

1. It is not enough to have compassion for a great affliction.
  1. Love will search for remedies.
2. "I brought him to ~~thy~~ disciples, and they could not cure him." Matt. 17:16; Mark 9:18; Luke 9:40.
  1. DID THE DISCIPLES have power to work miracles? They did!
    - (1) They had been sent forth. Matt. 10:8
    - (2) They came back and reported. Luke 10:17
  2. WHY DID THEY FAIL?
    - (1) Because of your unbelief. Matt. 17:20
    - (2) Because of self-centeredness. "Why could not WE cast him out?"
      - A. Not a question of WE but the Lord.
    - (3) May have been to confident of their own powers.
      - A. We always fail when we trust in our own selves
3. Want of spirituality is caused by want of faith.
  - It is unnatural to be without faith for:
    1. It is the pulse of the world. EXAMPLE: Conditions of the world today are caused by the absence of faith.
    2. Without faith we are weak and not able to move a step beyond the bound of actual knowledge.
    3. There is not one thing we cant ake for granted.
4. LESSONS TO LEARN:
  1. Affliction is not an unmixed evil. It may be the means of a great blessing. In this case affliction led to two great mercies:
    - (1) It led the boy himself to Christ.
    - (2) It led the father to Christ.
  2. The Christian is the representative of Christ.
    - (1) His failure may be falsely charged as the failure of Christianity.
  3. This man was not blinded to Christ by the failure of his disciples.
    - (1) We must learn to turn from Christ's imperfect followers to Christ himself.
    - (2) If not pleased with the verdict we may go to the highest court.

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