

## Matthew 17:14-27

### Jesus Heals a Boy with a Demon (14-23)

- ◆ When they returned to the crowd, a man came to Jesus, knelt before him, and said, “Sir, have mercy on my son! He is an epileptic and has such terrible attacks that he often falls in the fire or into water. I brought him to your disciples, but they could not heal him.” Jesus answered, “How unbelieving and wrong you people are! How long must I stay with you? How long do I have to put up with you? Bring the boy here to me!” Jesus gave a command to the demon, and it went out of the boy, and at that very moment he was healed. Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked him, “Why couldn't we drive the demon out?” “It was because you do not have enough faith,” answered Jesus. “I assure you that if you have faith as big as a mustard seed, you can say to this hill, ‘Go from here to there!’ and it will go. You could do anything!”
- ◆ At first I was confused and then intrigued by Jesus response in this passage, **“How unbelieving and wrong you people are! How long must I stay with you? How long do I have to put up with you? Bring the boy here to me!”** These people were too reliant on Jesus or Jesus faith but not on their faith. The sad part was that Jesus was departing soon, what was going to happen after Jesus was gone? Now that Jesus is not with us physically, our faith is the resource that enables us to tap into Gods power. Our faith even as small as a mustard can make us do anything (wonders). Jesus wanted people to be faithful enough without relying on him or his faith. Even today, we can do anything with/in faith. Do we have faith? Do we believe we can do it on our own?

### Jesus Speaks Again about His Death (22-23)

- ◆ When the disciples all came together in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is about to be handed over to those who will kill him; but three days later he will be raised to life.” The disciples became very sad.

### Payment of the Temple Tax (24-27)

- ◆ When Jesus and his disciples came to Capernaum, the collectors of the Temple tax came to Peter and asked, “Does your teacher pay the Temple tax?” “Of course,” Peter answered. When Peter went into the house, Jesus spoke up first, “Simon, what is your opinion? Who pays duties or taxes to the kings of this world? The citizens of the country or the foreigners?” “The foreigners,” answered Peter. “Well, then,” replied Jesus, “that means that the citizens don't have to pay. But we don't want to offend these people. So go to the lake and drop in a line. Pull up the first fish you hook, and in its mouth you will find a coin worth enough for my Temple tax and yours. Take it and pay them our taxes.”
- ◆ Let's learn to pay our dues. Jesus did so and as our leader he led by example. Peter had so much faith in Jesus, he followed the bizzare instructions he was given. That level of trust in Christ is amazing. Do we have such level of trust in the Lord?