



Faith For The Impossible (Matthew 17:14-23)

Read Matthew 17:14-18

1. Try retelling the story from the father's point of view.
2. Consider the father's experience:
 - a. What problem does he have?
 - b. How has he tried to solve this problem?
 - c. How do you think he would be feeling at this point?
 - d. How does he approach Jesus?
 - e. What does Jesus do for him?
3. Now try retelling the story from the disciples' point of view.
4. Consider the disciples' experience:
 - a. What problem do they have?
 - b. How might they be feeling at this point?
5. What do Jesus' words in verse 17 reveal about how he feels about this whole situation?

Read Matthew 17:19-20

6. Again, Matthew takes us behind the scenes into a private teaching moment. Why is the disciples' question to Jesus a good one?
7. What problem in the disciples did Jesus identify? (compare Matthew 14:31)
8. ***These verses have sometimes been used to judge people when their prayers have gone unanswered ("You needed more faith!"). How do we know this is not the correct way to understand what Jesus is saying? (See for example 2 Cor 12:7-9)***

Read Matthew 17:22-23

9. Why do you think Jesus predicts his death and resurrection again? (Compare Matthew 16:21)
10. In delivering the boy Jesus did something that was impossible for the disciples. Read Luke 1:30-37 and Matthew 19:25-26. What "impossible" thing was God about to do through Jesus' death and resurrection?

Pray for those close to you who have no or little faith, that God may mercifully save.