

PP Beautiful Feet: *Need of a true faith*

Part 8- Mark 9:14-29.

5/18-19/2019

Introduction

As we have been in this series by the name Beautiful Feet, I would like to look together the need of a true faith, how this father comes to Jesus asking for his son's well being. We are to ask God directly when we have a need as we will look into the book of **Mark 9:14-29**, please open your Bible as we read in the book, the chapter and verses mentioned before, let's take a look what truth we can get from this verses.

I would like to consider today not only the need of been healed, but the Salvation that comes from going directly to Jesus. A man has brought his son to the disciples of the Lord Jesus to be healed, but they failed to help the boy, then the father comes to Jesus and asks to be help on his disbelief.

-Jesus always comes to the rescue when there is a need.

PP *"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace ... who publishes salvation". Isaiah 52:7*

In the Gospel of Mark chapter nine, we find Jesus and a desperate father. He is a good father, and we are going to take on the context, a spiritual leader in the home, a role model, and the provider for his family. He takes his responsibilities seriously. He loves his son, and he is a father who is suffering. He is a man with a son in a desperate situation. Like any one of us whenever our children are sick, we wish to be the one with the sickness instead of them. As we watch Jesus reach this hurting father, it is important for us to keep in mind what is happening to Christ. The time of the encounter with a desperate father is the day after the transfiguration of Jesus. He along with Peter, James, and John descend from the top of the mountain from mount tabor to the plain below.

Referred to as the "holy mount" in **2 Peter 1:18**: Records of the Transfiguration are found in **Matthew 17:1, Mark 9:2, Luke 9:28**. From these narratives, we gather that Jesus went with His disciples from Bethsaida to the neighborhood of Caesarea Philippi, where Peter's memorable confession was made. Six or eight days later Jesus went up into a high mountain to pray, taking with Him Peter, James, and John. There He was transfigured before them. Descending the next day, He healed a demoniac boy. They left the radiant light of the transfiguration experience to enter the shadows of shame and confusion. On that occasion, Peter, James, and John were witnesses of Jesus, Moses, and Elijah talking about the coming death and resurrection of Jesus.

PP *"And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them" (Mark 9:2-3)*

The very divine, inner nature that had been hidden in his body of flesh was expressed before them in the same body. The normal external expression of our Lord in His humiliation was that of a man familiar with the suffering, the human weakness, the frail man, and aware of the fragility of humanity. The radiance of his glory suddenly shone through his humanity and through his clothes. Matthew tells us, "He made his face shine." It was like sunlight in pure gold, or the flash of a large carat of pure diamond.

Then, A voice from the cloud said:

PP *"This is my beloved Son, listen to him!" (v. 7)*

It is from that experience that we see Jesus with the three disciples who enter the mainstream of humanity with their desperate suffering. When Jesus sees the need of an emptiness in our heart, He is there, He comes directly to us and give us the response of the many questions we have inside of ours hearts, mind, and soul of any human being, specially for those who cries out for help, see those beautiful feet coming to you to rescue from those things.

- **THE DOUBLE DESPAIR OF THE DESPERATE. (MARK 9:14-18)**

Jesus returned to the nine disciples he had left in the valley.

There was a:

PP *"they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them." (v.14).*

It was a noisy scene. The scribes were arguing with the disciples. From the context in which they were probably harassing the disciples for their failure to try to expel a demon from a boy. They had tried to heal a child and had failed. Without a doubt, the scribes delighted in the failure and made fun of them. The scribes were making the best of the opportunity to criticize and belittle their Master. The scribes took the opportunity to put an end to the Savior and judged Jesus by judging by his disciples.

PP *"And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. (v.15).*

The people saw Jesus and were surprised to see him. Their presence took them by surprise. They were completely surprised. I really do not think it was the radiance of the persistent transfiguration in Him, because He had severely warned Peter, James, and John not to say anything.

PP *“he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.” (v.9).*

Imagine the feeling running through the veins of the disciples: confused, happy, ashamed, delighted to see him, betrayed insufficiency, questioning, and despair. Maybe the scribes' response was: "Oh no, not now."

Jesus asked them,

PP *“What are you arguing about with them?” (v.16).*

I think everyone was amazed by the sudden appearance of Jesus just at the moment when he was most needed by his disciples and a suffering father. It came as a surprise that it must suddenly appear at a time when the disciples had failed to help in a cruel desperate situation. Not only are the disciples humbled, but also the father, desperate, who drives himself more in despair. The scribes are very happy. Suddenly, Jesus appears almost out of nowhere when he did not expect. Jesus time is always perfect. Perhaps by the tone of his voice, they realized his authority and the crowd was silent. In the middle of the crowd, the agonized voice of a seriously injured father takes the opportunity and Jesus answered. Maybe he thinks there is a last chance. I am the reason for the commotion.

He says: "Teacher, I brought my son to you, who has a dumb spirit, who, wherever he takes it, shakes him, foams, grinds his teeth and dries up. ***“So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.” (Verses 17-18).***

-The evil spirits.

PP *“And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down” (vs. 17).*

The idea is to seize him as to take possession of him. The evil spirit makes the child his own possession. It seizes the child and pulls it down, and when he has the child on the floor, he causes seizures. The child grinds his teeth, with a loud shrill scream, and is left in an immobile state. The boy probably had scars from where he had fallen into the fire. The disciples were powerless in this situation. The scribes were probably happy because of the failure of the disciples. Ever wonder how many times this father had cried out to God for help? You can hear a strong appeal from his father echoing the crowd, "help us once." He expands the words of the father with force: "But if you are capable of doing anything, help us at once, if you have had compassion for us".

How does your faith response in this situation?

- **THE DARKNESS OF DOUBT (MARK 9:19-24)**

In verse nineteen, Jesus responds to the whole world so they can listen. Unbelieving generation! How long shall I be with you? How long will I endure? Bring it to me!. Everyone lacked the faith that takes possession of demons. The father of the child, the disciples of Jesus, and the scribes were all infidels. Jesus only trusts in the heavenly Father, why could not his disciples trust him? It was painful for him to have to "endure" all of them. Were they hopeless? Could He trust the future of the kingdom of God in their hands? Jesus was preparing them for his early departure. If they could not take possession of a demon in a child, how could they take the kingdom of God (the gospel) to all the ends of the earth? Everything depended on the disciples. We not only see the anguish of the father, but also the anguish of Jesus as He sees the unfaithful condition of his followers. I think the devil saw the situation and tried to take advantage of it.

-In a fierce expression of his contempt for Jesus.

PP *"when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth." (vs. 20).*

Observe well the attitude of the devil towards the presence of Jesus. "When he saw [Jesus] then the Spirit threw [the child] into a seizure..." The evil spirit tried to kill the child in the presence of the Creator. The convulsion occurred at the very moment when the demon saw Jesus. The demon "gravely" convulsed the child.

This has been happening since his childhood (vs. 21).

PP *"And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him." (vs. 22).*

The intense and tender love of the father for his son can be heard in his last plea ***"But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."*** (vs.22). Jesus' response is equally intense. "The question is not whether I am capable, but if you believe," Jesus places a strong emphasis on faith, on this occasion.

PP *"if you can"! All things are possible for one who believes." (vs. 23).*

It is a play on word in the original. "If it can be, all things can be possible to those who believe." As for you "if you can believe." "Everything is possible for who believes." Matthew shares with us a little more of the evidence. He quotes Jesus when he was with all the disciples in private. ***"Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."*** (Matthew 17:20). They have less faith than a grain. It only takes a grain of faith. I have heard many people speaking in our day, trying to "work the faith" with loud cries and screams, as if God is

deaf and have to wake him up. The faith of a mustard seed is the simple trust in which he lives.

What was the father's response?

PP *"Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, 'I believe, help my unbelief!'. (Vs.24)*

It is an "anxious, frightened cry" of faith.

The father asked for continued help of his unbelief. "This all the time helping my disbelief." It was an immediate response to Jesus' demand for full trust in him. "I'm believing, I'm constantly helping my little faith." "Continue moment by moment and day by day to come to my aid, so that I can overcome my disbelief."

Thanks' God for the compassion of Jesus. He does not just sweep the man aside or said to the father I cannot help you. Jesus met for the first time the spiritual need of the father bringing him to a centered faith. It surprises me once again how Jesus dealt with this man. Jesus took it from fear, frustration, despair, doubt, and the faltering faith of a place of trust. He shouted: "Help me, if you can." In their face-to-face encounter with Jesus their faith began to come to life, "I believe, help my disbelief, remove my doubts, and fill me with an unquestionable faith in You." Jesus still takes us to where we are in our spiritual life and leads us to an intimate love relationship with him.

Believe in God vs. personal faith

We do not need to go too far to find the answer. Millions of people around the world read the Bible and go to church to hear the Word of God; these acts can be considered as statements of faith in what we read and hear. However, what happens when it comes to faith for our own life? Do we really have faith that the Word of God can be fulfilled in our lives?

For example, when we hear the verse,

PP *"Give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:18)*

Do we really give thanks for everything? Or do we just give thanks for the good things? It is easy enough to give thanks for the good things, but we must give thanks in everything. Another example, when we hear that we should not get angry or bitter, do we really believe that we can do it? Learning to control oneself and not letting anger guide our words and actions is good, not letting bitterness show when we talk to someone is also good, but do we really believe that by God's grace we can not get angry or to be bitter in the first instance? (*Ephesians 4:31*).

Let me use this illustration, electric cables are the mere means of bringing power into your homes. There are the distant generators, a hundred miles away perhaps, in some hydroelectric stations. Here in our homes are the hairdryers, toasters, standard lamps, and computers. The electric flex, the underground cables, and the high voltage wire all join our lives to the generators in the mountains. We never talk about flex, cable, and wires. We never even think about all that, however how indispensable they are. They are the channels for the power to enter and warm or enlighten our lives. Faith is like those cables. It is a connecting grace. It is utterly indispensable, but all it does is plug us into the fullness of God in Christ. He is the one who saves and keeps us when we are joined to him. When we face our own sinful nature and see how deep is its fall and how easy it is for us not to achieve salvation, we can cry out in our hearts: "Dear God, I know that You exist and that your Word is true, but help me to believe that it is possible for me to live according to it! "

All good things come from God, and bad things and all the problems of sin. When we receive faith that we can truly stop sinning and live according to the Word of God, and not really get angry or bitter, we can have a truly good life, just as God wants us to have.

I will conclude with this:

Something can happen in you!

I personally was born into a family going to church and have been an active member all my life. I never had problems, thinking that the Bible was wrong or was false, but coming to a faith for my own life that the Word of God and His will can be fulfilled in me, was a big step beyond the faith of a child who believes in what he hears. This cry of "help my unbelief" not only happens once in a lifetime, but every day when we encounter sin and our human nature that prevents us from putting our lives in order with the Word of God and His will.

PP *"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30).*

Do you have faith that the Word of God can be fulfilled in your own life? Do you think you can turn your life into the glorious words you read? When we find this great lack of faith in our lives we can really cry out, "I believe, help my unbelief!" It is not a failure of faith to have this prayer in our lives, it comes from a deep need to live a life that is pleasing to God.

Amen.!!!!

Let's Pray .