



The Gospel According to Luke

Wk. 46 “Problems with having Twisted Faith”

By Pastor Jody May

Luke 9:37-43 ESV

Jesus Heals a Boy with an Unclean Spirit

³⁷ On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. ³⁸ And behold, a man from the crowd cried out, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. ³⁹ And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out. It convulses him so that he foams at the mouth, and shatters him, and will hardly leave him. ⁴⁰ And I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.” ⁴¹ Jesus answered, “*O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.*” ⁴² While he was coming, the demon threw him to the ground and convulsed him. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. ⁴³ And all were astonished at the majesty of God.

Jesus Again Foretells His Death

But while they were all marveling at everything he was doing, Jesus said to his disciples, ⁴⁴ “*Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men.*” ⁴⁵ But they did not understand this saying, and it was concealed from them, so that they might not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying.

Introduction:

This morning I want to home in on the single thought this morning in the text.

⁴¹ Jesus answered, “*O **faithless** and **twisted** generation, how long am I to be with you and bear with you? ...*”

The problem that Jesus is exacerbated by is that people show themselves to be living without a saving faith, because there are twisted beliefs that get in the way. The KJV uses the word **perverted**, and I think it is the better word for this. It is taking a belief in God and twisting it to fit the way in which you think. The result of this twisted faith is that someone suffers a little longer and God’s glory, the



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revealing of the Kingdom that is coming, is blurred. **When our beliefs, our worldview, is mixed with the free gift of faith that God gives us it takes a while for our view to change and adopt the correct view of God’s Kingdom.**

Illustration - We have a show we like to watch called *Forged in Fire* and one of the greatest challenges is when they take cable steel and make it into a solid piece of metal which has to happen to make a usable blade.



Just like this steel Twisted faith must be worked, heated, and beaten to remove the purities of its’ former life to become functional faith that is able to take the wielding of God in this world. In this passage today we will see the challenges with Twisted and how God deals with it and uses it in spite of us.

1. Grace is Hindered, Work is Delayed, & God’s Glory is Blurred. (vs.37-40)

How did we get here?

Jesus along with the three are returning from the mountain where they had witnessed the transfiguration of Christ and saw that it was important enough to the Father to correct the Apostles with a verbal command. That they do not just include Jesus with the heroes of the past but that they elevate Him above all, to *Listen to Him*, they were there for His service not Him for them. Upon descending the four of them walk into a crowded scene, that’s nothing new, but there was motion and activity, something was wrong. It doesn’t take **spider sense**, does it parents, when you walk into your house and something is off... **(examples)**

First thing that Jesus encounters, the fully consecrated and recognized as the Savior of the world by God and everyone in the OT, is confronted with complaints.

³⁸ And behold, a man from the crowd cried out, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. ³⁹ And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out. It convulses him so that he foams at the mouth, and shatters him, and



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will hardly leave him. ⁴⁰ And I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.”

Here’s the scene. Jesus walks into a crowd of people still trying to get to Him for healing, exorcisms, and words of encouragement as long as it accompanied the works. Along with the crowds gathered among them, **according to Mark 9:14**, there were **scribes** there, Jews from Jerusalem that were teachers that were now working with both Pharisees and Sadducees to catch even a whiff of false teaching from Him to depose Him. And hearing all of this in there are **9 other Apostles**, 9 other men that have been gifted with the power of Jesus to perform miracles like Him. Jesus left this scene under control of His leadership. The disciples that were wishy washy, there’re gone, they left already, those who did not believe in Him had walked off (Jesus had cleaned out the pews). He left behind those that wanted to be with Him and believed in Him.

Out of this crowd a man breaks forth, and we see what the commotion is centered around, and cries out to Jesus, *“Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is **my only child**.”* That first sentence without even knowing what he will say next has weight. This is my only treasure, the continuance of my line, the future of my family, my identity among my people, **teacher help me!** In **Matthew 17** it is recorded that he fell to his knees and called Him **Lord**. This man did not care what anyone thought not even the scribes that were connected to the chain of communication that would get word of his heresy back to his village, he, just like the woman that suffered bleeding for 20 years, was grasping at Jesus with everything he has as his only hope.

The man goes on to tell him a horrible **tale of torture**, a torture that has been amplified because whatever is happening to the boy the **father must watch it** and helplessly endure it.

³⁹ And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out. It convulses him so that he foams at the mouth, and **shatters** him, and will hardly leave him.



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It shatters him, **mauls him in the Greek**, it is the same word to describe what Jesus will do Satan eventually in the book of Revelation and again by Paul in Romans. In **Matthew (15:15-17)** the father recounts how the demon throws the boy into fire and water when he is near them. The fires they have to use to cook with, and light up the town, the ditches to water fields or latrines near the homes the evil entity would maliciously throw this boy into him, and he would seize up and couldn't move, and the spirit would take pleasure and see all those connected to that boy suffer.

This family had been living in torment for who knows how long. No one could help him, not the exorcists of the Jews, no modern medical means, no prayers of the people, and now not even the faith of the Apostles He had left behind could help him. **Grace was hindered from coming to this family, Jesus' work of Redemption was delayed in restoring His people, and the glory of God was now blurred from the ongoing failure to help this boy BECAUSE of the issue of TWISTED FAITH.**

Family there are many things that we can't figure out in our lives, there seem to be many prayers that go unanswered, and there are many times where we are so fatigued by the plaguing of the enemy that we want to throw in the towel. Sometimes, not all the times, the problem is just that we don't get God yet. Our Faith is twisted and we either pray things wrong or we don't even ask for things that we should be asking for.

Students/young ones along with praying for those that hurt let's also pray that **God** shows them grace and mercy and **saves them through the trial and a relationship is built.**

Parents, we practice a faith that believes the only way our children will be safe is if we are on high security alert 24/7. **The reality is we are to prepare them for a hostile world by preparing them to fight for faith not hide because they have it.**

To all of us, I know we don't really want to believe it, but I see a twisted faith in us sometimes. We all have this **clingy pseudo faith** and it is the belief that when we



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live a good life, God doesn't have to, but He will usually bless you because of it, it's like **Christian Good Karma**.

Romans 8:28 ESV

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for **good**, for those who are **called** according to his **purpose**.

You see we often read that passage like this: God works all things for **'our' good**. BUT **Romans 8:18-27 describes 'good' as future glory**, God's final Recreation of all things. It also says that the Spirit, when we are in pain, helps us to pray for the 'good' that is God's final redemption overall not our personal good. – To untwist our faith we need to see that doing good doesn't necessarily get you good things. **BUT doing good is doing our part in bringing about God's Kingdom, which does bring you joy!**

Is there something here today that we all need to repent of, is there a twist in our faith that is blurring God's glory in front of you, your family and even you neighbors? Well, there is real good news in our text today because Jesus does not let this stop Him from doing what needs to be done.

2. Jesus Works in Spite of Twisted Faith. (vs. 41-43)

⁴¹ Jesus answered, *“O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.”* ⁴² While he was coming, the demon threw him to the ground and convulsed him. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. ⁴³ And all were astonished at the majesty of God.

Jesus doesn't throw a temper tantrum and walk off, He doesn't let frustration overcome Him like we often do. Even when confronted with a twisted faith He asked that the boy come forward. The demon in its' last bout of defiance throws the boy down in front of Jesus and the Lord rebuked that unclean spirit. We learn from **Mark 9** that particular demon also made the boy deaf and dumb, **so that the child could not even talk to his father**. Jesus forbid the demon from ever coming



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back **ensuring** that there would **never be anything** that came **between that boy and his father again.**

Then it says in vs. 43 they were astonished/marveled. The translation there is that He received admiration for what He did. Jesus used the opportunity for faith that was not quite working, to show that God still works, He still hears prayers, and has a desire to help His people. Luke was careful to point out **that Jesus gave the boy back to his father** as he gave the newly risen son back to the mother so you and I both know that Jesus has a genuine love for people.

Maybe that’s what you need to hear today. Maybe you’re in a messy twisted place right now, life doesn’t make sense, there is a sin situation you can’t escape but please note that Jesus’ desire is to help you in spite of your messed-up faith. Yes, He does it to unblur God’s Glory but He also does it because He cares about you. His desire is the same as it was in scriptures, **He is working at reuniting you with your true Father, He is straightening out the misconceptions of faith, SO THAT all your communication with the Father is never blocked off again!** That brings us to our final realization this morning is that God’s uses messed up faith for your good.

3. God’s straightening out twisted faith is all a part of Sanctification. (vs. 43-45)

But while they were all marveling at everything he was doing, Jesus said to his disciples, ⁴⁴ “Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men.”

Now why des the Lord even say this at this point? I think it may be to communicate the severity of the situation of why faith is so twisted and what must be done to straighten it out. He was about to delivered over for His execution leaving those behind that still had problems with their faith in God.

In **John 16:7-8** Jesus tells us though, that this is not to be feared but it is actually a good thing.



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Wk. 46 “Problems with having Twisted Faith”

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Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your **advantage** that I go away, for if I do not go away, the **Helper** will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. **8** And when he comes, he will **convict** the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:

The ultimate way in which Jesus will straighten out our Faith is by letting Himself be high and lifted up so that all see that God did not spare His own Son for us, He died as a truly innocent man and was raised because the judgment of death could not claim Him. The Spirit then convicts us all of this and constantly reminds us, **it is He that we live for not ourselves, straightening out our faith.** The HS creates admiration for Him through your life and people will see the love of a crucified Savior on you, and will see eternal life in you and THAT is working towards the GOOD!

Straightening out your faith through the HS IS SANCTIFICATION, it is the correction of your beliefs by the helper. So now when we live out our lives we can not only benefit from believing rightly but God is better glorified through this untwisting. So, **let me close with this encouragement family.**

- Never, ever stop praying even if you think He can't hear you. Jesus fixed that problem when the veil was torn and ensured open communication by becoming our Great High Priest.
- Never, ever stop speaking out loud your heart to God for it is when you hear your heart's burdens spoken out you will begin to hear your own twisted faith that needs to be challenged with scripture.
- Never, ever stop expecting Jesus to work in your life causing you to marvel and admire Him for it is in the increased affections of Him that you know you are being saved! That is for the Good which brings you ultimate joy.



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PRAY

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

Go in the name of the Father that loved so much that He spared not His own Son so that we may be saved.

Go in the name of the Son that has ensured that our twisted faith does not keep us from communicating with God.

Go in the name and the power of the HS that continually works to straighten our faith and in the process empowers you to share it with others this week.