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MATTHEW

Chapter 16:28 – Chapter 17:1-21
EXCEPT BY PRAYER AND FASTING

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. In the teaching from last week, we saw Peter go from a man who gets revelations from the Lord Himself to being called satan when he decided to give Jesus advice.
1. Of course, the revelation was when he gave the right answer to the question, **Matthew 16:15 (NKJV) — 15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”**
 2. Jesus knew what the public’s opinion of Him was – but He wanted the disciples to understand that He was the Messiah – and Peter got it!
 - a) **Matthew 16:16 (NKJV) — 16 Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”**
 - b) **Matthew 16:17 (NKJV) — 17 Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.**
 - c) But if he had fully understood, he would have known that as Messiah – Jesus must head toward Jerusalem and give His life for mankind.
 - (1) But as Jesus began to tell the disciples of these things – Peter let his heart get in the way:
 - (a) **Matthew 16:22–23 (NKJV) — 22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!” 23 But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”**
 - (b) Jesus told Peter that he had become a stumbling block to Him because his concern was more fleshly than spiritual.
 - (i) And I must stop and say that it is a very difficult thing indeed, to remain spiritual, when our flesh cries out to be satisfied.
 - (a) When our hurts or our pains or our fears become more dominant than our desire for God’s will – we are perfect candidates for the enemy!
 - (b) And by the way – no one ever said that seeking God’s interest above our own would be without pain or sacrifice.
 - (i) It is leading Jesus to the cross!
 3. **Matthew 16:24–26 (NKJV) — 24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?**

- a) So many folks today are willing to forfeit their souls in exchange for even a little piece of the world – but it is not a good trade!
- 4. And that is where we will pick up our study.
 - a) **Matthew 16:28** is pretty much a “kick-off” to the next chapter.

II. MATTHEW 16:28 (NKJV) — 28 ASSUREDLY, I SAY TO YOU, THERE ARE SOME STANDING HERE WHO SHALL NOT TASTE DEATH TILL THEY SEE THE SON OF MAN COMING IN HIS KINGDOM.”

- A. This verse can be easily misunderstood, if we misinterpret what is meant by, **the Son of Man coming in His kingdom**.
 - 1. Obviously, all the disciples are dead, so it cannot mean the second coming Jesus. So, what does it mean?
 - a) The next few verses give us the answer.

III. MATTHEW 17:1–8 (NKJV) — 1 NOW AFTER SIX DAYS JESUS TOOK PETER, JAMES, AND JOHN HIS BROTHER, LED THEM UP ON A HIGH MOUNTAIN BY THEMSELVES; 2 AND HE WAS TRANSFIGURED BEFORE THEM. HIS FACE SHONE LIKE THE SUN, AND HIS CLOTHES BECAME AS WHITE AS THE LIGHT. 3 AND BEHOLD, MOSES AND ELIJAH APPEARED TO THEM, TALKING WITH HIM. 4 THEN PETER ANSWERED AND SAID TO JESUS, “LORD, IT IS GOOD FOR US TO BE HERE; IF YOU WISH, LET US MAKE HERE THREE TABERNACLES: ONE FOR YOU, ONE FOR MOSES, AND ONE FOR ELIJAH.” 5 WHILE HE WAS STILL SPEAKING, BEHOLD, A BRIGHT CLOUD OVERSHADOWED THEM; AND SUDDENLY A VOICE CAME OUT OF THE CLOUD, SAYING, “THIS IS MY BELOVED SON, IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED. HEAR HIM!” 6 AND WHEN THE DISCIPLES HEARD IT, THEY FELL ON THEIR FACES AND WERE GREATLY AFRAID. 7 BUT JESUS CAME AND TOUCHED THEM AND SAID, “ARISE, AND DO NOT BE AFRAID.” 8 WHEN THEY HAD LIFTED UP THEIR EYES, THEY SAW NO ONE BUT JESUS ONLY.

- A. Did you know that the phrase, “**DO NOT BE AFRAID**” occurs 100 times in the Bible!
 - 1. And if you take into consideration the different translations - some say there are closer to 365 times!
- B. Here we see Jesus, Peter, James and John on the Mount of Transfiguration – just the 4 of them.
 - 1. The Greek word that is translated here as “transfigured” – is the word “met-am-or-fo’o” or “metamorphose”.
 - a) Here they are on the mountain and Jesus’ face begins to radiate like the sun and his garments become as white as light itself and like the caterpillar that “transfigures” into a beautiful butterfly – Jesus “transfigures” into someone that is more than human and talks with dead people.
 - b) Moses and Elijah show up! Moses represents the Law and Elijah represents the Prophets, and they have a conversation. What was the conversation about?
 - (1) Luke tells us in his gospel: **Luke 9:30–31 (NKJV) — 30 And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, 31 who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease** which He

was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

- (a) They were talking about Jesus' death and resurrection!
 - (b) This just amazes me! Moses finally understood that all of the Law pointed to this day. Elijah finally understood that all of the prophecies and miracles pointed to this day and here they are discussing it with Jesus!
2. And while Peter is trying to convince Jesus to set up a few tents and just live there on the mountain, the Father speaks out of heaven like He did at Jesus' baptism and says that He is pleased with Jesus!
- a) Now we understand what Jesus meant by verse 28: **Matthew 16:28 (NKJV) — 28 Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.**
 - b) Peter, James, and John got to see **the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.**
 - (1) There was absolutely NO DOUBT in their minds after this – who Jesus was! Though it will still be tested in real life application, as we will see when Peter denies Jesus to protect himself.

IV. MATTHEW 17:9–13 (NKJV) — 9 NOW AS THEY CAME DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAIN, JESUS COMMANDED THEM, SAYING, “TELL THE VISION TO NO ONE UNTIL THE SON OF MAN IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD.” 10 AND HIS DISCIPLES ASKED HIM, SAYING, “WHY THEN DO THE SCRIBES SAY THAT ELIJAH MUST COME FIRST?” 11 JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID TO THEM, “INDEED, ELIJAH IS COMING FIRST AND WILL RESTORE ALL THINGS. 12 BUT I SAY TO YOU THAT ELIJAH HAS COME ALREADY, AND THEY DID NOT KNOW HIM BUT DID TO HIM WHATEVER THEY WISHED. LIKEWISE THE SON OF MAN IS ALSO ABOUT TO SUFFER AT THEIR HANDS.**” 13 THEN THE DISCIPLES UNDERSTOOD THAT HE SPOKE TO THEM OF JOHN THE BAPTIST.**

- A. They were now convinced that Jesus was Messiah but they were a bit confused because the scribes taught that Elijah must reappear on the earth before the Messiah would return!
- 1. Jesus tells them that the scribes taught correctly and that Elijah did come, but they did not recognize him, and they did whatever they wanted to him, and so would be the case with Jesus. He would also suffer at their hands, and they would not recognize Him either!
 - 2. **13 THEN the disciples understood that He had spoken to them about John the Baptist.**
 - a) Jesus was saying, that John had fulfilled this prophecy about Elijah as John prepared the way of the Lord!
 - (1) Can you put yourself on that mountain, seeing and all of this and trying to grasp all that took place? – But the disciples understood it fully!

V. MATTHEW 17:14–18 (NKJV) — 14 AND WHEN THEY HAD COME TO THE MULTITUDE, A MAN CAME TO HIM, KNEELING DOWN TO HIM AND SAYING, 15 “LORD, HAVE MERCY ON MY SON, FOR HE IS AN EPILEPTIC AND SUFFERS SEVERELY; FOR HE OFTEN FALLS INTO THE FIRE AND OFTEN INTO THE WATER. 16 SO I BROUGHT HIM TO YOUR DISCIPLES, BUT 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 BEAR WITH YOU? BRING HIM HERE TO ME.” 18 AND JESUS REBUKED THE DEMON, AND IT CAME OUT OF HIM; AND THE CHILD WAS CURED FROM THAT VERY HOUR.

A. Mark gives a little more information on this incident: **Mark 9:20–22 (NKJV) — 20** Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. **21** So He asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. **22** And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”

1. The “they” spoken of here in **verse 20** is most likely a mixed multitude of Jews that included his father.
2. And based upon Jesus reaction about them being an “unbelieving and perverted generation” – it is also likely that they are trying to use the disciples inability to cure the boy as proof Jesus is not really God! In other words – for the father of the boy, it was real – he desired a healing. For the mixed multitude – it was most likely another test.
 - a) Jesus heals the boy!

VI. **MAT 17:19-21 NASB** THEN THE DISCIPLES CAME TO JESUS PRIVATELY AND SAID, "WHY COULD WE NOT DRIVE IT OUT?" (20) AND HE *SAID TO THEM, "BECAUSE OF THE LITTLENES OF YOUR FAITH; FOR TRULY I SAY TO 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 TO YOU. (21) ["BUT THIS KIND DOES NOT GO OUT EXCEPT BY PRAYER AND FASTING."]

- A. They had done many healings, and seen many signs and wonders performed at their own hands – but this one eluded them and they wanted to know why they had failed.
1. The way I see it = is that Jesus gave them 2 reasons why they were not effective in removing the demon from this boy.
 - a) #1 – **they didn’t believe they could!** Their faith was too small.
 - (1) Had it even been the size of a mustard seed the Lord could have used it, but perhaps satan had scared them with the severity of this possession.
 - (2) Remember “When our hurts or our pains or our **fears** become more dominant than our desire for God’s will – we are perfect candidates for being a stumbling block to the Lord’s will!”
 - b) #2 – **they didn’t pray and fast!** (I think Jesus intended for these to go together). Adam Clarke says this about this verse: “*I can give a sense to the passage which all my readers will easily understand: viz. that there are certain evil propensities, in some persons, which pampering the flesh tends to nourish and strengthen; and that self-denial and fasting, accompanied by prayer to God, are the most likely means, not only to mortify such propensities, but also to destroy them.*” (e-sword bible)

VII. CONCLUSION

- A. Fear can prevent miracles because fear reduces faith!
- B. And some spiritual warfare requires that we sacrifice! There are some demons we just can't beat if we do not fast and pray!
 - 1. If you are in a trial that you just can't seem to win – fast and pray and watch the Lord work.