

Adult Sunday School

May 2, 2021

Matthew 17:14-27

Outline

- The Suffering of the Messiah Revealed (16:21-17:27) - Jesus reveals the nature of his messiahship. He is a suffering Messiah, and those who are his disciples must suffer with him. The transfiguration discloses who Jesus really is; the Son of God. And believers, who are themselves sons of the kingdom, are free from the old era of the law.
 - Sons of the kingdom (17:14-27) - Through the healing and exorcism of an epileptic boy, Jesus shows the contrast between defective and effective faith. Jesus also teaches that his impending death will come through betrayal and that the OT law has no claim on him or his disciples.

Matthew 17:14-21

Theme- The young man possessed with a devil healed.

Scope and Purpose

Jesus heals an epileptic boy, another of the Lord's miracles.

Prominent Points

1. We see an awful influence sometimes exercised by Satan over the young.
 - a. This evil spirit presses the boy to the destruction of his body and soul.
 - b. It is hard to see bodies racked by these things, how much more painful it must be to see body and mind completely under the influence of the devil.
 - c. Application
 - i. There are many instances of Satan's dominion over young people.
 - ii. Young people give in to Satan's temptations. *and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.* - 2 Timothy 2:26
 - iii. Young people cast off all fear of God, and all respect for his commandments; they serve divers lusts and pleasures; they run wildly into every excess of riot; they refuse to listen to the advice of parents, teachers, or pastors; they fling aside all regard for health, character or worldly respectability.
 - iv. They do all they can to ruin body and soul for eternity and be slaves of Satan. Satan exercises fearful dominion over souls.
 - v. **However, we must never despair; we are to depend on the almighty power of the Lord Jesus Christ. The boy was cured.**

- vi. **All of us should keep praying for our young.¹ Hard hearts can be softened. They may repent and be converted. NEVER DESPAIR THE CONVERSION OF ANY SOUL!!²**
- 2. We see the striking example of the weakening effect of unbelief.
 - a. The disciples marveled at Jesus' power and Jesus rebuked them because of their unbelief. They were low on faith.
 - b. Application
 - i. Faith is the key to success in Christian warfare: unbelief is the sure road to defeat. Once we let our faith languish, all our graces languish as well. We lose courage, patience, hope, and long-suffering.
 - ii. The same Israelites that went through the Red Sea in triumph one day, also shrank from danger like cowards when they reached the borders of the Promised Land. It was the same God. It was the same Moses leading them. They gave way to doubt of God's love and power - *do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness*, - Hebrews 3:9
- 3. Satan's kingdom is not to be pulled down without diligence and pains.
 - a. Warfare is not to be carried out lightly. No victories are won easily without fervent prayer and diligent self-mortification.
 - b. Application
 - i. Do we just do religious acts thoughtlessly and in a perfunctory way?
 - ii. Do we with Israel say the men of Ai are few? *And they returned to Joshua and said to him, "Do not have all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not make the whole people toil up there, for they are few."* Joshua 7:3.
 - iii. The good news is that we can learn from our experiences and from Scripture.
 - iv. Let us diligently watch over our own spirit. *Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.* Ecclesiastes 9:10.
 - v. It is a fatal mistake to underrate our foes. Greater is he that is for us than he that is against us.

¹ John Newton – Do you travail, as it were, in birth for those who are dear to you? It is a good sign, and if your desires prompt you who to the use of every probable and appointed means, and if a failing of success with them gives you a deep, perceptive concern, and excites your prayers to God for them yet more earnestly, be not discouraged, you may yet have the desire of your hearts. But remember, grace does not run in the blood. David had Ammon and Absalom. Manasseh, who was brought up under good Hezekiah, was wicked beyond all that were before him. Nothing but the power of God can change the heart.

John 6:44 - *No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.*

² *but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.* John 20:31. *And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.* 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

- vi. *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.* - Ephesians 6:12.
- vii. We need to take up the whole armor of God and USE IT!
- viii. *But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified* - 1 Corinthians 9:27.

Matthew 17:22-27

Theme- *The fish and the tribute money.*

Scope and Purpose

This miracle only is in Matthew. There are three points in this narrative which we should note.

Prominent Points

1. We see our Lord's perfect knowledge of everything that is said and done in this world. Jesus was well acquainted with the conversation the tax collector had with Peter.
 - a. Jesus knows all things. Concealment from him is impossible: hypocrisy is useless.
 - b. Application
 - i. We should strive to walk openly before the Lord. *When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless-* Genesis 17:1.
 - ii. How would we behave if Jesus was standing by our side?
2. Our Lord's almighty power over all creation.
 - a. *You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.* Psalm 8:6-8
 - b. *For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.* – Colossians 1:16-18
 - c. *The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain," says the Lord.* - Isaiah 65:25

3. Our Lord's willingness to make concessions, rather than give offence.
 - a. He was the Son of God, certainly he could demand an exemption. Jesus was greater than the temple that was the recipient of the tax revenue. The reason - so he would not give offence.
 - i. There are matters where we should set aside our opinions and submit to requirements we may not thoroughly approve rather than give offence and hinder the gospel of Christ.
 - ii. Is such tenacity always wise and should we show the mind of Christ? There are times when it shows more grace to submit rather than resist.
 - b. We are citizens and subjects.
 - i. We may not like all the political measures of our rulers; we may disapprove of some of the taxes they impose- Will it do any good to the cause of religion to resist the powers that be? Are their measures really injuring our souls? If not, let us hold our peace.
 - ii. Bullinger - A Christian never ought to disturb the public peace for things of mere temporary importance.
 - c. Let us remember this passage as members of a church. Do we differ on things of trivial importance? Do our issues threaten the gospel truth? Then let us be quiet and not offend.
 - d. Let us remember this passage as members of society. There may be usages and customs in the circle where our lot is cast, which to us as Christians, are tiresome, useless, and unprofitable: but are they matters of principle? Do they injure souls? Will it do good to the cause of religion if we do not comply? If not, let's not offend.
 - e. Who can tell the damage that has been done to the cause of the gospel by morbid scrupulosity, and conscientiousness, falsely so called?
 - f. *If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.*
1 Corinthians 9:12

BONUS - Prayer from Brownlow North.

O GOD, I am immortal: yet I have lived, and do live too much as if this was the only world. I profess to believe that I shall soon have begun, (whether in heaven or in hell), an existence that will have no end; yet this belief has not the power that it should have on my life. There is a spirit in me that makes me forget it. For Jesus Christ's sake, O God, I beseech Thee to forgive the past, and to give me Thy Holy Spirit, to deliver me from the power of the evil spirit. May Thy Holy Spirit come and teach me to know Thee and Jesus, and delivering me henceforth from the dominion of sin, make me meet to be a partaker of an inheritance with Thy people in heaven. Do this for me, I beseech Thee, O God, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.