

## DELIVERING SON OF MAN

Throughout the gospel accounts, the great works of Jesus give occasion for great words. His miracles provide a backdrop for His teaching. The episode of the demonized boy recorded in Luke 9:37-43 sandwiches between the majestic scene of Jesus transfigured on the mountain, and the misunderstood warning about His death, made to His disciples in verses 44-45.

Luke contrasts the impending exodus of the only Son of God who will be delivered up to the powers-that-be to execute Him, with the exorcism of the demonized only son of the distressed father. Jesus had come to deliver His people, both physically and spiritually.

**ABOUT TO BE DELIVERED** - Luke writes that all were astonished at the majesty of God. But while they were all marveling at everything He was doing, Jesus said to His disciples, "*Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men.*"

Jesus declared similar words in Luke 9:21-22, right before He appeared in dazzling brightness on the mount of transfiguration. And He discussed this very thing with Moses and Elijah, and all that He was to accomplish at Jerusalem. When He came down from the mountain, He was implored to cast out a demon. Then He again discloses to His disciples the impending reality.

The time for healing and casting out demons is being overshadowed by His greater purpose, to be delivered up to death, so that He will deliver sinners from their sins.

**CONCEALED FROM THEM** - Verse 45 says, "*But they did not understand this saying, and it was concealed from them, so that they might not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask Him about this saying.*" The necessity of Christ's death was necessarily obscure to them.

"It was beyond the ability of the disciples to understand at this stage," notes RC Sproul. "But after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus, when the Holy Spirit would have come, then they would understand." For now, they could comprehend enough that they didn't want to know more.

Peter had been rebuked before the transfiguration when he disputed Jesus' words about His coming death and resurrection. The disciples still picture Jesus as political liberator, as Joseph Hall notes, "the throne of David did fill their eyes so that they could not see the cross of Christ."

**PROFOUND PARADOX** - It is God's predetermined plan for Jesus be intentionally delivered into the hands of sinful men and be put to death for the sins of mankind (Acts 2:23, 4:27-28). Are you like Jesus' dull disciples? Like the distressed father of the boy, pleading, "*Lord I believe; help my unbelief!*"? Are you powerless in the face of disease and dark forces at work? Jesus is not.

Christ overcomes demonic powers, physical disease and spiritual blindness. His death brings life. His sacrifice sets captives free, and His life brings everlasting spiritual life to all who believe.

**TRUTH ENCOUNTER** - When Joshua faced unknown challenges, God said, "*Be strong and courageous, do not be frightened and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you*" and "*God's Word shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, and be careful to do all that is written in it.*" When faith wavers, we have been ignorant of God's truth.

"Our spiritual battle is not a power encounter but a truth encounter," explains Neil Anderson. If you have not been daily reading and trusting God's Word, not depending on Him in prayer, you've put your faith in a process instead of the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Focus not on unseen enemies, dark demonic forces or coronavirus, but on Christ victorious. It is only as we trust and obey Him - believing daily what He wrote in His Word, as we depend on Him in prayer, then live it out daily by His power within - that we grow in our faith, and our experience of His grace and truth. Then we are able to encourage others!

**ARE YOU DELIVERED?** - As Philippians 2:12-15 instructs, let us live out our salvation, because God is at work in you, with the power of the resurrection. So that you can do all things without grumbling or disputing, "*that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.*"

Put your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the majestic glory of God for whom nothing is impossible. Then even in these darkest of days, His eternal light of deliverance will shine through you! ☐