

Luke 9:37-45 – The demon-possessed boy

Some days are glorious. They are “mountain-top” days. Peter and James and John had just had **the** mountain-top day. They saw the glory of Jesus. They saw Moses and Elijah, and heard the voice of God himself. Peter had said, “let us stay here!” Christians sometimes have great days in the Spirit when they see much more of the glory and love of Jesus. But, such days are few in this life. Below, there is a world of sin and suffering to face. Jesus took them down the mountain. He must continue on the path to the cross.

1. A terrible situation (v37-40)

There was a great crowd eager to see Jesus. There was one man in particular who had an only son. Others were arguing with him. That son was attacked by a demon. The demon threw him down into fits and tried to destroy him. This had been happening since childhood. This is a picture of an unsaved person. Unsaved people are in a state of sin. Satan uses sin to ruin them. Sin never does good for us, but only leads us to destruction. Sinners behave madly, as if there were no God watching them and ready to judge them. They are like this from birth. The man had brought him to the disciples, but they had not healed him (we are told in Mark 9:29 this was because of a lack of prayer in them). The man was very distressed. He was not sure if Jesus could help him, but he begged him. He felt desperate. Could Jesus do anything?

2. A mighty and gracious Saviour (v41-42)

Jesus came down from the mountain of glory to serve these weak people. There is his grace and mercy. Though he is high, yet he has kindness to the low. He did not abandon the boy because of his father or his disciples or the Jewish teachers there. He does not chase away the person with weak faith; nor should we. But he did rebuke them. They were unbelieving; he had taught them, but they had not obeyed. They were perverse; he had shown them the way, but they had not walked in it. They had wearied him – God's patience is not forever. His rebuke was strong, but given in love. Are we ready to be rebuked? We should not despair, or be proud, but humbly listen to the truth. The demon then made its final attempt to harm the boy. Jesus threw him out with just a word – that is his power. Jesus can forgive the sins of the worst person and make them a new person, in a moment. The real question is – do you believe, and have you gone to him in faith?

3. A mixture of responses (v43-45)

The people were amazed at God's greatness. They had seen truth about Jesus. Have you ever stopped to think of God's greatness? Are you amazed? It is part of our sin that we are blind to God's glory and do not think much about it. Jesus then taught his disciples something important. He would not take the kingdom by displays of power like this. It would come through the cross. He would be handed over and die. Though he was strong, yet he would give himself up to the death of Calvary. Because of sin, we cannot have an easy path to glory in this life. Salvation is only possible by the blood of Jesus, and we must also follow him and be ready to suffer for his name. Christianity is not about easy victories and easy glory. Few people believe this, so Jesus told them to take it very closely to heart. But they did not understand – it was different to what they expected and wanted. Many people today do not see the real Jesus, because they do not see what sin really is. How about you? Have you gone to him humbly for forgiveness?