



Week 27: **Deliverance Fail** ~ (Luke 9:37-45, Matt 17:14-23, Mark 9:14-32)

Todays Text: Luke 9:37-45

³⁷ The next day, after they had come down the mountain, a large crowd met Jesus. ³⁸ A man in the crowd called out to him, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, my only child. ³⁹ An evil spirit keeps seizing him, making him scream. It throws him into convulsions so that he foams at the mouth. It batters him and hardly ever leaves him alone. ⁴⁰ I begged your disciples to cast out the spirit, but they couldn't do it."

⁴¹ Jesus said, "You faithless and corrupt people! How long must I be with you and put up with you?" Then he said to the man, "Bring your son here."

⁴² As the boy came forward, the demon knocked him to the ground and threw him into a violent convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the evil spirit and healed the boy. Then he gave him back to his father. ⁴³ Awe gripped the people as they saw this majestic display of God's power. While everyone was marveling at everything he was doing, Jesus said to his disciples, ⁴⁴ "Listen to me and remember what I say. The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of his enemies." ⁴⁵ But they didn't know what he meant. Its significance was hidden from them, so they couldn't understand it, and they were afraid to ask him about it. (Luke 9:37-45 NLT-SE)

- **SINCE YOU BEEN GONE...**Returning from the Transfiguration, Jesus along with Peter, James and John make their way down the mountain to find the other nine disciples arguing with local religious leaders. When Jesus asks what they are arguing about, a man in the crowd steps up and fills him in with the details...
 - A man brought his son to the disciples to cast the demons out of him. Earlier, Jesus had given his disciples the assignment, as well as the authority to deliver those oppressed by demons.
 - Their attempts to deliver the young man fail. Had they done something wrong? What were they overlooking? Not only did the disciples fail to set the boy free from the demon, now his father and the religious teachers of the law were getting in their face too!
 - Just when they thought it couldn't get more uncomfortable, the Teacher shows up with the other disciples, wondering what all the commotion is about.
- **THE STRESS LEVEL RISES...**Who says Jesus didn't get **frustrated** and even **angry** at times?
 - He said to them, "The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves." (Mark 11:17 NLT-SE)
 - Jesus turned to Peter and said, "Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's." (Matt 16:23 NLT-SE)
 - ³ Jesus said to the man with the deformed hand, "Come and stand in front of everyone." ⁴ Then he turned to his critics and asked, "Does the law permit good deeds on the Sabbath, or is it a day for doing evil? Is this a day to save life or to destroy it?" But they wouldn't answer him. ⁵ He looked around at them angrily and was deeply saddened by their hard hearts. Then he said to the man, "Hold out your hand." So the man held out his hand, and it was restored! ⁶

At once the Pharisees went away and met with the supporters of Herod to plot how to kill Jesus. (Mark 3:3–6 NLT-SE)

- **Genuine Faith...**

- Jesus blessed his followers with the promise of Jesus poverty, rejection, and persecution. His disciples were willing to face all this and more because of the promise of eternity with Jesus. They knew they were merely pilgrims and sojourners in a foreign land.
- Charles Haddon Spurgeon said it best: “The Old Covenant was a covenant of prosperity, the New Covenant is a Covenant of Adversity whereby we are weaned from the present world and made meet [i.e., fit] for the world to come.”
- Knowing what we believe and being able to articulate it is important, but if this is the extent of our faith, we have not gone deep enough. Authentic faith has more to do with the heart than with the head. **Genuine faith involves trust. Christian faith has to do with a radical trust in God.** It is not just about trusting in the truth of a set of statements about God; it means trusting in God.
- To have faith is to trust in God, to believe in God’s ability to sustain us, to hold us up, even in difficult circumstances. This is the message God gave to the prophet Isaiah.
 - ¹ “Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine. ² When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you...⁵ “Do not be afraid, for I am with you. (Is 43:1–2, 5 NLT-SE)

- **FAITH IN FAITH VS. FAITH IN GOD...** Personal faith, combined with God-given talent and ability can accomplish a great deal. The tricky part for us is to place the full weight of our trust in God and give Him permission to accomplish His will through us.

- “Blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence.” (Jer 17:7 NLT-SE)
- “Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. (John 14:1 NLT-SE)
- ⁶ Be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you have to endure many trials for a little while. ⁷ These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world. (1 Pet 1:6–7 NLT-SE)
- Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And you have placed your faith and hope in God because he raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory. (1 Pet 1:21 NLT-SE)

- **GROWING IN FAITH...** You don’t grow in faith by trying harder. “Greater faith” results from greater trust and a more consistent yielding of our will to the plans of the Lord. When Jesus said, “**Listen to me and remember what I say,**” he was encouraging his followers to follow his lead, even after he would leave them. At the risk of developing a “technical” plan for growing in faith, it really comes down to surrendering to the love of God!

- When you live a life of abandoned love, Surrendered before the awe of God, Here’s what you’ll experience: Abundant life. Continual protection, and complete satisfaction! (Pr 19:23 PASSION)