

A Boy w/a Demon & a Fish w/a Coin

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-4 Larry - Harvest. Women's xmas Celebration. Time Change.
- B. Slide5 Pray for Tyler & Mical Andrews - [ugly sweater photo]
- C. Slide6 Sun Night Prayer. REAL CD's available. TY donating to *Stuff the Bus*.

II. Slide7 Intro: A Boy w/a Demon & a Fish w/a Coin

- A. Last we gazed into *the transfigured face of Christ*. Contemplate the words of Thomas Merton:
 - 1. *Make ready for Christ - Whose smile - like lightning - Sets free the song of everlasting glory, - that now sleeps in your paper flesh - like dynamite.*
- B. But after the Incredible event of the Transfiguration they were told, *don't tell anyone*.
 - 1. This is a big deal because they're going to be comparing with the other disciples *who is the greatest* real soon & this would really help :)
- C. Slide8 From the Mountain of Glory to the Valley of Need. [www Mnt Top to Valley Flop](http://www.MntToptoValleyFlop)
 - 1. The Famous painter of the Renaissance, Raphael painted this scene with both the Mnt. & the Valley in view [note light/dark area]
 - a) *What a contrast we have here. From Glory to Shame. Mountain top to the Valley floor. Light to Darkness. Power to Helplessness.*
- D. So, Jesus goes from an appointment with the divine to an appointment w/a demon. *He set His Face to the Valley*. [The Glory / power, commission, humility / of the King]

III. Slide9 A BOY WITH A DEMON (14-21) A KING IN HIS POWER

- A. The Scene: The Scribes were prodding the disciples of their failure. The Disciples were defending themselves. And, The Demon was all but killing the helpless boy.
 - 1. The *only Son* heals an *only son*.
- B. The Severity: He deals w/epileptic seizures. He also suffers severely. It's even deadly when the attack occurs near water or fire. Mrk adds: the boy was mute, deaf, & dumb. He often fell to the ground, foaming at the mouth, & grinding his teeth, then sometimes pulls a temporary rigor mortis. Lk. adds: that the boy was an only son, & that he would scream as he went into the convulsions.

1. Ken Gire described the demon well. *A cruel spirit that lies in wait, like a bully waiting to pounce on a kid coming home from school. It sneaks up on the boy, jumps him, from behind, & mashes his face into the dirt - all the while, delighting in the tyranny!*

a) Like a lion, he singles out the youngest, most vulnerable one & ruthlessly runs him down.

2. No wonder the Father runs to Jesus feet.

C. Slide10a The Agony of Defeat:

1. The **Scribes** were defeated (Though they wouldn't admit that). They were quite unable to offer assistance to this family.

2. Slide10b The **Disciples** were defeated. The boy had been brought to them, & they were unable to exercise any power that would get him free from this evil case. [they should have been able to 10:1,8]

3. Slide10c The **Father** was defeated. Utterly helpless. I'm sure that he did all to restore his only son to a decent life.

4. Slide10d The **Boy** was the supreme illustration of *helplessness & defeat*.

D. Slide11 (17) What strange words from Jesus, *How long shall I be with you...bear w/you?*

1. Yet we'll see Him bearing **with their unbelief & failure** (here). **With their spiritual blindness** (22,23). **With their pride** (Lk.9:46-48 *who greatest?*). **With their lack of love** (Lk.9:49-56 *calling fire down*). **And their lack of dedication** (Lk.9:57-62 *follow Me, let me 1st go...*).

2. Wait, haven't you ever said the same (or at least thought the same) **regarding your own children?**

a) You were frustrated...**but** you knew the answer...*your lifetime!*

Yes, your lifetime! [w/a son struggling with his addiction; w/the daughter that continues to cut herself]

b) **And, we have the rest of the gospel to prove Jesus' answer was the same!!!**

E. (18) Remember, they were given **the power** before this (Lk.9:1) but something had happened??? **What?**

1. Apparently they stopped **praying & fasting**. Their **faith** had become weak.

F. **Slide12a The Boy's Father**

G. **Imagine being in his shoes** - While others were teaching their sons a **trade**, he was just trying to keep his son **alive**.

1. He couldn't leave his son alone for a minute. Who knew when the next attack would come.
2. His father remained on call 24/7. [you **caregivers** can relate]
3. He was desperate, tired, & his prayers reflect both. He drops to his knees (14).

H. **Slide12b** In Mark(9:22-25) this man asked Jesus something, **If you can do anything?** Jesus responded, **If you can believe?**

I. **The misplaced If** – The tense implies **doubt**. (i.e.) *this one's probably a little out of your league...but if you can...*

1. Jesus turns it back on the father, **If you can believe?**
2. His **unbelief** needed to be healed 1st and thus was *more important than* the **demon possession**.
3. Like this man, we often see an **if** in relation to our problems. And we too put it in the wrong place. **If Jesus can help me overcome this sinful habit. If He can change my life. No**, the real issue is, **if we can believe**, He both **can** and **will** respond.

a) Don't misplace your **if** and put it on Jesus...*wear it yourself!*

4. **Slide12c** Then the man said to Jesus, **Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.**

5. **1 of the most honest men in all the bible.** [he must have grappled w/*saying this right*]

a) Help me to **understand**. And where I can't **understand**, help me to **trust**. And where I *can't trust*, help me to **overcome my unbelief**.¹

b) Jesus was saying, *the working of this miracle depends on your faith, not on my power alone.* (other times, Jesus just did it **not** dependent on their faith)

(1) Don't you **warm** to this man's raw honesty for **our faith is always mixed w/unbelief**.

c) I agree with Max Lucado when he said, Some of you pray like a **Concorde jet** – smooth, sleek, high, and mighty. Your words reverberate in the clouds and send sonic booms throughout the heavens. If you pray like a Concorde, I salute you. **If**

¹ Ken Gire, Incredible Moments, pg. 78.

*you don't, I understand. Maybe you're like me, more a **cropduster** than a Concorde. You aren't flashy, you fly low, you seem to cover the same ground a lot, and some mornings It's tough to get the old engine cranked up.*

(1) Yah, more often we come more like a **crippled lamb** coming to a **shepherd** than a **proud lion** roaring in the jungle.

J. This boy only had one hope...that one of his parents would plead For him.

1. **Parents Plead On** for your unbelieving children, for your sick children, for your distracted children, no matter their age. [Be like Job in his dedication, Job1:4,5]

K. **Slide13a The Private Meeting** (19-21)

L. Hey, when we fail, let us *own* that we failed.

1. Take the blame of it ourselves & apply to our Lord for His gracious intervention.
2. Let us sit at the Lord's feet humbly ready to receive **rebuke** or **instruction**, as He sees fit.

M. **Slide13b Mountain Moving** - speaks of *removing difficulties*.

1. The Semitics used this style of writing to make a point using *exaggerated* and *unqualified* terms. This hyperbole of *casting of a mountain into the sea by faith* signals the *exaggeration* in these statements about **prayer**.

The point of the saying is the absolute necessity of trust in God's unlimited power, not a blank check for answered prayers.

a) **Slide13c Doubt** makes the mountain which *faith* can move.

2. **Faith in God** is the instrument which enables men to remove the hills of difficulty which block their path. *Mountains become plains*.

N. (21) While Jesus was away they neglected **prayer**, & their **faith** weakened. **Then when crisis came they were unprepared**.

1. Like Samson who woke up to battle the philistines, only to realize that **his power was gone**. *We need to stay spiritually healthy*.

O. *Jesus was teaching them that the **faith** which brings power is a faith that prays*.

1. **Prayer** is the vital link (*fasting* is not in most manuscripts) between the transforming power on the mountain top & the desperate needs in the valley.

2. Slide14 For them, *as for us...* *Prayerlessness leads to Powerlessness.*
3. Do you spend too much time in **discussion** (Mrk.9:14) & too little time in **prayer?** (21)
 - a) An organist was getting ready to play as the service began. When he put his hands in the keys there was no sound. Everyone knew something was wrong, so the preacher quickly got up and led in a prayer. The janitor was aware of the fact that they hadn't plugged in the organ. So we went over there during the prayer, plugged in the organ, wrote a note, and handed it to the organist. The note said, *after the prayer the power will be on.*

IV. Slide15 **A MAN WITH A PLAN (22-23)** *A KING IN HIS COMMISSION*

- A. They didn't understand & were afraid to ask. Mrk & Lk.
- B. It's amazing that the disciples after the res **didn't** believe He rose, **but** His *enemies* did.
 1. Slide16/17 Mt.27:62-64 *the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, saying, Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, **After three days I will rise.** Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day.*
 - a) Jesus here sugared the bitter pill of His death w/the sweetness of His assured Res.

V. Slide18 **A FISH WITH A COIN (24-27)** *A KING IN HIS HUMILITY*

- A. Slide19a **TAX IN A TILAPIA** (24-27) or, having *One Fish Faith!*
- B. This is *only recorded here* by the former Tax-Collector.
- C. **Temple Tax / a piece of money** - Double drachma / Gr. Stater, exact temple tax for 2
 1. Slide19b/c Jesus didn't need a coin that said *In God we Trust* on it.
 2. The coins bore the likeness of the Phoenician god **Melqart** or Baal (accepted as the Olympian **Heracles** by the Greeks **and** derided as **Beelzebub** by Jews) *wearing the laurel* reflecting his role in the Tyrian games & ancient Olympic Games
 3. On 11/13/1861 Rev. Watkinson wrote to the Sec of the Treasury P. Chase appealing to recognize the Deity on US coins, "*otherwise in the future they will think we were a heathen nation.*" [Is it was is stamped on our coins or inscribed on our hearts?]

- D. Just as children of earthly kings are tax-exempt, so too the children of the heavenly King, **Jesus**, have no obligation to pay a tax for His temple.
1. So Jesus was **free from this Tribute/free from paying this Tax**. (hey like D.Trump)
 - a) Interesting that **the Son of God** was too **poverty stricken** to pay even a 1/2 shekel
- E. **Jesus takes care of Peter's Tax** - *Jesus healed Peter's Mother-in-law. Helped him to catch fish. Enabled him to walk on water. Will later heal Malchus ear & deliver him from prison.*
1. **Slide20 Maybe** that's why later Peter could say, **Cast all your cares/worries on Him for He cares/is concerned for you.**
- F. **An Amazing Miracle** - *Someone had to lose a coin in the water. This specific fish had to pick it up. Had to hold it in his mouth & not swallow it. Then bite specifically Peter's hook (w/this impediment in its mouth). And allow himself to be landed/caught.*
1. This is **too complex** for an **accident & too difficult** for **human arrangement**.
- G. **Question:** Does the bible say that Peter found a coin in a fishes mouth to pay the Temple Tax? **No**. (there is no vs.28)
1. It is the only miracle that **doesn't** have the results recorded.
 2. **How do we know the miracle took place? Because Jesus said it would!**
 - a) **Slide21a** Solomon said, *There has not failed **one word** of all His good promise.* 1Kgs8:56
 - b) We concur w/Joshua when he said, *Behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth. And you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that **not one thing has failed** of all the good things which the LORD your God spoke concerning you. All have come to pass for you; **not one word** of them has failed.* Joshua 23:14
 - c) **Slide21b** 2 Cor.1:20 *For **all** the promises of God in Him are **Yes**, and in Him **Amen**, to the glory of God through us.*