

JESUS' TEACHINGS ON DISCIPLESHIP

BIBLE TEXT : Matthew 17:14-21; Luke 9:51-62

LESSON 115 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you" (Matthew 17:20).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Matthew 17:14-21 (KJV)

¹⁴ And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a *certain* man, kneeling down to him, and saying,

¹⁵ Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water.

¹⁶ And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him.

¹⁷ Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me.

¹⁸ And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour.

¹⁹ Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?

²⁰ And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

²¹ Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

Luke 9:51-62 (KJV)

⁵¹ And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem,

⁵² And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I Healing of the Boy Possessed with a Dumb Spirit

1 A son is vexed because of devil possession, Matthew 17:14, 15;

Mark 9:14-29 (KJV)

¹⁴ And when he came to *his* disciples, he saw a great multitude about them, and the scribes questioning with them.

¹⁵ And straightway all the people, when they beheld him, were greatly amazed, and running to *him* saluted him.

¹⁶ And he asked the scribes, What question ye with them?

¹⁷ And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit;

¹⁸ 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.

¹⁹ 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.

²⁰ 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.

²¹ And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child.

²² 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.

²³ Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things *are* possible to him that believeth.

²⁴ And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.

²⁵ 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.

²⁶ 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.

²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose.

²⁸ And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out?

²⁹ And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.

Luke 9:37-42 (KJV)

³⁷ And it came to pass, that on the next day, when they were come down from the hill, much people met him.

³⁸ And, behold, a man of the company cried out, saying, Master, I beseech thee, look upon my son: for he is mine only child.

³⁹ And, lo, a spirit taketh him, and he suddenly crieth out; and it teareth him that he foameth again, and bruising him hardly departeth from him.

⁴⁰ And I besought thy disciples to cast him out; and they could not.

⁴¹ And Jesus answering said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you, and suffer you? Bring thy son hither.

⁴² And as he was yet a coming, the devil threw him down, and tare *him*. And Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the child, and delivered him again to his father.

2 The power of the disciples is limited by a lack of faith, fasting, and prayer, Matthew 17:16-21

3 Jesus heals the boy, Matthew 17:18

II Rejection of Christ by the Samaritans

1 The Samaritans do not receive Christ, Luke 9:51-53;

John 4:9 (KJV)

⁹ Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that

make ready for him.

⁵³ And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem.

⁵⁴ And when his disciples James and John saw *this*, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?

⁵⁵ But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.

⁵⁶ For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save *them*. And they went to another village.

⁵⁷ And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain *man* said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.

⁵⁸ And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air *have* nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay *his* head.

⁵⁹ And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.

⁶⁰ Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.

⁶¹ And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house.

⁶² And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.

2 James and John want them to be destroyed, Luke 9:54;

2 Kings 1:10 (KJV)

¹⁰ And Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, If I be a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And there came down fire from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.

3 Jesus came to save, not to destroy, Luke 9:55, 56;

Luke 19:10 (KJV)

¹⁰ For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

III The Halfhearted Followers

1 "The Son of man hath not where to lay his head," Luke 9:57, 58;

Matthew 6:25 (KJV)

²⁵ Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

2 The call of Christ takes first place, Luke 9:59, 60;

Matthew 6:33 (KJV)

³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

3 Once started, do not look back, Luke 9:61, 62;

Luke 17:32 (KJV)

³² Remember Lot's wife.

Philippians 3:13-14 (KJV)

¹³ Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

¹⁴ I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

NOTES:

All Things Are Possible

When Jesus came down from the Mount of Transfiguration with Peter, James, and John, the multitude was greatly amazed. No doubt His face still reflected the glory of the Father as did Moses' when he came down from Mount Sinai. Upon reaching the multitude, Jesus observed that the scribes were questioning the disciples, perhaps about their inability to heal a boy who was possessed with a dumb spirit. The father of this boy had brought him to the disciples for healing. They had tried to cast out the devil but could not. Jesus rebuked the devil, and the child was healed. "Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you."

Often we hear quoted, "With God all things are possible," but Jesus also declared, "If ye have faith ... nothing shall be impossible unto you."

The Way of Faith

Many people want to do works to please God, but Abraham pleased God by also believing Him. Jesus said, "This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent" (John 6:29). "The just shall live by faith" (Hebrews 10:38). How to get faith is the question in many minds. If there is something in your life that hinders, if there is something that clogs the faith channels through which the blessings could flow, the Lord is faithful to disclose it and reveal to your knowledge just what hinders your faith. The trouble with many people is that they do not walk in the light which God sheds upon their pathway. When God sends His shafts of truth down into their hearts, they think they can tell for whom it is, but do not believe it is for themselves. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God, if we hear with a purpose of

doing the Word.

Holding On

After telling His disciples that it was because of their unbelief that they could not cast out the devil, Jesus said, "Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting." This lets us know that one who possesses faith does not give up when prayers are not answered immediately, but keeps on trusting like Abraham who "staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness" (Romans 4:20-22).

The Prejudiced Samaritans

Because of their prejudices the Samaritans passed up the opportunity that was theirs to receive Christ. The woman at Jacob's well voiced the opinion of the Samaritans, "Our fathers worshipped in this mountain." No doubt it was because Christ was going to Jerusalem and not stopping to worship in the mountain of Samaria that caused these Samaritans to reject Christ. Many people today let false reports and opinions of friends keep them away from the true Gospel. If a person is honest and open to the truth he will recognize the truth regardless of the evil that may be spoken against it.

Jesus' Mission

In their zeal for their Master, James and John wanted to destroy these Samaritans, but Jesus rebuked them with the words, "The Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them." In these few words Jesus expressed His mission to the earth — Salvation. The message of the angel was, "He shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). The attitude of Christ toward those who rejected Him was that of mercy. When crucified, He prayed, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). Jesus wants His followers to love their enemies. Peter told of Christ, "Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not" (I Peter 2:23). Paul testified, "Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day" (I Corinthians 4:12, 13).

Self-Denial

"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Luke 9:23). When a certain man said to Jesus; "Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest," the reply of Jesus was, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head." This reply explains a little of the meaning of the words of Jesus, "Let him deny himself." The Creator of Heaven and of earth — He "for whom are all things, and by whom are all things" — set the example of self-denial by leaving Heaven and taking on the form of a servant and dwelling among men. "The Son of man hath not where to lay his head." It is easy for some people to become so concerned with their homes, work, and temporal affairs that they do not have time to follow Christ.

Paul warned against worldly entanglements, using the example of the soldier. "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." It takes a surrender of one's life to God to become a Christian. Afterward there is a dying daily — a denying of one's self to continue in the way.

God First

To the call, "Follow me," a man replied, "Suffer me first" That

is the attitude of many who hear the call of God. They say, "Let me first do something else, and then I will serve God." God demands first consideration, the first place in our hearts. His commandment in the Old Testament was, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." Israel broke that commandment many times and served idols. In essence, many are breaking that commandment today in allowing temporal pursuits to take first place in their lives. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness."

Once in the way, keep your eyes on the goal and your heart set upon the prize at the end of the way. If you begin to look back, thinking about those things you left behind, you will deviate from the course and miss the mark. Looking back will make you unfit for the Kingdom of God. Be like Paul who said, "I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13, 14).

QUESTIONS

- 1 Describe the condition of the boy mentioned in Matthew 17:15.
- 2 What caused this condition?
- 3 Why could not the disciples heal him?
- 4 What did Jesus say we could do if we had faith?
- 5 What was the attitude of James and John toward the Samaritans who would not receive Christ?
- 6 How did Jesus feel toward the Samaritans?
- 7 What was the reply of Jesus to the man who said, "I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest"?
- 8 What did Jesus mean by the statement, "Let the dead bury their dead"?
- 9 Analyze the attitudes of the three men mentioned in Luke 9:57-62.