

The Powerless Disciples: A Great Lesson on Faith and Power

Mathew 17: 14–20

(Mk 9:14-29; Lk 9:37-42)

1. *The availability of power*

- a. Jesus joined the crowd after the transfiguration
- b. Jesus was approached by a desperate man

2. *The tragedy of no power*

- a. A desperate need unmet:
Had often gone unmet
- b. A frantic disappointment
- c. An embarrassing situation:
Could not heal him

3. *The rebuke of no power*

- a. His presence will not always be available
- b. His patience was limited
- c. His power broke the power of Satan

4. *The clear reason for no power: Unbelief*

5. *The great power of faith promised*

14 When they came to the crowd,
a man approached Jesus and knelt before him.

15 “Lord, have mercy on my son,” he said.
“He has seizures and is suffering greatly.
He often falls into the fire or into the water.

16 I brought him to your disciples,
but they could not heal him.”

17 “O unbelieving and perverse generation,”
Jesus replied,
“how long shall I stay with you?
How long shall I put up with you?
Bring the boy here to me.”

18 Jesus rebuked the demon,
and it came out of the boy,
and he was healed from that moment.

19 Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked,
“Why couldn’t we drive it out?”

20 He replied, “Because you have so little faith.
I tell you the truth,
if you have faith as small as a mustard seed,
you can say to this mountain,
‘Move from here to there’ and it will move.
Nothing will be impossible for you.”