



The Possessed (Epileptic?) Boy

Possessed Boy

Welcome to Jesus Time where we spend time with Jesus in His time and culture.

✝ When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. Mark 9:14 NIV

As Jesus with His chief Apostles returned from the Blessed Mt. of Transfiguration it was only for them to find that the rest of our Lords Disciples after having gathered together awaiting on Him were now embroiled in a confrontation with some Jewish Scribes.

Can there be any doubt these said Scribes were sent to follow, spy, and then report back to the Jerusalem Pharisee's every detail about the doings and whereabouts of Jesus and His followers?

✝ Immediately, when the entire crowd saw Him,(Jesus) they were amazed and began running up to greet Him. ¹⁶ And He asked them,(Scribes)"What are you disputing with them?" (Disciples) Mark 9:15 NASB

Imagine the relief of the Disciples and the excitement of the crowds when Jesus arrived! Then Christ our Lord immediately addresses the Scribes as for their confronting of His followers.

✝ And one person from the crowd answered Him, "Teacher, I brought You my son, because he has a spirit that makes him unable to speak; ¹⁸ and whenever it seizes him, it slams him to the ground, and he foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth and becomes stiff. Mark 9:17-18a NASB

Submitting here unto modern ear this sure sounds like Epilepsy having all of the tell-tale symptoms. Moonstruck from the Latin lunaticus was the Roman conjecture for Epilepsy based upon Lunar cycles.

The boy's father continues

✝ And I told Your disciples so that they would cast it out, but they could not do it." ¹⁹ And He answered them and said, "O unbelieving generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to Me!"

Mark 9: 18b-19 NASB

Get that?

Christ our Lord was annoyed and obviously disappointed with His Disciples inability at healing the boy. Having just tasted Kingdom Glory after what would have been by now 32 years on this Earth for Jesus- Then upon His returning and straight into a confrontation between His followers and the Scribes who thought & taught they were the caretakers & translators of GOD'S Law. Couple these with the present ever growing expectant crowds bringing with them a world of endless suffering and we can finally perceive here Jesus's human exasperation.

As in His all to human emotional weariness against each the Sin of unbelief, people's physical pain, & with the masses continual disturbing lack of personal shame.

Has this ever happened to you? Have you ever attended a Church service or been to a place of quiet tranquil reflection by which you can almost literally feel the presence of GOD? Only to be snapped back to this reality suddenly coldly almost rudely once your communion with Christ's Peace was broken by the Sin and concerns of this world.

That's it! This was what our Lord Christ Jesus felt at this moment after having Transformed albeit briefly but a short while ago. No doubt the heart of Christ longs for home to be with the Holy presence of His Father.

✝ And they brought the boy to him. (Jesus) And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. Mark 9:20 ESV

This makes perfect sense medically speaking because we know that stress and excessive emotion or even strenuous activity without nutrient intake can onset an epileptic attack.

Obviously, the boy having already been front and center between the arguing Disciples and Scribes then being tossed and tussled about by the crowd with Heaven only knowing from how far and quickly had he been rushed to this location in the first place.

Now- he is being forcibly pushed before Jesus Himself possibly and quite probably causing the seizer.

✝ And Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. ²² And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” (Now notice the boys father’s doubt. Was this because of the Disciples failure?) Mark 9:21 ESV

Jesus literally just did What? The same as we do today when we go to the Doctor with any ailment. Christ our Lord was seeking the boy’s medical history as we dare to surmise that Jesus was trying to ascertain if the boy was indeed being demonically attacked or did he have an actual physical problem?

✝ And Jesus said to him, “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.

Mark 9:22 ESV

In English the irritation of Christ at unbelief is unfortunately pronounced

Here the original Greek shows a more understanding compassionate Jesus.

✝ “If you are able to believe all things (are) possible to the believing.”

What? We miss here was the totality of Jesus’s answer.

As in not only was/is Jesus saying that all things in Prayer are possible if it is GOD’S Will. But this also explains Why? The other Disciples had failed at helping this boy to begin with. Because of someone's lack of Faith.

Was it the boys, or the Disciples, or even the boy’s father doubting of him being cured?

Has not medical science proven that Faith and positive attitude affects the body's ability to heal? It has. Now going one step further If medical science knows that a positive attitude affects health and recovery, then Why? Are people surprised-

That GOD in Christ says He uses our Faith in Him to amplify His healing Grace and power!?

3 Biblical promises of Faith:

✝ I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Philippians 4:13 KJV

✝ But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible. Matthew 19:26 RSV

✝ Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. Mark 11:24 NIV

✝ The (boy's) father instantly cried out, "I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!"

Mark 9:24 NLT

Was this not an earnest honest confession with a Prayerful plea for help unto Christ Jesus?

✝ When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" ²⁶ Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.

Mark 9:25-26 NKJV

No words Jesus takes action because this alone solves the boy's problem & reenforces the man's belief. After being healed in mid convulsion the stunned boy lay motionless in full control of himself and it was Jesus who then lifted the boy to his feet never to have a seizure again.

Remember the authoritative Jewish Scribes had also just witnessed this.

They record it because this was What? they do. Their purpose for following and spying on Jesus. Meaning it was also reported back to Jerusalem that Jesus was now doing supernatural healings amongst the Gentiles. As in this miracle was never contested nor denied because of those present bitter legal Scribes because they had for themselves recorded it and they personally feared & detested Jesus.

From the Babylonian Talmud the historical records of the Jerusalem Supreme Court after the Jews returned from Babylonian captivity does state in multiple locations & occasions even pre trial that Jesus of Nazareth was charged in Sanhedrin 43a-b & 107b of sorcery.

These official legally recorded criminal charges were for the beguiling of Israel into apostasy by Jesus for doing impossible healings and actions by using demonic power. (Calling Holy evil is the unforgivable Sin)

How's that for an outside Biblical proof of Jesus's healings by opposing even hostile legal witness no less!

Also note, Jesus did not take the time in first century AD/CE to explain that everyone had misunderstood the medical diagnosis of Epilepsy as a disease but rather Christ our Lord had simply healed the boy with words of understanding that those present would comprehend the boy's healing was by GOD in Christ.

As in GOD does and ever will speak through His Word or His Spirit & Savior in a manor that we can understand. Meaning we might not understand How? GOD did something but we know that He did.

Just as these people thought an unclean spirit was cast out of the boy but Jesus obviously knew that He had healed the boy of Epilepsy.

Here the parallel account of Matthew records our Lords answer best:

✝ 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!"

Matthew 17:20 GNT

Conclusion

✝ And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out? ²⁹ And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.

Jesus concludes that only Faith with Prayer including Fasting (focuses/strengthens) as in a close relationship having fellowship of GOD was needed to be able to heal the boy.