

The Battle to Believe

Luke 9:37-45

Theme: We cannot be instrumental in healing our sin broken world without faith in the authority conferred to us by Jesus.

1. The Problem on Earth (v. 37-40)

A) A Family's _____

B) The Disciples' _____

2. Jesus' Deliverance (v. 41-43)

A) Jesus' _____

B) Jesus' Marvelous _____

3. An Imminent Reality (v. 43-45)

A) Going it _____ in a broken world filled with pain.

B) Experiencing _____ through prayer and Jesus' abiding presence by the Holy Spirit.

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Small Group Questions

RELATE

What is your biggest struggle when it comes to prayer?

REFLECT

1. Read the parallel account of this story found in Matthew and Mark's Gospel. (Mark 9:14-29; Matthew 17:14-22) What are some of the differences between Matthew, Mark and Luke's account? Why do you suppose Luke's is so much shorter? What may Luke be trying to emphasize?
2. All of the Gospel writers follow the story of the transfiguration with the story of the demon-possessed boy. Why? How do these two stories go together?
3. Why would Jesus follow up the account of the demon possessed boy with another statement about His coming crucifixion in v.44? Did his disciples believe Him the first time?
4. The disciples were seemingly powerless to deal with the boy's condition. Between the three Gospel accounts what seems to be the reason for their defeat?
5. In what way could Jesus' criticism of His disciples in v. 41 apply to us as well? What do you think Jesus meant when he spoke of faith the size of a mustard seed in Matthew 17:20?
6. Read John 16:33 and 1 John 5:4. What does John say enables us to overcome the troubles of our world? How does prayer relate to helping our faith? See also John 15:7.
7. Read James 5:13-16. How do prayer and faith work together in spiritual and physical healing?

RESPOND

Our story reminds us that we live in a world broken by evil. What does our text teach us about what our priorities should be to enable us to exercise Jesus' power and authority to help the oppressed?

Take some time to pray together as a group for people who need to see God work in their lives in a powerful way.

Pray for God to enable you to be used as an instrument of His power by faith.

WRAP UP

1. "This group does not exist for us." Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.

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