

## **HELP US. WE ARE SINKING.**

Matthew 17:14-21

**INTRODUCTION:** We discover what we are as Christians when faced with changes in our life. This was the case with the disciples when a father brought his demon-possessed son to them. They were not able to deliver the boy although Jesus had earlier given them power to do so. What happened?

### **I. THE POWER RELEASED**

#### **A. DISCIPLES EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT.**

Jesus told the disciples they would be empowered by the Holy Spirit. On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples as well as other believers. The Holy Spirit's empowerment equipped them to do the work and ministry God had planned for their lives.

#### **B. DISCIPLES EMBOLDENED BY THE SPIRIT.**

The promise of Jesus was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost with the coming of the Holy Spirit. The real ministry of the disciples began on the Day of Pentecost. Three thousand souls were saved on that day. The Spirit came upon the believers, and they were emboldened to declare the gospel of Jesus Christ. The gift of the Holy Spirit is the gift every Christian receives at the time of his/her salvation.

### **II. THE PROBLEM REVEALED**

A major problem arose in this chapter. It involved different people, and they all needed God's grace and power.

#### **A. HURTING SON.**

A young boy was brought to nine of the disciples. He was demon-possessed. He suffered from seizures that came upon him. The father said in Mark 9:18 of his son, "And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not."

## **B. HELPLESS FATHER.**

The Lord and three of the disciples went up on the mountain where Jesus was transferred before their eyes. When they returned, they found a father and his son with the other nine disciples. The father was helpless in delivering his son from the demon possession. He pleads with the nine disciples to cast the demon out of his son. They were unable to do so. Jesus and the other three disciples looked upon a very pitiful sight.

It seemed the scribes were criticizing the nine disciples of Jesus because of their inability to deliver the boy from the demons.

## **C. HUMILIATED DISCIPLES.**

The nine disciples looked powerless before the father, his son, and the multitude of people. The disciples were humiliated also before Jesus and the other three disciples. Jesus had given them the power to heal others and to minister to many, but they could do nothing for this young boy.

## **III. THE PLEA RECEIVED**

### **A. REQUESTED HEALING FOR THE SON. (v. 16)**

The father had pleaded with the disciples of Jesus to heal his son. Jesus said to His disciples in Matthew 17:17, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me." This was a strong rebuke to the disciples because of their lack of faith. It seems that Jesus was very frustrated with them. He had worked with His disciples and even performed miracles in front of them, but they still had little faith. Jesus' time on the cross was drawing near, and His disciples did not have the faith the Lord wanted them to have. The son was in great need, the father was helpless, and Jesus was irritated with His disciples.

### **B. RECEIVING OF POWER FROM JESUS. (v. 18)**

The power needed to deliver the young boy was supplied by Jesus Christ when He said, "Bring him here to me." (v. 17) The Lord rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, and he was cured. The spoken word of Jesus was declared with power.

The demon could not stay before such authority as Jesus. We may not be faced with casting out a demon, but there are many other things we can do if we will pray.

### **C. REQUEST OF DISCIPLES FOR ANSWERS. (v. 20-21)**

The disciples were humiliated and felt defeated before the many people looking on. They came to Jesus and asked, "Why could not we cast him out?" (Matthew 17:19) In Matthew 17:20-21, Jesus said to His disciples, "Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting."

### **LESSONS FOR LIFE:**

1. We must ask ourselves if we have the faith we should have as Christians.
2. Is the lack of faith our problem in today's world?
3. Prayer is our powerful tool to live the Christian life.