

Jesus Heals a Demon-Possessed Boy
Matthew 17:14-27 (Mark 9:14-32; Luke 9:37-45)

A Boy Is Healed

(Now it happened on the next day, when they had come down from the mountain that He came to the disciples.)

¹⁴ And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying,
¹⁵ "Lord, have mercy on my son, (for he is my only child) for he is an epileptic and suffers severely (a spirit seizes him and he suddenly cries out; it convulses him so that he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid; and it departs from him with great difficulty, bruising him); for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. ¹⁶ So I brought him to Your disciples, but 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 bear with you? Bring him here to Me." ¹⁸ And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.

¹⁹ Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" ²⁰ So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. ²¹ However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."

Jesus Again Predicts His Death and Resurrection

²² Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, ²³ and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up." And they were exceedingly sorrowful.

Peter and His Master Pay Their Taxes

²⁴ When they had come to Capernaum, those who received the *temple* tax came to Peter and said, "Does your Teacher not pay the *temple* tax?" ²⁵ He said, "Yes." And when he had come into the house, Jesus anticipated him, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take customs or taxes, from their sons or from strangers?" ²⁶ Peter said to Him, "From strangers." Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are free. ²⁷ Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you."

Questions:

1. Why do you think the father went into so much detail describing to Jesus what was wrong with his son?
2. Did this boy have epilepsy or was he demon-possessed? How do you distinguish between the two?
3. Who was Jesus referring to when He said "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you and bear with you?" Do you think this indicates Jesus was frustrated?
4. In Mark 9:19-25 why did Jesus take so long asking for further details? What good could this accomplish? Explain what the father meant in vs 24 "I believe; help my unbelief!"?
5. If the disciples had at least some faith (Matt 17:20), why was this not enough to expel the demon? What is mountain-moving faith?
6. Jesus said "this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting." Are there different kinds of demons?
7. Seeking to pass through Galilee unnoticed (Mark 9:30) Jesus again told His own disciples about His coming death. Why does He say in Luke 9:44 "Let these words sink down into your ears"?
8. What is different in their reaction this time compared to Matt 16:21-25? Mark and Luke say they did not understand (it was hidden from them) and they were afraid to ask? Why were they afraid to ask?
9. Why did those who collected the temple tax come to Peter asking if their Teacher did not pay the tax? Why not come to Jesus directly? Why did Peter say "Yes"?
10. On what basis could Jesus claim exemption from the tax? Why did Jesus anticipate Peter when he came home? Why did Jesus decide to pay the tax through a miracle that only Peter knew about?