

## They Could not Cure Him

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

**Matthew 17:15-16.** "Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatic, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. 16. And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him."

This man was disappointed as he spoke these words. Reading them makes me think of someone who has "joined" a church and has been disappointed. He may have tried doing a lot of work in the church, putting in a lot of time and effort. A person can volunteer for various committees and projects and still not find what he is needing and looking for. After awhile such a person will usually give up and quit, thinking that going to church didn't do much good. In one way he would be right - going to church by itself will not do much good in a person's life. A church can be like a social club in some situations to certain people. They might enjoy being with and doing things with other people. They might even quit some bad habits, but still not have

the relationship with God that is needed. Going to church without a right relationship with the Lord will not make a person a Christian, no more than going to watch a ballgame would make a person an athlete. If a person doesn't get on the team and follow the coach's commands he is not part of the team. This may be a crude analogy but it fits.

The church can't save anyone, only the Lord can do that. When a person comes to the Lord and is saved by obeying God's plan of salvation, not man's, he is added to the church. Then assembling in the name of the Lord and worshipping God is the way to grow strong in the faith. The usual problem when folks get upset with the church is when they expect the church to do more than it can do. The church can't make a person happy, and neither can the preacher. Both are often expected to do this however. To be happy doesn't come from some outside source, it comes from within.

Knowing Jesus, not just knowing about him, brings happiness in all of life's areas. Sure, we are happy when things are going good, but a true Christian can be happy even during times of trouble. How, someone might wonder? Because Jesus is still Lord whether a person is going through a trial, or a time of blessing. Also, the person is still a

child of God no matter how his life is going. This is where trusting in the Lord brings joy and peace. We are never told to trust in the church, but always to trust in the Lord.

I suppose that all of us have both been disappointed in people, and have ourselves been a disappointment to someone. Neither, we, nor they, meant to offend, but we did because we are human and are weak while we are in this flesh. To trust in man, no matter who he is, is not good. I have preached for over 36 years and have never told anyone to follow, or to trust in me. What I have done was to encourage everyone to trust and to follow Jesus.

Don't ever settle for just coming to church, come to the Lord. Church is fine and when we are saved we become a part of the church, which is the body of Christ. It hurts to say it, but at our best we will offend someone at some point in time. We can only hope that the person is mature in the faith enough to know that we all err at times, but don't mean too. Like our earthy family, we have problems, love, forgive and move on in life. Our Christian family should do the same. We are the followers of God and of his Christ, look to him, get to know him, and follow him.

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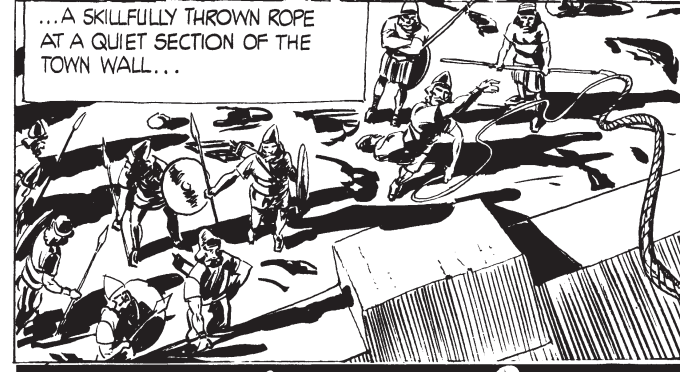
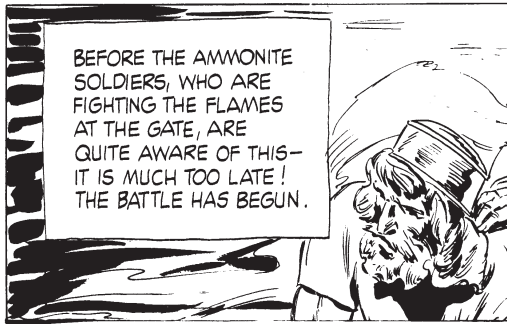
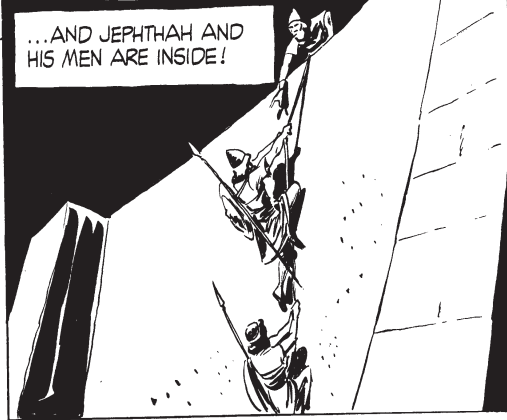
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