

# Taken for Granted

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

**Mark 9:14-29** tells the story of a man bringing his son to Jesus. This young man was possessed and the father desired the Lord's help. This story has several parts that need to be considered in order to understand all that happened. Not only did the son need help, but so did the father and even the disciples.

The Lord, with Peter, James, and John, came to the rest of the disciples from the mountain where he had been transfigured. Finding a great multitude gathered and the scribes questioning the disciples, Jesus asked why they were being questioned. One man spoke up and explained that his son, who was possessed, had been brought so the unclean spirit could be cast out. Since Jesus was not there the disciples tried to cast him out and could not do it.

Consider the disciples, apostles, for a moment. They were probably embarrassed to have failed in front of the multitude. The father was disappointed, some of the people may have laughed at them. The scribes must have mocked them for their failure. Then the disciples were bound to have been fearful because this spirit was able to resist them. In **Mark**

**chapter six** Jesus had given the disciples power over unclean spirits. So they had gone out and performed miracles and all had gone well, but not this time.

Jesus said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I suffer you? Bring him unto me." (**Verse 19**). He was weary of their unbelief, both of the people and even of the disciples. First thing to do is to help the possessed youth and free him from the unclean spirit. Bring him to me, He says, "I can do what men can't do." How true that is. Man, the church, can do some things. We can encourage, and help, but the Lord alone can save, forgive sins, and grant eternal life. Jesus cast out the unclean spirit with His word, the word of the almighty God, the word of power. Besides casting the spirit out Jesus commanded it to enter no more into Him.

Later, when they were alone, the apostles asked, "Why couldn't we cast him out?" They were fearful and confused because they had cast out others. Jesus informed them why they had failed - it was a lack of preparation. He said, "This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting." Evidently they had thought that all they had to do was to use the name of Jesus and all would go as it had before. They were learning that there were different kinds of demons to be faced.

Jesus prayed to the Father and fasted even though He is

the Son of God. Now if He felt the need to seek the Father's will by prayer and fasting, how is it that the apostles didn't see the same need? To serve the Lord and man requires that the servant of God prepare by studying the Word, and praying for guidance. There are times when fasting is needed. Just saying words is not going to work. They took for granted the authority that had been given them, thinking that all they had to do was to show up, command in the name of Jesus and all would be well.

The young man's father also needed to learn more about Jesus. He had heard of the Lord and believed enough to come and seek His help. Since Jesus was not with the other apostles he thought that they could help him. It is likely that they claimed to be able to cast out the unclean spirit. When they failed the father may have thought that the stories that he had heard were false. He was disappointed in the apostles and now not sure about Jesus.

He told the Lord, "If you can do anything, help us!" When the believers fail in their lives for the Lord, it makes the world doubt the Lord. Jesus told him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." He confesses both his faith and doubts, asking for help with his unbelief. Jesus showed him that faith in him brought results. The young man was set free from the evil spirit.

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**Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI**

**SOME MODERN METHODS ARE AS OLD AS THE HILLS!**

AMONG THE ANCIENT BIBLICAL PEOPLE, THE DANGERS OF SUNSTROKE WERE ALWAYS PRESENT BECAUSE OF THE VERY HOT CLIMATE IN THE SUMMERS AND THE FACT THAT THE PEOPLE WERE AN AGRICULTURAL PEOPLE, USED TO WORKING ALL DAY IN THE HOT SUN. SO THE STORY ABOUT THE YOUNG LAD WHO SUFFERED A SUNSTROKE (II KINGS 4:19,20) WAS NOT AN UNUSUAL ONE--WHAT IS UNUSUAL ABOUT IT IS THE PROPHET ELISHA'S WAY OF HANDLING THIS PREDICAMENT! NOT UNTIL THE 20TH CENTURY DID MEDICAL MEN START TO RESUSCITATE THE VICTIMS OF HEART ARREST BY USING MOUTH-TO-MOUTH BREATHING TO START THE VICTIM'S HEARTBEAT AGAIN, YET THIS IS WHAT ELISHA DID (II KINGS 4:34) MORE THAN TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO! WHICH LEADS ONE TO SURMISE THAT THERE IS A LOT OF TRUTH IN THE OLD SAYING, "THERE IS NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN!" ALSO, IT SHOULD BE NOTED, THAT THE FIRST THING ELISHA DID WHEN HE STEPPED INTO THE ROOM WITH THE DEAD CHILD, HE "PRAYED UNTO THE LORD"--NOT A BAD THING FOR ALL OF US TO REMEMBER, RIGHT?!

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