



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Littleness of Faith

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In the Gospel According to Luke (AD 60-61), Luke, a Gentile, is writing to Theophilus so that he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke provided numerous testimonies of Jesus' identity as the Savior and Messiah. Jesus, during His ministry, traveled to many cities sharing scripture, teaching, forgiving sin, physically healing people of demons and disease, and raising the dead. Jesus began to challenge the religious rituals of the day and most importantly preached the Kingdom of God. Jesus is over half way through His 3 year ministry when He sends His select 12 common men to heal and preach. Jesus' impact became known to the common and to the royalty. God provided a rare glimpse of the kingdom of God through Jesus transfiguration on the mountain and now Luke records what happen the next day after this event.

“On the next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met Him. And a man from the crowd shouted, saying, “Teacher, I beg You to look at my son, for he is my only boy, and a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly screams, and it throws him into a convulsion with foaming at the mouth; and only with difficulty does it leave him, mauling him as it leaves. “I begged Your disciples to cast it out, and they could not.” And Jesus answered and said, “You unbelieving and perverted generation, how long shall I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here.” While he was still approaching, the demon slammed him to the ground and threw him into a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the boy and gave him back to his father. And they were all amazed at the greatness of God.” (Luke 9:37-43 NASB Mt 17:14-18; Mk 9: 14-27)

The day after a glimpse of glory. In the verses preceding this passage, Peter, James and John uniquely saw a rare glimpse of the kingdom of God through Jesus transfigured into the shining internal glory of Christ and exhibited externally in His face and body. As the four came down from the mountain a large crowd greeted Jesus.

A man, a student of Jesus, asks Jesus to heal his only son. Luke records that the man called Jesus, Teacher. This ‘only son’ is one of several examples that Luke sites in his gospel where a parent of an only child is begging Jesus to heal or drive away demons. This man had begged Jesus’ apostles to cast the demons out.

The disciples could not cast the demons from the son. *Why were the remaining nine apostles unable to cast the demons from the boy? Jesus had equipped His chosen 12 common men. Jesus gave them power, the ability to do things, and authority, the right to do things. He gave them power and authority over all sickness and “... to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.” (Lk 9:1-2; Mt10:1) Jesus was equipping and giving them some of the powers and authority that only He possessed and then sent the 12 chosen common men to accomplish His will. And they did so for a period of time. So why did it not happen this time? In the gospel of Matthew we find the answer; “Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not drive it out?” And He said to them, “Because of the littleness of your faith;..” (Mt 17: 19-20a)*

Unbelieving and perverted generation. Jesus was disappointed in the lack of faith in those around Him. *Faith is believing what God says is true just because God said it.* Jesus had given the apostles the power and authority to heal and cast of demons, but the apostles at times had little and not great faith. They could not cast out demons and that was driven by their little faith. Their faith over time had weakened.

Jesus rebukes and heals. Luke records that Jesus rebuked the demons, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. Again, the apostles, disciples, crowd and all were amazed by Jesus and the greatness of God.

For Your Consideration:

- Do you have faith and believe that what God says is true, is true just because He said it?
- Do you have no faith, little faith or great faith in God's truth? Does it weaken and/or grow over time?
- How do you grow your faith? Prayer, scripture, fasting?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44