

This Kind

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Mike Miller

Straight Paths Bible Church

Mark 9:17-29 And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; 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. He answereth him, and saith, **O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me.** And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming. And he asked his father, **How long is it ago since this came unto him?** And he said, Of a child. And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us. Jesus said unto him, **If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.** And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief. When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, **Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.** And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead. But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose. And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, **Why could not we cast him out? And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.**

- I. This man was not the first or only parent to have a child like this.
 - A. He was like many who don't realize there are serious problems until it is too late.
 - B. Most folks don't realize anything is going on until the fully-matured fruit appears.
 - C. Wonderful thing that while men may give no hope in a case like this Jesus doesn't leave us in such a case.
 1. The disciples were asked for help and could give none – they said it was hopeless, probably blamed the father and said he was only reaping what he deserved.
 2. Jesus rebuked them all for their unbelief.
- II. This boy was always different – “**How long is it ago since this came unto him?**” – “of a child,” said the father.
 - A. There are many things that are developed in a child by circumstances, events, and acquaintances, but those things are not all that factors in.
 - B. We are born with a certain kind of personality, which is molded by the experiences and influences on our life, especially in the first few years of our life.
 - C. We may be born with flaws in our mental and emotional faculties as well as our physical body.
 1. Some people's minds just don't work in the normal fashion – this is an obvious fact.
 2. Some of this can be attributed to experiences and influences, as well, but it can also be caused by a defect they were born with.
 - D. These flaws or defects will be a major factor in our development.
 1. Their logic seems to be distorted “of a child.”
 - E. It is possible to help someone deal with these problems and cope with them so they can live a normal life and turn out right.

1. We do need to work at taking notice of these things and not be so busy or at ease about the matter that we let it go without dealing with it.
 - F. Most of the time people ignore these things, or call them “stages” the child is going through, or credit their abnormal behavior to some “disorder” they have, and the child ends up destroying himself – like this boy here.
- III. The problems this man had with his son are common ones now because there are a lot of these young men around these days.
- A. He had a dumb spirit, like many young people today – they can’t talk, and don’t know how to talk, especially to adults.
 1. They appear to live in another world separate from everyone else – especially people older than them.
 2. They have refused to find their place in life, the world, the family, and so they are so insecure they don’t want to risk even talking to anyone.
 - B. He was not only dumb, but he was deaf as well.

v. 25 - Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.

1. He would not listen – it was not because his ears did not work, he just simply did not want to hear what anyone else had to say.
2. Talking to him was like talking to a tree – he would not listen to anyone.
3. Reason had no effect on him at all.
4. No amount of preaching, reasoning, pleading, or terrifying stories of what had happened to others like him ever moved him.
- C. He was always falling.
 1. Into the water or the fire – drowning or getting burned, and always as a result of his own doings.
 2. He was always in trouble – he was always getting hurt, or nearly getting killed.
- D. Everywhere that this spirit led him it “teareth” him.
 1. This means to wreck, or to break to pieces.
 2. Surely this is the case with many young people today – their lives are wrecked and torn to pieces by the deaf and dumb spirit that possesses them, and the paths he leads them down.
 3. Young people now are being led by evil spirits and evil spiritual influence is in every part of their lives.
- E. He foameth and gnasheth with his teeth.
 1. He is never repentant, but always blaming others for the mess he is in.
 2. He never recognizes his own foolishness as the cause of his misery.
- F. He pineth away.
 1. His life gets more and more miserable and worthless to him.
 2. He loses his self-esteem and his reputation is marred by his own doings.
 3. Others think less and less of him – not more and more.
 4. His influence on others for good shrivels to nothing, as no one respects him anymore.
 5. He feels sorry for himself, and thinks he is just unlucky and mistreated and is only low and miserable because he didn’t get the breaks others got.
 6. Therefore, he is bitter and hateful and in a continual pity-party.
- G. The father cried out with tears (v. 24) – the closest loved ones are brokenhearted and in distress.

1. They are looking for help in whatever form it might come – just to deliver their loved one from this hopeless mess.

IV. Jesus says that there is no way for this kind to come forth except by prayer and fasting.

- A. Getting him under the right influence and a better environment will not do it.
- B. Reasoning with him and showing him the error of his way will not do it.
- C. Giving him responsibility and authority will not do it.
- D. There are no means available to us, or anyone else to deliver such a case as this except prayer and fasting.
- E. We are not dealing with a physical problem, but a spiritual one.
 1. Therefore, it is spiritual warfare – and the weapons of our warfare are NOT carnal.
 2. We do not depend or look to the same methods and deliverance that the world does. (drugs, therapy, etc.) These things are all weak against spiritual malignity, and don't get the job done.
- F. We must enter into another realm besides the one we have always worked in to deal with such a case as this.

2 Corinthians 10:4-6 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

- G. Our spiritual weapons are mighty through God
 1. We must realize that we are not the weapon, and we are not wielding the weapons, but God is.
 2. Our part in this is prayer and fasting, to get ourselves right and in tune with God, so He can work for us.
- H. Our spiritual weapons are mighty enough – *through God* - to the pulling down of strongholds.
 1. Places where the devil has become firmly entrenched.
 2. There is no case like this one that is beyond the reach of God.
- I. Casting down imaginations – that is thoughts.
 1. That foolish reasoning and wacky justification for what they are doing.
 2. That mind that is so warped and out of sync – God can fix it!
 3. God can cast all that junk down, while we never can with our reasoning, drugs, therapy, and other tactics that the world uses.
- J. Casting down every thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.
 1. This means to destroy violently – sometimes we don't have the guts for what God has to do to accomplish this.
 2. We must be careful to keep ourselves on God's side and working WITH God – not against Him.
- K. “And bringing into captivity EVERY thought to the obedience of Christ.”
 1. This kind CAN come forth – Hallelujah!

V. The weapons of our warfare – the means by which we hope to have the victory.

This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.

- A. Fasting – brings our own desires and opinions under control
 1. Because they are our first obstacle in being in one accord with God.

2. Somehow it clears our minds and opens our spiritual eyes – it raises our awareness and we are better fit to pray effectually.
3. It magnifies in our soul the importance of the battle we are in.
4. It has effects on us that we can't imagine until we do it.

B. Prayer – Asking God for help instead of others.

1. This man had asked other men (the disciples) for help – even though they were closest to Christ they could not help him – he had to go to Christ HIMSELF.
2. This is still true, and almost everyone seeks help in other people, and they look to other people for answers and explanations and some kind of trick or gimmick that will deliver them from their misery.
3. The answer and the deliverance will never come from any other person but Jesus Christ.
4. Being honest with God ...
 - a) About your faith, or lack of it – like the father of this boy did.
 - b) Your circumstances – realizing how bad they are and not making excuses or playing down the urgency of the situation.
 - c) Fact the fact of where this disaster is going to end if God himself does not intervene.
 - d) Your total dependence on Him – if He doesn't help you there is no where else to turn.
5. If you ever get to that point and cast all your care upon Him, you will find that He cares for you.