
    - $\bullet \hspace{0.4cm}$  On the surface there appears to be some wisdom in PSYCHOLOGY  $\dots$
    - 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 [δύναμαι] 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 [δύναμαι]!
- o  $2^{nd}$  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 [ $\pi$ είθω] 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 [δύναμαι] to believe...
    - ALL [παζ] power [δυνατόζ] 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  $3^{rd}$  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 4<sup>th</sup> 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**
    - ullet 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 [ $\gamma \acute{\epsilon} v \circ \varsigma$ ] 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!
- 2<sup>ND</sup> HOPE OF OUR FAITH... vs. 22-23

- o 1<sup>st</sup> 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 υἰὸς 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  $2^{nd}$  Missing the point... vs. 23
  - They were exceedingly sorrowful!
  - When the DISCIPLES heard the GOOD new [the Gospel]
  - They were VERY  $[\sigma \phi \delta \delta \rho \alpha]$  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  $[\sigma\phi\delta\delta\rho\alpha]$  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]

## • 3<sup>RD</sup> - Practical Faith... vs. 24-27

- o 1<sup>st</sup> 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!
- $2^{\text{nd}}$  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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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."