

The Gospel of Luke

Unbelief and Misunderstanding

Luke 9:37-45

1. **A Troubling Situation** (vs.37-40)

During the time of Christ's transfiguration, the other disciples remained with the crowd and continued to interact with them. While Jesus had given all of the twelve the power to do mighty works for the people (Luke 9:1; cf. Matt 10:8; Mark 6:7), they were unable to exercise power over this particular demon.

A. **A Determined Father** (vs.37-38a)

This man has brought his only son (cf. Luke 7:12; 8:42) to Jesus in order that he might be delivered from his very serious affliction.

B. **A Pitiful Son** (vs.38b-39)

For years this young boy has been tormented by a violent demon who will attempt to kill him by seizing and throwing him into water or fire (Matt 17:15). Though not yet fatal, the attacks of the demon render him unable to speak or move and cause him to endure violent seizures (Mark 9:17-18).

C. **The Powerless Disciples** (v.40)

The nine apostles who did not accompany Jesus (cf. Luke 9:28) had attempted to deliver the boy from this demon but they were unable to do so.

D. **The Scoffing Scribes** (Mark 9:14-18)

Several scribes had witnessed the powerlessness of the disciples and had seized the opportunity to discredit Jesus and His disciples with the crowd.

2. **A Scathing Rebuke** (v.41)

The nine disciples are the primary recipients of Jesus' rebuke. He calls them "unbelieving" because they didn't believe what He had told them (cf. Mark 6:7), and "perverted" because they continued to misunderstand His message.

3. **A Desperate Solicitation** (Mark 9:19-24)

The boy's father still earnestly desires Jesus to heal his son. Even though he is uncertain about what Jesus can do, he pleads for healing and for sufficient faith.

4. **A Powerful Deliverance** (vs.42-43a)

Jesus commanded the demon to leave and it obeyed (Mark 9:26). Everyone was amazed at Jesus authority over a very powerful demon (cf. Luke 8:26ff).

5. **A Difficult Message** (vs.43b-45)

This is the first time that Jesus tells the disciples that He will be betrayed. This was very concerning (Matt 17:23) and difficult to understand, but the disciples were afraid and did not ask Jesus to explain any further.