

**MATTHEW:
THE GOSPEL
OF THE KINGDOM**

Mustard Seed Faith

Matthew 17:14-20

A Moving Scene (14-16)

And when they came to the crowd,
a man came up to him and, kneeling before
him, said, "Lord, have *mercy* on my son,
for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly.
For often he falls into the fire, and often
into the water.
And I brought him to your disciples, and
they could not heal him."

Jesus' Response (17)

And Jesus answered,
"O faithless and twisted generation,
how long am I to be with you?
How long am I to bear with you?

Bring him here to me."

Jesus Acts (18)

And Jesus rebuked the demon,
and it came out of him,
and the boy was healed instantly.

The Disciples' Question (19)

Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?"

Jesus' Answer (20)

He said to them, "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."

The Important "Missing" Verse (21/Mk9:29)

But this kind never comes out except by prayer [and fasting].

Application/Participation

- The **central lesson** has to do with the disciples as a negative example of little faith and Jesus' attitude toward it.
- The *antidote* to little faith is *persistent prayer* and *undaunted pursuit* of mercy from Jesus.
- The father was an example of mustard seed faith...his faith continued even in the midst of apparent failure from Jesus' top disciples and all human means.

Application/Participation

- Is there something that *you* have given up on prematurely, assuming the Lord will not work, or have prayed little for?
- Do not allow the doctrine of God's sovereignty prematurely undermine Jesus' large promise.
- Remember! Jesus is the one who *commands* us to *keep bugging* God (Lk11:1-13) even in the face of His apparent non-responsiveness.
- Perhaps there are things God would do among us if we would seek Him more earnestly in persistent prayer.

Application/Participation

- The transfiguration was a display of Jesus' visible glory.
- This event is a display of His redeeming and healing glory!
 - Both will be on full display when He comes again.
 - How will you live in this hope in this coming week? Particularly, how will it motivate your prayers?
 - What are some ways that this will affect your outlook and joy?
