

## **DIVINE DELIVERER**

Our hearts go out to more and more people with compromised immune systems and adverse reactions to covid injections. Similarly, Luke 9:37-45 records the distressing plight of a demonized boy, and the divine power of his Deliverer. Luke the physician writes a careful record.

It took place after Jesus' transfiguration. By the way, when Jesus was on the mount, Peter wanted to build shelters. Perhaps he thought they would be there 40 days, since that's how long Moses was on Mt. Sinai receiving the commandments. Our word *quarantine* comes from a Venetian term which means 40 days, the isolation period developed for ships and people during the great Plague in Europe, to help prevent the spread of disease.

**LOOK AT MY SON** - Luke writes that on the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met Him. And a man from the crowd cried out, "*Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child.*" Luke is the only gospel writer to note this fact.

Luke also carefully records the only son of the widow at Nain in Luke 7:12, and the only daughter of Jairus in Luke 8:42. There were two other healings of children: the daughter of the Canaanite woman in Matthew 15:22, and the official's son at Capernaum, in John 4:44.

"The young are exactly those whom the devil labors to lead captive and make his own," writes JC Ryle. "And they are those whom the Lord took special delight in helping." And so should we.

**THE ONE & ONLY SON** - verse 34 records God's words about Jesus: "*This is My Son, My Chosen One, listen to Him!*" Luke purposefully contrasts the beloved only Son of the Almighty God with the beloved only son of this needy man. Because the Son of God, this One of great majesty, has come to meet the needs of sinful mankind, as our divine Deliverer.

The father asked Jesus to look with mercy upon his son. Have you cried out to God about your children? or grandchildren? neighbors? "The child of many prayers shall seldom be cast away," writes Ryle. "Though the time of God's conversion may not be ours, so long as a child lives and a parent prays, we have no right to despair about that child's soul."

**THE DEMONIZED BOY** - Just as in Jesus day, we still ask God for healing of physical and spiritual ailments. "Our battle is a truth encounter rather than a power encounter," notes NT Anderson, author of "Spiritual Protection for Children" with helpful principles and prayers. Children are often afraid of very real things from the demonic realm. They need to be taught these things are powerless against those who belong to and trust the Lord Jesus Christ.

In verse 39 the father describes his son: "*And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out. It convulses him so that he foams at the mouth, and shatters him, and will hardly leave him.*" Demons that come and go are also addressed in Luke 11:24-26 and Matthew 12:43-45.

Matthew 17 and Mark 9 add that the boy became "*mute and rigid.*" RK Hughes says he lived "an aquarium-like existence, seeing and hearing things around him but powerless to speak."

**THE DISABLED DISCIPLES** - The father says, "*I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.*" Jesus answered, "*O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.*" Jesus' description of unbelievers also occurs in Luke 11:30, 50, 17:25, as well as the other gospel accounts. And His hearers heard echoes of Deuteronomy 32:5,20, Isaiah 6:11, Jeremiah 5:21-22, which would have been hard for self-righteous people to hear, because God says He would hide His face from them.

The people, scribes and disciples were arguing about healing this boy, while Jesus had been on the mount of transfiguration discussing the redemption He was about to accomplish. Scholars say this episode seems designed to contrast the needy people with the necessary Savior. And it's a reminder that His mercy wouldn't be available forever. Calvary was coming.

**GOD'S HEALING GRACE** - Do you need God's mercy in your life? Do you seek Him for divine healing of physical or spiritual ailments? For yourself, children, grandchildren, or others? Do not delay. Come to Him today. Scripture says, "*Today is the day of salvation!*"

And then Jesus said those wonderful words, "*Bring your son here.*" So spoke the Son of God, who came here, into this world, to pay for sin, and to be your divine Deliverer! ☐