

Study Guide
The Kingdom Has Come
Matthew 17:14-27

Big Idea: The Power of Faith

1. Read Matthew 17:14-18. Describe the situation. Why does Jesus seem so disappointed at the lack of faith? How do we demonstrate a lack of faith at times?

2. Read Matthew 17:19-21. What does great faith look like? Discuss the concept of the mustard seed, the belief that God can do anything (“*move mountains*”), and persistent faith (v.21). Which one of these do you struggle with?

3. Read Matthew 17:22-27. Discuss the two-fold solution Jesus offers to Peter when it comes to government and taxation:
 - a. “Sons are free”
 - b. “Do not give offense”

4. Read the following passage: Philippians 3:19-21
“Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.”

How does seeing yourself as God’s kid from another Kingdom help you to see beyond your current circumstances?

Prayer

1. “God, we confess that we do not trust you as we should...”
2. “God, we believe, but please help our unbelief...”
3. “God, please lift us above our earthly circumstances and help us to see ourselves as citizens of another world.”

Message Slides

Upside Down

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A. Little Faith (v. 14-18)

And when they came to the crowd, a man came up to him and, kneeling before him, ¹⁵said, “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. ¹⁶And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered, “O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me.” ¹⁸And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was healed instantly.

B. Great Faith (v.19-21)

¹⁹Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” ²⁰He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.” ²¹However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”

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1. Simple faith
2. Great faith
3. Persistent faith

C. Faith to See Beyond (v.22-27)

²²As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men, ²³and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day.” And they were greatly distressed.

C. Faith to See Beyond (v.22-27)

²⁴When they came to Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax went up to Peter and said, “Does your teacher not pay the tax?” ²⁵He said, “Yes.” And when he came into the house, Jesus spoke to him first, saying, “What do you think, Simon? From whom do kings of the earth take toll or tax? From their sons or from others?” ²⁶And when he said, “From others,” ...

C. Faith to See Beyond (v.22-27)

...Jesus said to him, “Then the sons are free.²⁷ However, not to give offense to them, go to the sea and cast a hook and take the first fish that comes up, and when you open its mouth you will find a shekel. Take that and give it to them for me and for yourself.”

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1. God’s kids
2. Don’t give offense

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