

# LUKE I Down From the Mountain Text: Luke 9:37–45

*The Glory of Jesus Seen in Everyday Life*      –Bill Turner

1. Elijah experienced a spiritual victory on Mt. Carmel—then was in fear for his life
2. Moses was on Mt. Sinai w/ God—then found Israel worshipping a golden calf
3. The disciples just witnessed Jesus in glory speaking to Moses and Elijah
4. But now they descend back down the mountain into one problem after another.

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## I. COMING DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAIN...

### 1. ARGUING: A Dispute Involving the Disciples... (v.37)

- (1) As Soon as Jesus descends the mountain where He was in glory...
- (2) There's already a heated argument—and the disciples are in middle of it
- (3) Mark tells us a Dispute arose between the Scribes & Disciples (Mk 9:14-16)

### 2. SUFFERING: A Father Pleading for His Child... (v.38-39)

- (1) A Father steps forward pleading with Jesus to help his only child
- (2) This poor child is suffering terribly...
- (3) Even today People try to diagnose this child's symptoms...  
as if some new medication will heal these symptoms...
- (4) but Jesus knows what's wrong—This child is under demonic oppression

### 3. FAILURE: A Failed Miracle Attempt (v.40)

- (1) The father brings his suffering child to the disciples...  
But they were powerless to help!
- (2) This was A FAILED MIRACLE Attempt by the disciples!
  - a) We Know Jesus commissioned them w/ power over disease & unclean spirits
  - b) And We Know They had already cast out demons earlier! (Lk 9:1)
- (3) But in this case—they failed... Which May be what the Dispute is about!
  - a) This Failure may have been the opportunity the Scribes were waiting for!
  - b) A Chance to Criticize and Disparage the Disciples over their failure
  - c) The World is watching us and waiting for us to fail so they can point it out

### 4. LACK OF FAITH: A Rebuke from Jesus (v.41)

- (1) Jesus is rebuking their lack of faith... —> But Who is He Rebuking?
  - a) The Disciples? the Father? The Scribes?
  - b) He said, **O Faithless and Perverse GENERATION...**
  - c) There's such a Staggering Deficiency of faith—Jesus Criticizes the Entire Generation
- (2) **Mark Gives More Details to help us understand the Context** (Mark 9:17–29)

Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things *are* possible to him who believes. Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” (Mk 9:23-24)

## 5. DESPERATE HUMAN NEED: Jesus Heals This Child (v.42)

- (1) **It was the Power of Jesus that cast out this demon...**
  - a. But did you notice what the demon did just before?
  - b. The demon threw him down into convulsions
- (2) **Sometimes when a person is taking their first fragile steps toward the Lord, the Enemy Hits Him Hard just like he did here.**
- (3) **It Takes FAITH to NOT Give Up — But Keep Going to the Lord**

*The godly may trip seven times, but they will get up again.  
But one disaster is enough to overthrow the wicked. (Prov. 24:16 NLT)*
- (4) **We are Weak and We Fail—But Don't Give Up!**
- (5) **Faith Doesn't Mean it will be easy—it means it will be possible**

## 6. BETRAYAL: Jesus would be Betrayed into the hands of enemies (v.42)

- (1) **The Disciples are Amazed by His Majesty—But Afraid of the Truth**
  - (1) The Truth that Jesus Would be Betrayed, Rejected, and Crucified
- (2) **They Lacked the Spiritual Understanding to Comprehend this Tragic Truth**
  - (1) B/C they were so preoccupied by the Prestige they Desired from an Earthly Kingdom
- (3) **Jesus would be REJECTED by His Own People...**

and BETRAYED by one of His own disciples...  
and CRUCIFIED By His Own Creation
- (4) **But This was God's Plan From Before Time Began!**

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## II. LESSONS FOR US...

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### 1. WE CAN'T ALWAYS STAY ON THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN

- (1) **Seeing Jesus shining in majestic glory speaking to Moses and Elijah was —like a once-in-a-lifetime experience...**
- (2) **The Kind of Spiritual Peak we've felt only a few times...**
  - a. Like when we were first baptized... and the Angels Rejoiced :)
  - b. Or When an incredible prayer was answered
  - c. or a Spiritual Battle Was Won
- (3) **A Spiritual Elation and Joy we wish we could experience every day...**
  - a. But they had to come down from the mountain and not even tell anyone!
- (4) **Jesus' glory was shining on top of the mountain—  
but His Glory also shines in His healing below the mountain**
  - a. *His GLORY is Also Seen in His GRACE*
  - b. *His Majesty is also Seen in His MERCY (Luke 9:43) 'Majesty'*
- (5) **We are NOT Called to Pursue a FEELING—We are to Pursue God,  
There is still work to be done in this broken world we live in...**
  - (1) to Pursue Mercy and Grace and Good Works...
  - (2) to let your light shine for others to glorify God in heaven — Don't Get Discouraged!

## **2. THERE ARE TIMES WHEN WE ARE SPIRITUALLY WEAK AND WE FAIL**

- (1) This pleading Father brought His child to Jesus' Disciples but they were unable to heal the child and they ask Jesus why (**Mark 9:28–29**)
- (2) Their failure was NOT the father's fault or the child's fault or God's fault... —it was due to a failure within themselves...

- (3) In Essence They Were NOT CLOSE ENOUGH TO GOD...

When we neglect Spiritual Things We Become Weak...

When We Rely On Ourselves Instead of God We Become Weak

- a. If We Neglect the Word of God... if We Neglect Prayer, If we neglect our Devotion We Will Become Spiritually Anemic and Weak.

"Left to ourselves we tend immediately to reduce God to manageable terms. We want to get Him where we can use Him, or at least know where He is when we need Him. We want a God we can in some measure control." – AW Tozer

## **3. REALIZE WHAT THE ENEMY WANTS FOR YOUR LIFE AS OPPOSED TO WHAT THE LORD WANTS FOR YOUR LIFE**

- (1) When You Look over this entire event you can see a STARK difference between what Satan wants for you and what God wants for you
- (2) **SATAN WANTS...** You Arguing, Doubting, Failing, Suffering and w/o hope
- (3) **THE LORD WANTS...** You to be set free, live by faith, Spiritually Healed and Whole
- (4) **THE CHOICE IS YOURS...**
  - (1) Satan cast his vote against you...
  - (2) God has cast His FOR you...
  - (3) You have the DECIDING Vote for your Eternal Destiny

## **4. THERE ARE THINGS ONLY JESUS CAN HEAL**

He found disputing scribes, a desperate father, a demon-possessed boy, and defeated disciples. He silenced the scribes, He comforted the father, He healed the boy, and He instructed the disciples. (Morgan)

- (1) Only Jesus is the Great Physician— No one Else Can Heal the Sin Sick Soul
- (2) Only Jesus is the Wonderful Counselor—no one else offers healing & hope
- (3) Only Jesus is the Lamb of God — no one else can give forgiveness of sin
- (4) Only Jesus is the Way, the Truth & the Life—no one else offers Eternal Life

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. **John 14:1-2** "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup> In My Father's house are many mansions... I go to prepare a place for you.
2. **Why would we look to men — when only Jesus can save?**