

Sermon: **Who Has the Power to Save Your Children? (Luke 9:37-43)**

Date: **January 28, 2018**

This week's study is in Luke 9:37-43 which describes the events immediately following the transfiguration of Jesus. Jesus, as well as Peter, James, and John, went up a mountain to pray. While Jesus was praying, his appearance was altered, and he was transfigured before them. Moses and Elijah appeared in glory and conversed with Jesus. It was a powerful and pivotal moment in the lives of these disciples and in the ministry of Jesus. After the transfiguration, Jesus and his disciples descended down the mountain where a great crowd was waiting for them. A father cried out to Jesus, asking Jesus to heal and save his demon-possessed boy. The disciples already tried to cast out the demon but were unsuccessful. Jesus is able to rebuke the unclean spirit and cast him out of the boy, leaving the crowd astonished at the glory and power of God. We learn in this story that Christ is the only one who can save. No matter what we say or do, we do not have the power or ability to save a lost person. Only Christ is able to save. Therefore, we must trust and rely on him to do what only he can do.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

### **Individual Bible Study**

1. Please read Luke 9:37-43 and ensure that you've listened to Sunday's sermon.
  - a. Describe the context of this passage. What happened on the mountain prior to this story?
  - b. Verse 37 makes a point of saying, "When they had come down the mountain..." What is the significance of this statement?
  - c. What some parallels between this story and the events that occur in Exodus 32?
  - d. What is the perspective of the father in verses 38-40? What are good things that parents might desire for their children today that are outside of their control?
  - e. What do these verses teach us about the toll that a rebellious child takes on their parents?
  - f. Why were the disciples unable to cast out the unclean spirit? What does this teach us about our efforts in ministering to lost children, youth, and adults?

- g. In verse 41, Jesus says, “O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you and bear with you?” Who is he rebuking in this passage? Why does Jesus rebuke them?
  
- h. In verse 42, Jesus rebukes the unclean spirit and heals the boy. What does this teach us about the power of Jesus Christ? What are the implications of this when it comes to lost children and lost loved ones?
  
- i. What is the result of this miracle (see verse 43)?

**Group Discussion Questions**

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
  
2. How might this passage serve as a rebuke toward some parents? Toward some ministries? How might this passage be a source of encouragement toward some parents?
  
3. Who has the power to save a lost person? How should this affect the way we think about our children? How should this affect the way we do ministry in the local church?
  
4. How should believing that only Christ can save a lost loved one affect the frequency and fervency of our prayers?
  
5. What would you say to encourage a parent who has a rebellious/lost child? How would you encourage someone with a lost spouse or a lost loved one that they so desperately desire to be saved? Be sure to think through how you could use Scripture in doing this.

**Accountability Question**

Who is someone in your life that you desire to be saved? How are you trusting the Lord with this? Is there anything else you could be doing in response to your desire that they be saved?