

The Church's Call to Faith, Service & Suffering

Jesus comes down the mountain to deal with the disciples' inability and lack of faith

Matthew 17:9-23

- I. Introduction: Great disappointments in culture and in the Bible

The reality of this age is that disciples cannot live on the mountain top, but in the New Covenant, Jesus comes down the mountain with us

- II. **vss. 9-13:** The conversation about Elijah

The disciples' inability to understand the internal work of the Gospel

The promise of the coming of Elijah – Malachi 3:1, 4:5-6

John the Baptist is the metaphorical Elijah who fulfills Malachi's prophecy

How did John *restore all things*?

How the church has failed to show this to be true

- III. **vss. 14-20:** The healing of an epileptic boy

The disciples' inability to exercise faith enough to be able to serve others

An epileptic boy who is at the mercy of demons intent to destroy him

Jesus is exasperated by the inability of his disciples

The problem: little-faith / the solution: A little faith

Mustard seed-faith is demonstrated in trusting prayer (Mark 9:28-29)

Mustard seed-faith really is a *little* faith, and that's all that's needed

- IV. **vss. 22-23:** Jesus' second passion prediction

The disciples' inability to understand the need for the Messiah to suffer and die

Your call to faith, service and suffering