

Life at the Foot of the Mountain

Luke 9:37 – 42

The disciples had experienced a very exciting season of serving the Lord in the verses prior to our text today. They had been sent out of the Lord, two by two, to preach the gospel. The 5,000 were fed with 5 loaves and 2 fishes, with twelve baskets remaining. Peter, James and John had been taken with the Lord upon the Mt. of Transfiguration. It was there that they experienced the fullness of Jesus' glory as He was transfigured before them. Peter was so overwhelmed that he wanted to remain on the mountain.

As with most of life, they were unable to remain upon the mountain. Christ had not taken them there so that they might stay there; He wanted to reveal His glory to them so that they would be settled in their faith and encouraged in the future. As wonderful and exciting as the mountain top was, it could not last forever. We have read of the day following that great experience.

Out text verses reveal the reality of everyday living. Most of our days are less than perfect. Many of them are filled with problems and disappointment. In these verses we find some instruction for living our daily lives. I want to look at the [elements](#) described here as we consider: [Life at the Foot of the Mountain](#). I am certain that there is help for us in this passage.

I. The Reality of the Situation (38-39) – Here we find how quickly things can change. The mountain top was over and reality had set in for the disciples. We are introduced to a family that dealt with turmoil on a daily basis. These verses reveal the realities of life. Notice:

A. The Condition of the Son (39) – [And, lo, a spirit taketh him, and he suddenly crieth out; and it teareth him that he foameth again, and bruising him hardly departeth from him.](#) This reveals much about his condition.

1. He was Dominated – He was taken by a spirit. The word [taketh](#) has the idea of “*laying hold of, to carry away, seize, or apprehend.*” He was possessed of the devil; his life was filled and dominated by an evil spirit.

2. He was Delusional – When the evil spirit would attack this young man he would cry out, screaming in misery and pain. His life was not lived in a normal or peaceful way. This young man dealt with Satan's influence and domination on a daily basis and it affected his mind and his emotions.

3. He was Defeated (39b) – Here we discover the severity of the situation. This young man was literally living in torment on a daily basis. He was taken with convulsions that caused him to foam at the mouth. The spirit would not depart but was continually bruising him. This involves more than we would consider of bruising. It has the idea of “*breaking, to tread down, or trod under-foot.*” He was at the mercy of this evil spirit. His life was dominated by Satan and he lived in utter defeat.

B. The Compassion of the Father (38) – And, behold, a man of the company cried out, saying, Master, I beseech thee, look upon my son: for he is mine only child. Notice:

1. His Desire – Master, I beseech thee, look upon my son. He recognized the authority and ability of Jesus. He earnestly desired the Lord to do something for his son and his desperate situation. The phrase look upon is actually a medical term that means to “*carefully examine the patient, to look upon with pity.*”

2. His Devotion – For he is mine only child. This was the only child this father had and he was deeply concerned about the well being of his son. He was determined to do whatever he could to help him in this desperate and dangerous situation. We need that kind of devotion as well.

I. The Reality of the Situation (38-39)

II. The Inability of the Multitude (40-41) – These verses reveal the inability of those who were present to do anything about the condition of the young man. Nine of the disciples had tried, but failed to cast out the demon. Jesus reveals the reasons for their inability. (Now, I am not encouraging that we practice exorcisms, but these principles are relevant in our lives in general.)

A. They Lacked Faith (40, 41a) – And I besought thy disciples to cast him out; and they could not. [41] And Jesus answering said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you, and suffer you? Bring thy son hither. These lacked the faith necessary to overcome Satan and gain the victory. Jesus was not referring to faith in themselves, but faith in Him to provide the strength and power to overcome. Notice what Jesus charged them to do as He sent them out in V.2 – And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick. They had the power, but lacked faith!

B. They Lacked Fear (41) – Jesus referred to them as a **perverse generation**, “*distorted, turned aside from the right path, corrupt.*” They lacked power because they had turned from the ways of God and were corrupt in their hearts. The church has lost her power in our day because we have lost our fear and honor of the Lord. We have abandoned His paths for the ways of the world and we wonder why we no longer see His power displayed in our midst!

C. They Lacked Fervency (41b) – **How long shall I be with you, and suffer you?** The word suffer means to “*hold up, sustain, or endure.*” Jesus was disappointed that they lacked the desire to do the things that they were able to do. He was weary of their laziness and complacency. It appeared that they were all too eager to let the Lord do things for them that they were well able to do for themselves. There are things that are beyond our ability, but there is much that we can do and God expects us to accomplish those things. We need the desire and fervency to labor for the Lord.

I. The Reality of the Situation (38-39)

II. The Inability of the Multitude (40-41)

III. The Animosity of the Adversary (42a) – **And as he was yet a coming, the devil threw him down, and tare him.** This speaks of the attack of the devil during the young man’s encounter with Jesus. Notice:

A. The Timing of the Attack – As the young man was **yet a coming**, the enemy attacked. He did not want him to get to Jesus. As he was making his way to the One who was well able to meet his need, Satan attacked.

- This was no accident; in fact, it was a carefully orchestrated attack. He attacked when the young man was vulnerable. He had made the decision to come to Jesus and was about to have the opportunity for healing. Satan wanted to keep him away from the Lord.
- He has not changed his ways. As long as you are living among the world, seeking to please the flesh, Satan likely won’t bother you much. But if you decide to turn toward the Lord and seek Him, you might as well count on a fight. He doesn’t bother idle Christians much either, but when we decide to draw nigh to the Lord and seek to serve Him, we can expect an attack!

B. The Tenacity of the Attack – Here Satan pulled out all the stops. He realized that the young man was about to get to Jesus. He knew that the Lord had the power to deliver him and set him free.

- We find that Satan **threw** him, literally meaning “*to rend, burst asunder, to tear in pieces.*” He also **tare** him, meaning “*to convulse completely.*” Just prior to the young man getting to Jesus, he endured the worst attack that he had ever faced.
- You can rest assured that Satan does not desire you to get to Jesus. He has no problem in you attending services. He has no problem in you being a part of the activities, but he does not want you to get to Jesus and have a life changing encounter. I am convinced that his attacks are the most tenacious and prominent just prior to us getting to Jesus.
- Church there is a profound truth for us in this as well. Satan does mind us gathering on Sunday mornings. He doesn’t mind us singing songs, praying prayers, or even preaching a message. He doesn’t care in the least if we go through the religious motions of a worship service. But I can assure you, if we get serious about serving the Lord, begin to draw closer to Him, experiencing His power in our services, and see lives changed, we are in for a battle. Satan is in the business of hindering and defeating the church. We must be aware and we must be prepared!

I. The Reality of the Situation (38-39)

II. The Inability of the Multitude (40-41)

III. The Animosity of the Adversary (42a)

IV. The Ability of the Savior (42b) – **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.** He may have encountered the worst attack ever, but hope was not lost. Jesus was not subject to Satan’s power. He was well able to overcome. Consider:

A. The Rebuke – **Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit.** That is an action of authority. It speaks of “*declaring guilt, to censure severely, to admonish.*” Jesus had the ability to call out the spirit, pronounce judgment, and restrain it from further hindrance of this man. Jesus revealed His absolute authority!

B. The Restoration – Jesus also **healed the child.** He was cleansed of his infirmity. He was delivered from the evil spirit. He was set free from the dominance and torment of Satan.

- That is a beautiful picture of our salvation. We are healed from the disease of sin. We are set free from Satan’s bondage. We are delivered from the guilt and shame of our past. We are restored to God through the Son. Jesus alone has the ability to restore a sin sick soul.

C. The Reunion – The young man was delivered again to his father. The family enjoyed a reunion. The life of despair had met the Deliverer. No longer would they be separated because of sin. No longer would heartache and pain cause division in the family. Jesus had restored the son, and in doing so, He restored the family.

- Sin causes separation in the family of God. As long as we are bound by sin, we are separated from His fellowship. But when we come to Christ in salvation, we are restored into the family, reunited with the God who created and loved us. What a joy to be counted among the family of God!

Life at the foot of the mountain is often difficult at best. We all face trials and hardships that we must endure. We face a determined adversary who knows how to hinder us, especially when we are weak in faith and away from God. We don't have to continue in defeat. Jesus stands ready to deliver us from whatever problem we face.

You may be discouraged and defeated today. You may sense the need to come to Jesus, but the enemy has already begun his attack. He has power, but he doesn't possess all power. Why not come to Jesus today and receive that which you so desperately need?