

THE WAYS OF GOD

Why Couldn't We Cast Him Out?

- I. **Mt17-The prayed, they tried so why didn't God just do it when they prayed? – It matters what He's working with**
Mt17:14-When they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying, 15 Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. 16 I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. 17 Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. 18 And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. 19 Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? 20 And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.
- A. **What they prayed for did not happen? They did what they knew and got no results-This is an experience shared by many**
1. The disciples did what they knew, they prayed and the boy was not delivered
 - a. They only way to know you can't do something is that tried and found out you couldn't do it
 2. They probably did what they saw Jesus do (pray, rebuke) but doing what He did they didn't get the results he got
- B. **Does their lack of results speak to the character and nature of God? Does our lack of results say something about God?**
1. Manmade religion has surmizes that their inability to get results speaks to God's character, nature and will; So if we prayed and it didn't happen that says something about God's will, character and nature; God decided not to, God didn't do all that He could, God's not faithful, God's mysterious
 2. Because when they prayed and the boy didn't get delivered does that mean it wasn't the will of God? That God just decided not to do anything? That God's not good? That God's not faithful? That God didn't do all He could?
 - a. Does them not getting results when the prayed speak to the character and nature God? No it does not; It does, however, say something about how God operates
- C. **Why when they prayed did they not get results? (19-That's what they asked?)**
1. They asked Jesus directly why they prayed and nothing happened?
 - a. Many would say it's because of the sovereign will of God was for them to not get results, but rather it was the sovereign will of God for that boy to be healed through Jesus' prayer – But is that what Jesus said?
 - 1) He didn't say anything about God's timing, God's will, God's sovereign plan or anything about God
 - b. Because of YOUR unbelief (disobedience, unfaithfulness, disbelief, want of faith)
 2. What if you asked Jesus why you prayed and nothing happened and He said it was because of YOUR unbelief?
 - a. Might He say that to you? Could you handle hearing that? If Jesus said that to some they would leave him
 - b. Many would not accept this answer
 3. People pray and don't get results and just ASSUME God was the reason why (His will/timing/plan/sovereign)
 - a. *It didn't happen because* and in religion after the because they always lay responsibility at the feet of God even if it's a bad thing
 - b. Where do we ever see one instance in scripture where God's will didn't come to pass and God credited it not coming to pass to Himself, His sovereign will, His timing, His plan?-Mt17,Mk6,Nm3-Unbelief was the problem
 - c. Should we just assume that if we don't get results that God is the reason why we didn't get results?
- D. **There are people who have an experience like this and get mad at God, blame Him, presuming and assuming that He was the reason why what they prayed for, "believed" for didn't happen**
1. Why weren't the disciples able to get results? The reality was there was something they didn't see, didn't know, there was a lack of understanding on their end that yielded unbelief – They didn't get results and didn't know why
 2. People throw their fist in the air and say, "I just don't understand God I mean we prayed and nothing happened." And it's complete PRIDE to just assume you were operating in complete understanding of all thing in regards to that situation and you did what you were supposed to do and God just sat there and did nothing

- a. Is it possible there was something you didn't see, did know, don't understand about the situation?
 - b. If something that you KNOW was the will of God didn't happen here's the reality: There was some sort of hindrance where God couldn't do what He wanted to do and there's something about the situation you don't see/understand, but God is not to blame
3. Particularly when other people are involved there's a whole lot you don't know
- a. You can pray for them, you cannot receive for them

E. We know it was God doing the works, but who/what He was working with obviously mattered

1. Jesus stepped right up there and got a result they didn't get b/c He didn't have the unbelief they had
2. Lack of faith and understanding can affect what God can do in your life

F. What's the point? (It's not for us to beat ourselves over the head with blame for everything that didn't happen)

1. #1-It's to understand that just b/c something didn't happen doesn't mean God was responsible for it not happening
2. #2-It's to understand that what/who God is working with matters in what He's able to do

II. Many try to remove themselves from the equation and make God responsible for everything that does/doesn't happen

A. Many want what they do to not matter; They want to believe that God can do whatever He wants no matter what they do and so they ignore the truth what they do affects what God can/can't do in their lives (they don't want this to be true)

1. Why? This empowers them to live in a manner where they can ignore God, pay little to no attention to what He says and when something goes wrong they can blame Him because in their minds He could have done something because He's God and He can do whatever He wants and this allows them to shoulder no responsibility
2. It's the idea that they should see the protection, provision and blessing of God even though they aren't following Him and then they're mad and even indignant when they don't see it and say dumb stuff like, "Well if God was good and He loved me He'd do it anyway." – Not realizing God works through access
3. This is acting like what you do has no effect on what God can do; This leaves you with no culpability; People like this

B. People love the idea of doing whatever they want AND having God do whatever they want Him to do (I want His protection, provision and blessing while I pretty much ignore Him and do what I want)

1. *Pr19:3-KJ-The foolishness of man perverts His way: and his heart frets against the Lord; ERV-People ruin their lives with the foolish things they do, and then they blame God for it – The idea is people want to ignore the Lord and do what they want and then get mad at the Lord for not doing what they want Him to do*
2. *Jdg6:13-14-Gideon said unto him, "O my Lord, if the Lord be with us, why then is all this befallen us? And where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt? But now the Lord has forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites. And the Lord looked upon him, and said, Go in this your might, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have I not sent you?" – Paying no attention to God and yet asking where are the miracles; This describes many believers*
 - a. He's bewildered about the evil that's befallen them and the absence of miracles; This is acting like what you do doesn't matter in what God is able to do in your life; He's trying to make God responsible for the lack of miracles
 - b. *V1-The children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord;* They shut God out and want to know where the miracles are – This is no faith and Gideon expects to see grace – He's so ignorant that God doesn't even answer the question

C. This is where *God is sovereign* comes in, insinuating that God can do whatever He wants anytime He wants and it doesn't acknowledge that God works through access

1. This teaching removes us from the equation, puts no responsibility on us and all the responsibility on God
 - a. If He is sovereign in that manner (He can do whatever He wants) then what we do doesn't matter; Many like this
 - b. This allows me to be sloppy with what I do and still expect to experience the goodness of God in my life b/c if God really is good and He really is love then I should experience His goodness no matter what I do
2. You can't remove yourself from an equation God put you in – God works with you not independent of you and you can't change that

D. In regards to what God can do in your life/what happens in your life God left a lot up to you and it's not all up to Him

1. *Dt30:15-See I have set before you this day life and good, and death and evil...I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life*
2. What happens in your life is not God's choice
 - a. What you experience in life is determined by the words you choose to believe, the words you choose to speak and the one who choose to follow – You determine what you experience by what you choose
3. What are you going to say, believe and do? It's up to you. Not your intentions, but what are you actually doing

E. What's the point?

1. #1-You're in the equation and what you do effects what God can do in your life
2. #2-If you're going to live in such a way where you just do what you want, it'll limit what God can do in your life
3. #3-You have responsibility and culpability in what God can/can't do in your life
4. #4-If you ignore the Lord and deny him access (in unbelief) you no have right to expect to see His blessing in your life