

No Faith, Weak Faith, & Little Faith



Mark 9:14-29



Mount Hermon from south

I. No Faith (14-19)



- ☞ Cf. Matt. 17:14 - When they came to the crowd, a man came up to Jesus, falling on his knees before Him and saying,
- ☞ Luke 9:38 - "Teacher, I beg You to look at my son, for he is my only *boy*,"
- ☞ Matt. 17:15 - "he is a lunatic."
 - ☞ Literally, moonstruck.
- ☞ Demon-possession in Mark's gospel...
 - ☞ 1:32, 34, 39; 3:15, 22; 5:12, 15f, 18; 6:13; 7:26, 29f

Demon Possession



- ☞ 1) "Having a demon"
 - ☞ This is the most common in the NT: 16x in the NT
 - ☞ 4x in Mark (3:30; 5:15; 7:25; 9:17)
- ☞ 2) "Demonized" (Greek, *daimonizomai*)
 - ☞ 13x in the NT
 - ☞ NAU most often translates as "demon-possessed" (11x)
 - ☞ 4x in Mark (1:32; 5:15, 16, 18)
 - ☞ This word speaks of...
 - ☞ Indwelling - "entering into", "going out", and "cast out."
 - ☞ Control and domination
- ☞ 3) "In an unclean spirit"
 - ☞ 2x in the NT
 - ☞ Mark 1:23; 5:2

Common Traits of Demon Possession



- ☞ 1) Physical & mental torment
 - ☞ Wildness (Matt. 8:28)
 - ☞ Violence (Matt. 8:28)
 - ☞ Inability to speak (Mark 9:17; Luke 11:14)
 - ☞ Deafness (Mark 9:25)
 - ☞ Screaming or crying out (Mark 1:23, 26; 5:5)
 - ☞ Self-mutilation (Mark 5:5; 9:22)
 - ☞ Convulsions (Mark 9:18, 20)
 - ☞ General torment (Luke 6:18)
- ☞ 2) A rational personality distinct from the human host.
- ☞ 3) Occasionally, supernatural knowledge or clairvoyance (Mark 1:24; Acts 16:16)

Why were some people possessed?

- ☞ At times, some degree of willingness, at least initially, on the part of the human host (Matt. 12:43-45).
- ☞ Two possible entrance points...
 - ☞ 1) Idolatry (Deut. 32:17; Ps. 106:36-38)
 - ☞ 2) Involvement with the occult (Acts 16:16; 19:8-20)

This Boy's Demon Possession

- ☞ 1) Made him unable to speak
- ☞ 2) Made him deaf (25)
- ☞ 3) Made him have epileptic type symptoms.
 - ☞ Don't assume that all biblical records of demon possession are primitive ways of describing all brain disorders.
 - ☞ Don't assume that all epilepsy is demon possession, any more than you would assume that all inability to speak or deafness is caused by demons.

I. No Faith (14-19)

- ☞ Cf. Matt. 17:16 - "I brought him to Your disciples, and they could not cure him."
- ☞ Cf. Luke 9:40 - "I begged Your disciples to cast it out, and they could not."
- ☞ Shocking to the disciples...
 - ☞ Jesus had given them His own authority to cast out demons.
 - ☞ [3:14-15](#); [6:7](#)
 - ☞ They had used His authority successfully many times.
 - ☞ [6:13](#)

Them?

- ☞ 1) The nine apostles who couldn't cast out the demon.
 - ☞ Several problems
 - ☞ (a) It's hard to imagine Jesus referring to the disciples as a generation.
 - ☞ (b) Notice in verse 19 Jesus calls whomever He is talking to, "unbelieving."
 - ☞ (c) Mark uses the word generation 5x; the other 4x it never refers to the disciples.
 - ☞ Cf. [8:12](#) (2x), [38](#); [9:19](#); [13:30](#)
- ☞ 2) The crowd
- ☞ 3) The scribes.

The Application...

- ☞ 1) This first part of the story is a vivid illustration of the heart of Satan.
- ☞ 2) You see Jesus' indictment of those who have been exposed to the truth but are either like the crowd, apathetic and unbelieving—or like the scribes, antagonistic and unbelieving.
 - ☞ "O unbelieving and perverted generation!"

The Application...

- ☞ 3) There is an end to the patience of God.
 - ☞ "How long will I put up with you?"
 - ☞ Cf. Rom. 2:4-5; 2 Pet. 3:3, 9-10
 - ☞ Cf. Gen. 6:3 - Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."
- ☞ 4) The glorious compassion of Jesus Christ for anyone who sincerely approaches Him for help.
 - ☞ 19c - Bring him to Me!"