



I BELIEVE. HELP MY UNBELIEF.

MARK 9:14-29

The taunting of the scribes;

MARK 3:22

²² And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "*He is possessed by Beelzebul,*" and "*by the prince of demons he casts out the demons.*"

Why were they amazed to see Jesus?;

LUKE 18:8

⁸ "...when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

The only child;

LUKE 9:38

³⁸ And behold, a man from the crowd cried out, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, *for he is my only child.*"

LUKE 7:12

¹² As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, *the only son of his mother*, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her.

LUKE 8:42

⁴² ...for he had *an only daughter*, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. As Jesus went, the people pressed around him.

HEBREWS 11:17

¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up *his only son*...

Jesus' contemporaries were not ignorant of medical maladies;

MATTHEW 17:15

¹⁵ ..."Lord, have mercy on my son, *for he has seizures* and he suffers terribly. For often he falls into the fire, and often into the water."

The disciples failed after previous "success";

MARK 6:7, 13

⁷ And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, *and gave them authority over the unclean spirits*...¹³ *And they cast out many demons*...

The irrational and wicked perversity of unbelief;

MATTHEW 17:17

¹⁷ And Jesus answered, "O faithless and *twisted* generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you?..."

The proximity of Jesus increases the conflict between good and evil;

MATTHEW 10:34

³⁴ “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.”

REVELATION 12:12

¹² Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! *But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!*”

JOHN 3:20

²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.

Faith doesn't create or direct the will of God. Faith yields to the will of God, and secures the bearer of that faith into God's perfect will.

The affirmation that “all things are possible for the one who believes” does not mean that faith can accomplish anything, but that those who have faith are those who set no limits to the power of God.

The three indicators of a faith problem: fear, giving, and prayerlessness;

MARK 4:40

⁴⁰ He said to them, “*Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?*”

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7-8

⁷ Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

MATTHEW 17:20

²⁰ He said to them, “*Because of your little faith...*”

The disciples' faith in past experiences instead of God;

ACTS 19:13-16

¹³ Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, “I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims.” ¹⁴ Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. ¹⁵ But the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?” ¹⁶ And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

Other additions of “and fasting”;

ACTS 10:30

³⁰ And Cornelius said, “Four days ago, about this hour, I was *praying* in my house at the ninth hour, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing

1 CORINTHIANS 7:5

⁵ Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to *prayer*; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

Any area in which you don't think you need God's help is the area you most need His help.

Look for areas of prayerlessness in your life, ask the Lord to show you these areas, humbly confess the frailty of your faith, hate the perverse sin of self-reliance, and look to the One who gives and sustains faith.

2/4/2024