

The Touch of Jesus

“Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.” (Luke 4:40)

Lessons from miracles Jesus did, as they are recorded in the Book of Luke.

LESSON 9: Healing a Child

“And as he was yet a coming, the devil threw him down, and tare him. And Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the child, and delivered him again to his father.” (Luke 8:46)

As you listen to the teacher, fill in the blanks!

1. How old was the dead girl that was raised? _____.
2. The woman who touched the Lord’s garment for healing had spent all her money on _____.
3. The girl’s father was told only to _____.

The story of the healing of a vexed child is found in Luke in chapter 9, verses 37 through 45, but in order to get the whole picture of what happened, we must start at verse 23 and read through 45. Verse 23 gives us the Lord’s great challenge to discipleship. Every true follower of Jesus must deny himself and take up his own cross *“daily.”* Those who do this will have a life that will be rewarded by the Lord at His second coming. After telling His disciples these things, the Lord Jesus said that *“some standing here”* will not *“taste of death till they see the kingdom of God”* (vs. 27—See also Matthew 16:28-17:3 and Mark 9:1-4). The meaning of this promise is found in the story that follows: the transfiguration. Up on a mountain the Lord Jesus Christ was *“altered in His appearance”* (vs. 29). His deity shined out through His humanity. The disciples who were with Him (the inner circle: Peter, James, and John) saw Moses and Elijah appear on the mountain and talk to Him about His coming *“decease”* (vs. 30-31). They were awed by the sights and sounds of this foretaste of the Kingdom (vs. 32-36). This experience followed them powerfully in their memories all of their lives. Late in his life, Peter wrote of it in the Second Epistle of Peter (See II Peter 1:15-18). When they came down from the mountain, they met a crowd of people that had gathered around a bad situation (vs. 37-40). There was a father and a boy with a problem who had come to the remainder of the disciples and asked for help. The boy had an *“unclean spirit”* which would abuse him terribly, but the disciples of Jesus *“could not”* cast him out. The Lord Jesus identified the problem and then healed the boy (vs. 41-43).

“On The Next Day”

Verse 28 tells us that at a certain time the Lord took three of His disciples *“and went up into a mountain to pray.”* It was there that the transfiguration took place. Then in verse 37 we read about *“when they were come down from the hill.”* It was at the bottom of the hill that the father and son were calling for help. The picture is vividly clear. We go up upon the mountain to get a vision of who Jesus is, and then we come down from the mountain to meet the needs of the world. That’s what happened to the prophet in Isaiah 6. He went into the temple to get a vision of the Lord of hosts, and then He answered God’s call to *“tell this people”* His message (Read the whole chapter if you can). Those times alone with the Lord are vital to our ministry to men. We need a vision of His majesty. You know, *“faith is ... the evidence of things not seen”* (Hebrews 11:1, 27). The very definition of faith involves *“seeing him who is invisible.”* Often we must get aside with Jesus *“alone”* (Luke 9:36) to renew this kind of vision and increase our faith. The accounts in Matthew and Mark (Matthew 17:21, Mark 9:29) include an admonition for *“prayer and fasting.”* You fast and pray when you skip meals to spend time alone with God. Such mountaintop experiences prepare us to meet the challenges down in the valley!

“Look Upon My Son”

Below the mountain, Jesus came to a crowd standing with a father and son. Verse 38 gives us the father’s intercession for his devil-possessed boy. This reminds us of a mother’s intercession for her daughter recorded in Mark 7:24-30. Intercession is praying for the needs of others. Read about it in Isaiah 59:12-18 and I Timothy 2:1-6. Things happen when people pray for others, and things don’t happen when there is *“no intercessor.”* We have already seen Jesus respond to the faith of others that wanted to help a friend in the story of the man with palsy (Luke 5:18-20). Who might experience a miracle if you began praying in earnest for him?

“Faithless and Perverse Generation”

It was a sad situation. The father had brought his son to the disciples of Jesus to deliver the boy from an unclean spirit, and they could not solve the problem. Of course, Jesus knew what was wrong. They lacked faith (vs. 40-41). The Lord had no problem casting out the devil, but these disciples (the ones who had not gone up the mountain) did not have enough faith to perform this miracle. We have seen again and again in the Book of Luke that our faith has a part in seeing God work on earth. Verse 43 reminds us that when mighty works are done through faith in God, it is God that gets the praise! Remember that we need to have faith in God’s Word, in God’s love, and in God’s power. Unbelief (lack of faith) dishonors the Lord and fails to see Him work to deliver men from evil. This account also says that unbelief is *“perverse.”* How can mortal man doubt God? What kind of twisted thinking produces this? To get an idea of how mixed up these disciples were, keep reading. Verse 40 shows us that they were powerless to meet a spiritual need. Verse 45 says that they were unable to understand their Lord’s words. Then verse 46 says that *“there arose a reasoning among them, which of them should be greatest.”* They certainly didn’t look very great at that time, but some perversity caused them to fuss about who was the greatest. Human pride and self-reliance is perverse and is evidenced in unbelief. Let’s go up the mountain to get a new vision of Jesus and renew our faith so that we can meet the needs of mankind and understand the ways of God!