

Bring Him Unto Me

He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I suffer you? Bring him unto me.

– Mark 9:19 –

The scene at the base of the mountain following Christ's transfiguration is a pathetic one. The multitudes were gathered, and there was some commotion about a man with a demon-possessed son. The spiritual affliction was self-destructive. This devil not only made his host deaf and dumb, but would often drive the young man to throw himself into the flames, or to cast himself to drown in deep waters. It had been a years-long ordeal. What exactly this young man had delved into during his boyhood in order to invite such an evil presence into his life, we are not told. Given our contemporary societal condition, however, and being witness ourselves to the devil's increasing enchantments of young minds, we can imagine the type of occultic influence that must have ceased hold of this man's heart at an early age. Whatever it was, this demon had an open invitation and was not letting go. The lad's father in desperation came seeking Jesus to release him from this hellish possession. When he arrived, only nine disciples were present. But they would do, would they not? After all, they were Jesus' hand-picked men. He brought him to them, only to be sorely disappointed that the demon proved tenaciously more committed to continue to cling to his son.

When Jesus arrives with Peter, James, and John, the father desperately accosts Him, "Lord, have mercy on my son!" And then the inadvertent yet stinging indictment, "And I brought him to thy disciples; and they could not cure him." Jesus' response is so august and authoritative, it makes us wonder in worshipful admiration, "Bring him unto me." The Lord's subsequent command elicits a violent exit of the demon, but all is soon well. The young man is cured, and like the maniac of Gadara, once again in his right mind. So simple, yet so powerful – that's our Christ. What no man can do, He can. What depths of hellish evil are overcome and dismissed in humiliating defeat by merely a commanding word from the Son of Man.

How often do we find ourselves like the nine disciples, willing to assist yet so helpless to do so? How often do we identify with the scant faith of the father of the demon possessed, believing Christ can help, yet needing help ourselves for our remaining unbelief? How many hopeless cases do we come across in our lives? Loved ones who will not listen? "Bring them unto Me." Beloved friends who are sorely afflicted? "Bring them unto Me." Heart-breaking situations where it seems no one can help? "Bring him unto Me". Our wayward nation? Let us pause and listen. The Master is nearby. "Bring her unto Me." The same power He demonstrated in our text is emanating now from His residence at the right hand of God. Let us bring our hard cases and the most difficult burdens of our hearts unto Jesus. He will do what neither we nor anyone else can. -- D. Murcek