

“Table Talk” Service Questions

The Boy with an Unclean Spirit: March 26, 2023

Part 1: Setting the Scene: The Context of Mark 9:14-29 (5-7 Mins)

Context: Jesus and his “inner-Circle” disciples, (Peter, James, and John) were returning from a high mountain where they saw Jesus, Moses, and Elijah transfigured. As they approached the “other” disciples, there was a great crowd gathered, with much commotion involving the scribes and the other disciples. When the crowd saw Jesus, they greeted him amidst the uproar. A Story was about to Unfold.

Read Scriptures (Section 1)

14 And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. 15 And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him.

16 And he asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” 17 And someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. 18 And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.”

19 And he answered them, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me.” 20 And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth.

Table Talk Discussions (Part 1)

1. If you saw Jesus approaching you for the first time, how do you think you would respond? Would you ask him a question? If so, what?
2. What was all the Commotion About? What did the father have to do with this? What is an unclean spirit?
3. What was the unclean spirit doing? Do you believe they are real? How many of these entities were there?
4. Jesus proclaims they are a “faithless generation.” Share your thoughts to that comment. How would Jesus describe “your” generation?
5. How did the unclean spirit respond to Jesus.

Focused Teaching (Your Personal Notes)

Read the Next Section (Section 2)

21 And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. 22 And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." 23 And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible for one who believes."

24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" 25 And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again."

26 And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, "He is dead." 27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.

28 And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" 29 And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer"

Table Talk Discussion (Part 2)

1. In verse 21, before Jesus does anything to the boy (Note that he was convulsing, rolling, foaming at the mouth in verse 20), he has a conversation with the father. Why was he talking to the father and not the son? Why would gathering this kind of information be important before any deliverance is done?
2. What information does Jesus (Or anyone in his situation today) discover from the father that would be helpful for Jesus to understand what is going on?
3. What kind of spirit did Jesus identify? Knowing this, try to place yourself in this boy's shoes. If you are a parent, try to express how you would feel? If you are a student, how would this make you feel if this was your best friend?
4. How did Jesus cast this demon out? What did Jesus say to assure that the unclean spirit would NOT enter him again? How would this be helpful if you came across a person with an unclean spirit?
5. What was the sign that the unclean spirit inside the boy left? Why were the other disciples unsuccessful in their quest to cast out the unclean spirit?

Focused Teaching (Your Personal Notes)