

THE POWER OF FAITH
(Matthew 17:14-21)

- I. The PLEA of a Father (Matt. 17:14-15)
 - A. He was part of a CROWD (cf. Mk. 9:14-15)
 - B. He CAME to JESUS
 - 1. He fell to his KNEES in SUPPLICATION
 - 2. He begged for MERCY for his SON
 - C. He said his son was a “LUNATIC”
 - 1. Indicated his condition was SEVERE
 - 2. Indicated his condition was LIFE THREATENING

- II. The INABILITY of the Disciples (Matt. 17:16)
 - A. He had BROUGHT the boy to THEM
 - B. “They could not CURE him” (cf. Matt. 10:6-8)

- III. The CONDITION of the Unbelieving (Matt. 17:17-18)
 - A. He called them an UNBELIEVING generation

- B. He called them a PERVERSE generation
- C. He asked TWO rhetorical QUESTIONS
 - 1. May indicate His DISMAY over their ATTITUDE
 - 2. May be a WARNING that He's LEAVING SOON
- D. He told the father to BRING his SON to Jesus
- E. He REBUKED the DEMON causing the affliction
 - 1. The demon "CAME OUT of him" (cf. Mk. 9:26-27)
 - 2. "And the boy was CURED at ONCE"

IV. The POWER of TRUE Faith (Matt. 17:19-21)

- A. The disciples asked why THEY had FAILED
- B. He cited "the LITTLENESS of your FAITH"
- C. He recommended "faith the sized of a MUSTARD SEED"
 - 1. Represents "littleness" that GROWS into GREATNESS
 - 2. Represents PERSISTANT and PRODUCTIVE growth
- D. He said that with such, they could MOVE MOUNTAINS
- E. Promised NOTHING would be IMPOSSIBLE
 - 1. Only VALID within the framework of GOD'S WILL
 - 2. Only EFFECTIVE if exercised through dependent PRAYER
- F. We do not need GIANT faith, but TRUE faith