



## The Gospel According To MATTHEW

### Chapter 17:14-27

## *“Faith as a Mustard Seed”*

Go for God!

> **LET'S LEARN THREE PRINCIPLES OF FAITH:**

**#1 - FAITH FOR SPIRITUAL WARFARE!**

**#2 - FAITH FOR OUR FUTURE!**

**#3 - FAITH FOR OUR DAILY LIVING!**

> **FAITH Principle #1 – (v14-21) WE NEED FAITH FOR SPIRITUAL WARFARE!**

(v15) In two other gospels we have more information regarding this boy's condition; first in Mark 9:17-18 - *Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not."*

Secondly, Luke 9:38-40 - *Suddenly a man from the multitude cried out, saying, "Teacher, I implore You, look on my son, for he is my only child. And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out; it convulses him so that he foams at the mouth; and it departs from him with great difficulty, bruising him. So I implored Your disciples to cast it out, but they could not."*

(v17) Jesus explains why they were unable to cast the demon out of the boy by saying that the people were *“faithless and perverse.”*

- *Faithless* means they did not believe in God in a real and active sense; in 2 Timothy 3:5 we are told that people will *have a form of godliness but deny its power.*

- The word *perverse* is *diastrepho* (Gk.), which *means to distort, to misinterpret, to twist, or to be morally corrupt.* Jesus emphasis is on their lack of spiritual discernment, for they would explain everything away via the physical, much like today's generation. In fact, Jesus said in Luke 18:8 - *Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"*

- I read an article in a *Barna Survey* which stated that only 9% of Christians have a biblical worldview. In other words, they say their Christians, but they don't believe the Word of God, the Bible. Remember, *“Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”* (Rom. 10:17)

(v18) *How do people, even children become demon possessed?*

For some it's directly inviting Satan into their life, and for others it may happen through their worship in false religions.

- In the Old Testament we read, Leviticus 17:7 - *They shall no more offer their sacrifices to demons, after whom they have played the harlot. This shall be a statute forever for them throughout their generations."*

- Deuteronomy 32:17-18 - *They sacrificed to demons, not to God, to gods they did not know, to new gods, new arrivals that your fathers did not fear. Of the Rock who begot you, you are unmindful, and have forgotten the God who fathered you.*

- In Psalm 106:37-38 - *They even sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons, and shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan; and the land was polluted with blood.*

- In the New Testament we read in 1 Corinthians 10:20-21 - *Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons.*

- In the Scriptures we discover that false religions were developed through demons - 1 Timothy 4:1 - *Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.*

- What do idols and/or religious statues represent?

In Revelation 9:20-21 we read, *But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries (Gk. – pharmakeus – illicit drugs) or their sexual immorality (porneias – illicit sexual behavior, sex outside of marriage, adultery, homosexuality, incest, bestiality) or their thefts.*

- Drug addiction can become a gateway to demon possession, as well as satanic music, games, New Age practices, meditation, channeling, etc.

(v19-20) The disciples could not cast out the demon, why? *Unbelief!*

Sometimes difficult circumstances or horrible situations get our minds off Jesus and on to the event at hand. Instead of reacting by faith, even faith as a mustard seed, we are paralyzed by unbelief, fear, or self-sufficiency.

- Do you have faith as a mustard seed? I pray you do, and if you do, you will move mountains!

(v21) This kind of demon *does not go out except by prayer and fasting*. Some demons are more powerful than others and it takes prayer and fasting to affect these spiritual forces of darkness, and wickedness.

- Jesus prayed and fasted for forty days, then battled with the devil and was victorious over his attacks through the Word of God, *“It is written”* (Matthew Ch. 4:1-11).

- We are commanded to put on the *armor of God*, Ephesians 6:10-20.

- Faith for spiritual warfare is active through prayer, fasting and the Word of God!

As warriors for Christ we must pray for the gifts of the Spirit to work in us!

In 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 - *There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.*

*But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*

To every Christian I declare like Paul, we must *“Fight the good fight of faith!”*

> FAITH Principle #2 – (v22-23) WE NEED FAITH FOR THE FUTURE!

Why were they sorrowful? It appears that they only listened to the first half of the statement, *betrayed and killed*. What about the *resurrection*?

- Let's read 1 Corinthians 15:35-58. Have faith for the future it's going to be AWESOME!!!

> **FAITH Principle #3 – (v24-27) WE NEED FAITH FOR OUR DAILY NEEDS!**

Question: Do we have to pay taxes?

- Jesus and Peter paid taxes according to this passage.

- Paul writes in Romans 13:1-7 - *Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.*

Jesus said in Mark 12:17 - *"Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."*

- Observation: Notice how Jesus miraculously provides, even for taxes. As we live for God, we can trust God for our daily needs; Paul writes in Philippians 4:19-20 - *And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

- Also, in the "Sermon on the Mount" Jesus teaches us to have faith in Matthew 6:25-34 - *"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? "So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.*

- Peter, who experienced this event firsthand, later writes in his epistle "casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7)

**Right now, let's have FAITH FOR SPIRITUAL WARFARE!**

**Right now, let's have FAITH FOR OUR FUTURE!**

**Right now, let's have FAITH FOR OUR DAILY LIVING!**

**NOW, LET'S GO4GOD!!!**