

The Gospel According to Matthew

A Faith That Benefits Others?

April 24, 2022

Matthew 17v14-23

14 When they came to the crowd, a man came to him, knelt before him, 15 and said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; he often falls into the fire and often into the water. 16 And I brought him to your disciples, but they could not cure him." 17 Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him here to me." 18 And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. 19 Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" 20 He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."

22 As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into human hands, 23 and they will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised." And they were greatly distressed.

What is your most trivial skill?

What if this story is about the value and perceived value of growing in one's ability to trust God?

First some cautions. This story can lead to some scary conclusions.

If "Good Faith = Healing" then "No Healing = Bad Faith"?

Yikes!

Do mountains have roots?

So what is Jesus trying to say?

The Herodian in Bethlehem

To what extent is trusting God an important skill?

To what extent is trusting God an important skill which benefits others?

What stories from your life capture the impact other people's' faith have had on your life and outcomes?

Looking back at the story, who had faith and who benefitted?

What if this is a story about Jesus' desire for the disciples faith to grow?

What might be those circumstances for you right now?

Who in your life presently needs to benefit from your trust?

Songs: Let Everything, No Longer Slaves, Remember, Great Are You Lord

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