

Alêtheia Christian Fellowship

April 12, 2020

“Resurrected”

Sunrise Reflection Live at 6:45, Zoom Sunday school at 8:30, Sermon Online by 9:15

NEWS

Never fear - we know Who sits on the Throne. Please, continue to pray for each other - call, text, email, Zoom - stay connected. Love others enough to help them, and love others enough to allow them to help you.

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MATTHEW 17:14-23 ~ ¹⁴NASB When they came to the crowd, a man came up to Jesus, falling on his knees before Him and saying, ¹⁵“Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is a lunatic and is very ill; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. ¹⁶“I brought him to Your disciples, and they could not cure him.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered and said, “You unbelieving and perverted generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him here to Me.” ¹⁸And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured at once. ¹⁹Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not drive it out?” ²⁰And He said to them, “Because of the littleness 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.” ²²And while they were gathering together in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is going 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 deeply grieved.

Jesus and His “Inner Circle” arrived to see their friends in a heated _____ with some Jewish Bible Scholars (Mark 9:14).

The large crowd noticed Jesus arriving, and they rushed towards Him to involve Him in their _____ and their _____.

From Luke we know that he was this man’s _____ son. From Mark we get a full exchange between Jesus and the _____.

It is in Mark's account, that the father says, "If You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!" To which Jesus responded, "If You can?" Jesus told the father that "All things are possible to him who believes." And then Mark records, "Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, 'I do _____; help my _____.'"

Faith is not what we _____ - it is a gift from God.

As usual, Matthew leaves out every extraneous _____ in order to focus as much attention as possible on Jesus.

The NASB and KJV have the dad say that his son is a "Lunatic," (KJV "Lunatick"). Most versions say "Seizures." Nearly every commentary explains it as _____.

The actual word is σεληνιαζομαι (sě-lā-nē-ä-dzō-mī). The second part relates it to a person. The first part is the name of the Greek goddess, Σελήνη (Sě-lā-nā), or we would say _____.

She was one of the Titans. Her brother was Helios, the sun god, while she was the moon goddess. When the _____ overthrew them, Apollo took Helios' place, and Artemis (called Diana by the Romans), took over for her.

Ancient people believed that the moon, especially when full, caused more erratic behavior. So, insane, wild, crazy behavior was attributed to Selene... Her name, and the moon itself, in Latin, is _____, giving us lunar, as well as lunatic, lunacy, and the "Looney Bin," in English.

Epilepsy is just one natural physical condition that can cause seizures. Here, the Bible is not talking about epilepsy, or any other physical phenomenon - this was a case of _____ possession, not illness.

Remember, Jesus had already given His _____ to His disciples. In Matthew 10:8, Jesus commissioned them, ^{8NASB}“Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons.”

Mark 6:7 explicitly says that Jesus ^{7NASB}“Gave them authority over the unclean spirits.” Then 6 verses later, it says, ^{13NASB}“And they were casting out many demons and were anointing with oil many sick people and healing them” Luke 10:20, records Jesus telling the guys, ^{20NASB}“Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.”

The demon possessed son was _____, probably somewhat reluctantly, to the Apostles. Everyone was watching closely. Could Jesus' designees do what He gave them the authority to do.

This is the _____ Jesus was pulled into...

Fill out the other side, detach this part of the page, and place it in the offering plate or the prayer/suggestion box in the lobby or with an Elder or Deacon of the church.

God Bless You!

So, Jesus cried out in exasperation, probably quoting Deuteronomy 32:5. The truth is, Jesus was speaking of _____.

We get a glimpse of God's _____ here. Mark 3:5, John 3:17, Matthew 18:14

Luke mentions that "While everyone was marveling" at Jesus and the supernatural power flowing through Him... "Jesus turned to His disciples and said, 'Let these words sink into your ears; for the Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men.'" (Luke 9:43b-44).

Matthew says that "They were deeply grieved." Why though, do they never seem to hear the "Rise three days later," part? Luke tells us. They didn't get it. Honestly, how could you get it until it _____.

It's always the way in this life... Mountaintop, valley, mountaintop, valley... It's that way even for non-Christians. The difference is, the Christian cycle can only end on the mountaintop, and the non-Christian cycle, can only end in the valley. The Resurrected life here and now is being incorporated into the Body of Christ that can know no death, eternally speaking.

argument, problem, drama, only, boy's father, believe, unbelief, manufacture, detail, epilepsy, Selene, Olympians, Luna, demon, authority, presented, mess, everyone, heart, happened,

Check all that apply – detach and place in the offering or the prayer box

_____ I want to talk with the pastor about _____

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Alêtheia Christian Fellowship



Alêtheia

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MARCH 19 2020

Effective immediately, all Alêtheia sanctioned events, to include Wednesday classes, Sunday school, & Sunday services, are suspended indefinitely due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Please check back for updates and future plans of action. Contact us if you need anything.

In the meantime... Click the Sermon tab and watch until your heart's content - Bless you.

Alêtheia, pronounced, "ah-LAY-thay-uh," means Truth in the original language of the New Testament. It expresses our desire to teach the Alêtheia without compromise in the love that's at the very heart of God's message.

Alêtheia ~ Matthew 17c ~ 041220 **"RESURRECTED"**

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Over the last two weeks we've talked about the Transfiguration of Jesus. It was a foretaste of His Resurrection in the midst of His resolve to die.

Jesus, Peter, James and John came off of that mountaintop experience right into the middle of the messiness of life. Vacation is over.

Matthew 17:14-23 ~ ¹⁴NASB When they came to the crowd, a man came up to Jesus, falling on his knees before Him and saying, ¹⁵“Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is a lunatic and is very ill; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. ¹⁶“I brought him to Your disciples, and they could not cure him.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered and said, “You unbelieving and perverted generation,



how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him here to Me.”¹⁸ And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured at once.



¹⁹Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not drive it out?” ²⁰And He said to them, “Because of the littleness 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.”

²²And while they were gathering together in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is going 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 deeply grieved.

Matthew 17:14–23

¹⁴When they came to the crowd, a man came up to Jesus, falling on his knees before Him and saying, ¹⁵"Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is a lunatic and is very ill; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water." ¹⁶"I brought him to Your disciples, and they could not cure him." ¹⁷And Jesus answered and said, "You unbelieving and perverted generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him here to Me." ¹⁸And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured at once. ¹⁹Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not drive it out?" ²⁰And He said to them, "Because of the littleness 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." ²²And while they were gathering together in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is going 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 deeply grieved.

Mark 9:14–32

¹⁴When they came back to the disciples, they saw a large crowd around them, and some scribes arguing with them. ¹⁵Immediately, when the entire crowd saw Him, they were amazed and began running up to greet Him. ¹⁶And He asked them, "What are you discussing with them?" ¹⁷And one of the crowd answered Him, "Teacher, I brought You my son, possessed with a spirit which makes him mute; ¹⁸and whenever it seizes him, it slams him to the ground and he foams at the mouth, and grinds his teeth and stiffens out. I told Your disciples to cast it out, and they could not do it." ¹⁹And He answered them and said, "O unbelieving generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to Me!" ²⁰They brought the boy to Him. When he saw Him, immediately the spirit threw him into a convulsion, and falling to the ground, he began rolling around and foaming at the mouth. ²¹And He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood." ²²"It has often thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!" ²³And Jesus said to him, "If You can? All things are possible to him who believes." ²⁴Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, "I do believe; help my unbelief." ²⁵When Jesus saw that a crowd was rapidly gathering, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You deaf and mute spirit, I command you, come out of him and do not enter him again." ²⁶After crying out and throwing him into terrible convulsions, it came out; and the boy became so much like a corpse that most of them said, "He is dead!" ²⁷But Jesus took him by the hand and raised him; and he got up. ²⁸When He came into the house, His disciples began questioning Him privately, "Why could we not drive it out?" ²⁹And He said to them, "This kind cannot come out by anything but prayer." ³⁰From there they went out and began to go through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know about it. ³¹For He was teaching His disciples and telling them, "The Son of Man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and when He has been killed, He will rise three days later." ³²But they did not understand this statement, and they were afraid to ask Him.

Luke 9:37–45

³⁷On the next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met Him. ³⁸And a man from the crowd shouted, saying, "Teacher, I beg You to look at my son, for he is my only boy," ³⁹and a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly screams, and it throws him into a convulsion with foaming at the mouth; and only with difficulty does it leave him, mauling him as it leaves. ⁴⁰"I begged Your disciples to cast it out, and they could not." ⁴¹And Jesus answered and said, "You unbelieving and perverted generation, how long shall I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here." ⁴²While he was still approaching, the demon slammed him to the ground and threw him into a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the boy and gave him back to his father. ⁴³And they were all amazed at the greatness of God. But while everyone was marveling at all that He was doing, He said to His disciples, ⁴⁴"Let these words sink into your ears; for the Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men." ⁴⁵But they did not understand this statement, and it was concealed from them so that they would not perceive it; and they were afraid to ask Him about this statement.

This historical event is told in Matthew, Mark and Luke in the same context. Luke has a bit more detail than Matthew, and Mark's account is twice as long as either, adding a whole slew of extra information.

Here's the scene... Our four intrepid hikers arrive in the valley and see their friends in a heated argument with some Jewish Bible Scholars (Mark 9:14). At issue, is a young, demon-possessed man, brought by his father to Jesus' disciples for an exorcism and their complete inability to help.

The large crowd of disciples, Scribes, favor seekers and general onlookers noticed Jesus arriving, and they

all rushed towards Him to involve Him in their problem and their drama.

As His disciples and the Legal experts jabbered away at Him, and the rest of the people watched to see what He would do, the young man's father, pushed through and knelt before Jesus and begged Him, "Lord, have mercy," please help my precious son.

From Luke we know that he was this man's one and only son. From Mark we get a full exchange between Jesus and the father that is one of my all-time favorite passages in the Bible.

In that account, Jesus commanded them to bring the son to Him, at which point, the unclean spirit threw the boy into a violent convulsion, prompting Jesus to ask the father, **"How long has this been happening to him?"** The father said, **"From childhood,"** and after adding some more details he said, **"If You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!"** I love Jesus' response... **"If You can?"**

Jesus told the father that **"All things are possible to him who believes."** This is the bit that really grabs

me... **“Immediately the boy’s father cried out and said, “I do believe; help my unbelief.”**

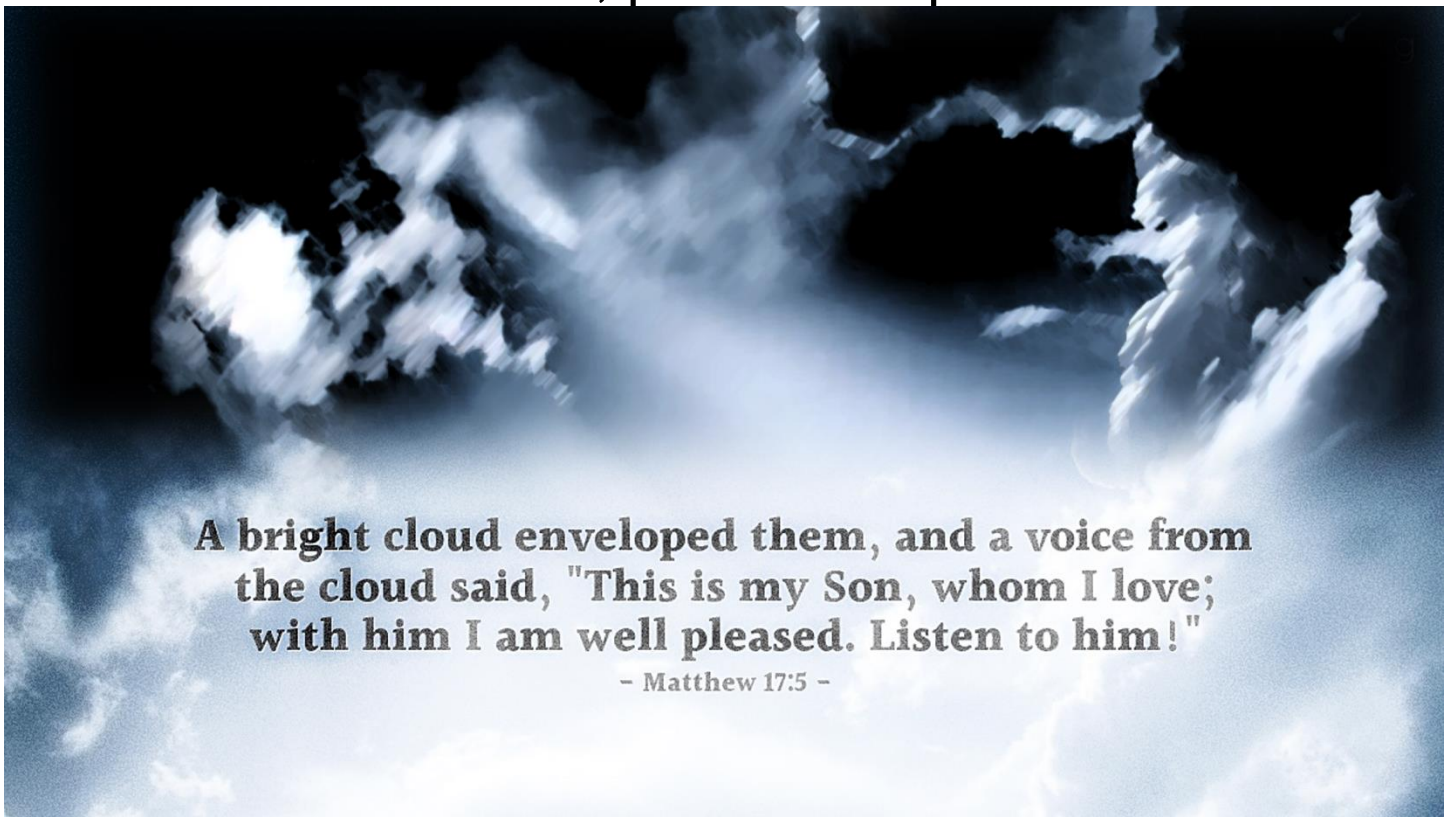
I do believe and I recognize right away that I don’t believe as much as I should, but I frantically want to believe... I’m desperate to have enough for my son’s sake... I can’t get there on my own.



Please, I beg You, Lord, “Help my unbelief.” Bolster my lack of faith, give me the power to trust You.

Ask and receive faith. Faith is not what we manufacture - it is a gift from God. How desperate are you for the faith only He can give?

As usual, Matthew leaves out every extraneous detail in order to focus as much attention as possible on Jesus. One well-respected German scholar, commenting on the scarcity of information in Matthew's account said, "***Obviously Matthew did not particularly like exorcisms***" (Ulrich Luz). He was wrong. It isn't that Matthew disliked exorcisms, it's that Matthew disliked anything that detracts, diverts, or distracts from the focus on the Lord. Jesus is so important, all the other details - even life and death, even faith and unbelief, pale in comparison...



A bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

- Matthew 17:5 -

"This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"

Matthew wasn't interested in the argument with the Scribes, or the possessing demon, or the history of the family's tribulation, or even the faith and insight of the boy's father, as much as he was interested in showing what Jesus said and what Jesus did.

The NASB, along with the KJV, have the dad say that his son is a "Lunatic," although the KJV spells it archaically with a "K" on the end.



Most quality modern versions simply say that he had "Seizures." It's probably the best way to translate for a modern English-speaking audience. My problem, and why I'm going to take a moment here, is that nearly

every commentary, regardless of how it's translated, explains it as epilepsy.

Well, we know that epilepsy is a medical condition and not the result of demon possession.



It casts doubt on the Bible.

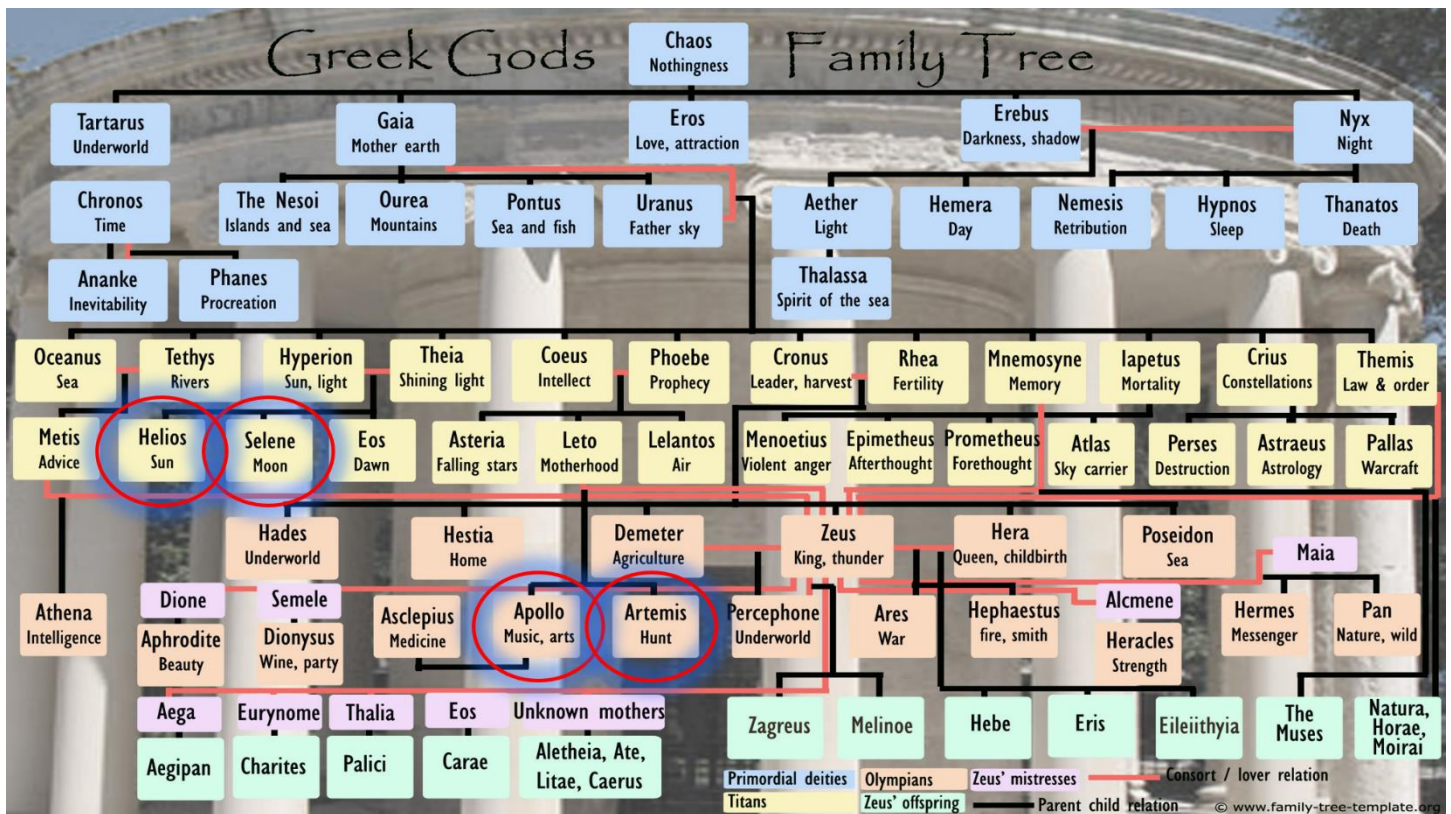
The actual word used is **σεληνιάζομαι** (sě-lā-nē-ä-dzŏ-mī). The second part just relates it to a person.



The first part is the name of the Greek goddess, **Σελήνη** (ě-lā-nā) or we would say Selene.



She was one of the old gods called Titans, her brother was Helios the sun god and she was the moon goddess.



When the Olympians overthrew the Titans, Apollo took over for Helios, and Artemis, called Diana by the Romans, took over for Selene

Anyway, the ancient people believed that people were far more crazed when the moon was full and so any erratic, insane, wild, crazy behavior was attributed to Selene... Her name and the moon itself in Latin, is Luna, giving us lunar as well as lunatic, lunacy, and the "Looney Bin," for what was, until 1930, officially called a "Lunatic Asylum." Walt Disney came up with the title, "Silly Symphonies," for his cartoons in 1929, so the next year,



the Warner Brothers ripped him off by calling their cartoons “Looney Tunes,” and now, you know the rest of the story.

Early English speakers called anyone acting abnormally, moonstruck.



We still say that to describe the crazy behavior of people in love.

So, a lunatic is a person who exhibits “Loony,” behavior. Epilepsy is just one natural physical condition that was considered to be loony.



Here, the Bible is not talking about epilepsy, or any other physical, or mental eccentricity, or abnormality - this was a case of demon possession, not illness.

Jesus did heal the boy, but only in conjunction with permanently expelling the demon. Matthew records that, **“The boy was cured at once.”** It means healed. Mark records that what preceded that was Jesus commanding the **“Unclean spirit... To come out of him do not enter him again”** (Mark 9:25).

The disciple's failure to help, gave a foothold to the Jewish opposition to Jesus. Put yourself in the scene. There is a very large crowd of people who have come

to be healed by Jesus, to hear what He has to say, to see for themselves what this ministry is all about.



Jesus isn’t there - but 9 of His Apostles and many of His other disciples are. Those people representing Jesus no doubt confidently claimed that they could act on His behalf.



Remember, Jesus had already given His authority to them. Way back in Matthew 10:8, Jesus commissioned them, ⁸NASB **“Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons.”**

Mark 6:7 explicitly says that Jesus **“Gave them authority over the unclean spirits.”** Then 6 verses later the Bible states, **“And they were casting out many demons and were anointing with oil many sick people and healing them”** (Mark 6:13). Luke 10:20, records Jesus telling the guys, ²⁰NASB **“Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.”**

The demon possessed son was presented, probably somewhat reluctantly, to the Apostles. Everyone was watching closely. Could Jesus' designees do what He gave them the authority to do. Most of the audience was probably neutral to slightly doubtful... The Scribes would have been more skeptical, but worried.

With all the pressure, the Apostles likely put on a bigger show than normal and as the demon resisted them the guys became less confident, the crowd became less supportive and more doubtful while the Scribes became more confident.

It goes downhill fast from there. Can you hear the Scribes chastising the disciples, the crowd and the father of the boy for their foolish trust in Jesus and His sorry band of misfits?

This is the mess Jesus is pulled into - Scribes are giddy criticizing, the people are doubting and the Apostles are, knowing human nature, blaming each other, or the Scribes or the unbelief in the people or Jesus' lack of support or the moon for their inability and embarrassment.

So, Jesus cried out in exasperation, “You unbelieving and perverted generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him here to Me.”

If Jesus isn't directly quoting Deuteronomy 32:5, He's at least alluding to it.



Some scholars say that Jesus cannot possibly be including His Apostles in this condemnation because He speaks of unbelief rather than little belief. Other scholars say it is the Apostles to whom He speaks because the grammar dictates that as them as most reasonable target.

The truth is Jesus is speaking of everyone, Apostles, disciples, Scribes, onlookers and everyone else of that generation, which is really to say of all of humanity.

We get a glimpse of God's heart here. As the Bible makes clear elsewhere, God is grieved by unbelief (Mark 3:5, etc.). God wishes for all people to come to Him and trust in Him (John 3:17, etc.). He that any should perish (Matthew 18:14, etc.). Jesus is frustrated at the hardness of heart and the fear of life that chokes out faith and leads to turmoil, fighting and war.

Jesus restores a little faith, but is no doubt thinking that He is not long for the world and His guys are far from ready to take over the ministry.

After a very interesting conversation about why the disciples were unable to cast out that particular demon - a conversation I hope to discuss with you next Sunday - Jesus once again turns to the topic of His own impending doom.

I like the extra information Luke shared. He mentions that "While everyone was marveling" at Jesus and the supernatural power flowing through Him and no doubt His completely confident and reassuring manner and

the Words that He spoke... “While everyone was marveling,” Jesus turned to His disciples and said, “Let these words sink into your ears.”

Can you see it? Can you put yourself in the situation? The day was a disaster... Before Jesus showed up, the disciples were put on the spot. The father and demon-possessed son show up. There’s already a big crowd gathered around - various people there for various reasons and in various states of accord and discord. Some, like those previously helped by Jesus, are in full solidarity, others, like the Scribes, are in full disharmony, and there are people everywhere in-between.

All of them are at least somewhat disappointed that Jesus isn’t there. The father no doubt came up and said I’ve got a big problem - where’s your Master?

Well, He’s not here right now, but we can help you, we’ve been commissioned by Him to cast out demons and heal the injured and ill - we’ve done a lot of it over the last several months.

The father was probably skeptical... I think we’ll just wait for your boss, thank you very much. Can you

imagine the guys and the people and the Scribes? The Disciples, “No, we can do it!” The father, “Are you sure... I don’t know about this.” Yes, of course, we’re sure. We’re His trusted Apostles! All the while, some in the crowd saying I think they can do it, while others argue, no, they can’t.

Can you see what happened? As a natural process, egged on by the situation, the Apostles acted out of faith in themselves... We can do it. Like I say, I’m eager to go into it a little deeper next week...

But what followed for the guys was embarrassment, and then when Jesus arrived, rebuke.

It had been a rough day, but after the rebuke, Jesus saved the day. He cast out the demon and restored the boy... He certainly ministered to many others in the group after that... The day had turned joyous... **“But while everyone was marveling at all that He was doing, He said to His disciples, ⁴⁴“Let these words sink into your ears; for the Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men.” (Luke 9:43b-44).**

That's sobering. Mark records Jesus saying, **“The Son of Man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and when He has been killed, He will rise three days later”** (Mark 9:31b).

Matthew says that **“They were deeply grieved.”** Way to throw a wet blanket on the party, Jesus.

Why though, do they never seem to hear the “Rise three days later,” part? Luke tells us. They didn't get it. Honestly how could you get it until it happened. It's so easy for us because we stand on the other side of the Resurrection... From their side, at that time, it was just grievous and so, of course, **“They were deeply grieved.”**

In the course of several hours Jesus, James, John and Peter, went from the supernatural world where God's effulgence shown forth in Jesus' Transfiguration, to the natural world of trials, troubles, tribulations and sorrows. From the mountaintop of majestic wonder, to the Valley of the Shadow of Death.

In the valley, they, now along with the entire crowd of people representing various factions, dealt with emotions ranging from feeling defeated, deflated, or

even despondent, to argumentative, antagonistic, or even aggressive. Then Jesus took control and restored order and saved the day... We're okay - everything is good again - happy days... And then Jesus pulls the rug out by once again talking about His impending, looming, ever approaching future that they could only see as negative... Only as heartbreaking doom.

We know that the heartbreaking doom, lasted only a short while, and was replaced with the unimaginably joyous victory of Jesus' bodily Resurrection that we celebrate today.

It's always the way in this life... Mountaintop, valley, mountaintop, valley... It's that way even for non-Christians - everyone is familiar with the roller coaster of life. The difference is, the Christian cycle can only end on the mountaintop, and the non-Christian cycle, can only end in the valley.

The Resurrected life here and now is being incorporated into the Body of Christ that can know no death eternally speaking. It is, as we saw, in His Transfiguration and our transformation.

Because He was transfigured, we know that we too, who are in Him, have a very different core than what is obvious to physical eyes.

Similarly, because He was Resurrected, we know that we too, who are in Him, have a very different afterlife than what is obvious to physical eyes.



The bodily Resurrection of Jesus is one of the most well documented historical facts of the ancient world. More than 500 individuals personally saw Jesus over the course of 40 days after He was raised bodily from the grave. It is an event more historically certain than Julius Caesar crossing the Rubicon.

It still stands as an entirely singular and unique experience. No one in the history of the universe has ever died, been in the grave for three days and then returned to life, to never taste death again.

There have been those who never died, but were just taken, like Elijah. There have been those who died and were brought back to life to live a while longer and then die again, like Lazarus. No one except Jesus has died and conquered death and so returned victoriously forever.

In addition, the bodily Resurrection of Jesus is the single-most important event, bar none. I pity people who don't fully grasp the significance of what it means.

The reason death exists in the first place is because of sin. Death can never be defeated until the sin cause is destroyed. Jesus returning in bodily form proves beyond question or doubt that Jesus did precisely what He was sent to accomplish and what He said He would do... He broke the back of sin.

All who fully embrace Him as their Lord and Savior are forgiven... Their sin no longer exists - it was imputed to

Jesus and He paid the price once and for all. As He said, "It is finished!"

To be born again means to die to our old sinful self and to be reborn, resurrected in Christ Jesus to the newness of life.

One could argue that just because Jesus wipes away sin and so destroys the grip of death that does not make a person good.

Ah, true enough! God goes further. Once forgiven, Jesus then clothes us in His Robe of Righteousness. I am no longer guilty, only because Jesus paid the price - I am now good, only because Jesus is Good, and I am in Him.

His Resurrection proved that the Father was satisfied, That the Holy Spirit concurred and so, Grace is available to those who believe.

What must you believe? You must genuinely, truly, from your inmost self, believe that Jesus is the Word of Almighty God our Creator, sent by Him as His Anointed One Who, through the power of the Holy Spirit,

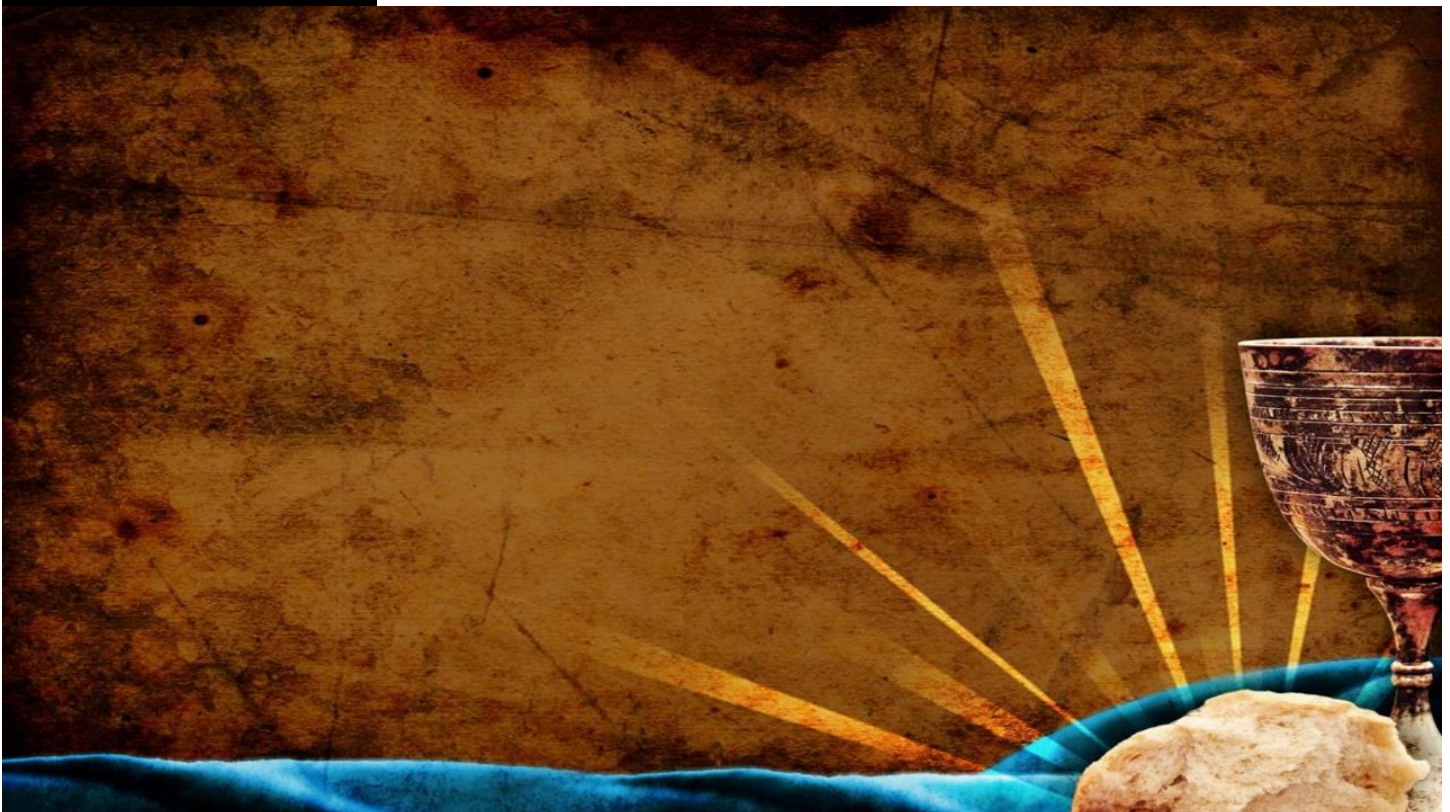
defeated sin, death and the grave by dying for your sins on a Cross outside of Jerusalem 2,000 years ago.

You must believe with every fiber of your being that as the life-giving force itself death could not hold on to Him. That His perfect sacrifice propitiated God's righteousness and that by embracing Him God accepts you.

Do you believe?

How much do you believe?

COMMUNION



You can sing along to some great Christian music, read from your Bible and go into your personal, private prayer closet and be transported to the mountaintop where you are transformed just a bit more, where Jesus is Transfigured, where it is the victorious Resurrection Life, but the moment you leave, the very instant you come down from the mountain to the valley where the work begins you are inundated with the Coronavirus Pandemic, with screaming kids, a complaining spouse, a demanding boss, a troubled friend, not to mention the problems, worries and fears of illness, financial shortfall, and a future without toilet paper.

It's easy to get frustrated... And we could take comfort that Jesus Himself was frustrated, but is that fair? You see Jesus wasn't frustrated that He had to cast out a demon and heal a boy. Jesus wasn't frustrated that He was swamped with work. Jesus wasn't even frustrated that He had just been talking to Moses, Elijah, the Father and the Holy Spirit, about His mission to a Cross outside of Jerusalem.

Jesus was frustrated that people were suffering here and now, and more importantly would be suffering for all eternity, because they just couldn't let go of the

things of this world that distract them from the things of God.

The Resurrection Life is where through Jesus we have enough faith to see past what seems so important, to what is actually important.





