

Bethel

Prayer Meeting Addresses

Number 34 “Bring Him unto Me”

Reading: Mark 9. 14-29

14 And when he came to his disciples, he saw a great multitude about them, and the scribes questioning with them.

15 And straightway all the people, when they beheld him, were greatly amazed, and running to him saluted him.

16 And he asked the scribes, What question ye with them?

17 And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit;

18 And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not.

19 He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me.

20 And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming.

21 And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child.

22 And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us.

23 Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.

24 And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.

25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.

26 And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead.

27 But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose.

28 And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out?

29 And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.

Address

We meet together this evening to pray for our Sabbath school, our teachers, our children and for our young people. Just part of one verse in the passage I have read arrested me, just a few words at the beginning of verse 20: “And they

brought him unto Him.” “And *they*” – the people – “brought *him*” – the child – “unto *Him*” – the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

So we have three people here. Briefly just think about them. This poor boy, the greatness of his need! He was not able to pray for himself, and he was helpless, and because he was bound by Satan he did not want to pray for himself. It is like the hymn we sometimes sing: “The castle of the human heart,” securely guarded by Satan. What a struggle there was! Satan did not want to give him up. And though we love our little ones and our children, as they grow up we must never forget that they are born “dead in trespasses and sins,” a veil over their eyes. They cannot see their need. They have no power to be saved. O the great need to pray for them! It is only as the Holy Spirit accomplishes His divine, almighty work that the dead can ever be quickened. Well, it was so with us.

So first, the poor boy; and secondly, the people. I suppose some of them were interested, and then some of them were sympathetic; they were concerned. And we know that some of them spoke to the Lord Jesus. And then there was the poor father, and he was different from all the others. If they were concerned and interested, he was much more deeply concerned and interested. Well, our congregation here this evening, some of you are intimately concerned like the poor father. You are parents or you are grandparents, or you are Sabbath school teachers. Well, these others were concerned; they all joined in. O may that spirit of real prayer be given, for,

“Prayer indited by the Lord,
The Lord will surely hear.”

And then thirdly and above all, the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, almighty to save. “They brought him unto Him.” Well, the Lord Jesus is no longer here on earth in the flesh, and the way we can bring those for whom we are concerned to the Lord Jesus is in prayer; in no other way but in prayer. And do not just think about praying for a person. There was a person here, but also there was a hard case here, an impossible case. John Kent says,

“Bring all your hard cases as one did of old,
And ask Him the sum of them all to unfold.
His oath and His promise He cannot deny,
To all your hard cases He’ll speak by and by.”

So there is bringing persons and there is bringing hard cases to the Lord Jesus, and did you notice that point? It was in obedience to the Lord's command that they brought him. The verse before ends: "Bring him unto Me"; and our verse begins, "They brought him unto Him." And the Lord Jesus still speaks that blessed word, "Bring him unto Me." And then we have this wonderful display, the tender compassion, the mercy, the divine, almighty power. "Bring him unto Me. And they brought him unto Him," and not in vain.

This address was given at Bethel Chapel, Luton, by Mr. B. A. Ramsbottom, on Monday, 4th June, 2007

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The castle of the human heart,
Strong in its native sin,
Is guarded well in every part
By him who dwells within.

For Satan there in arms resides,
And calls the place his own;
With care against assaults provides,
And rules as on a throne.

But Jesus, stronger far than he,
In His appointed hour,
Appears to set His people free
From the usurper's power.

"This heart I bought with blood," He says,
"And now it shall be Mine;"
His voice the strong one armed dismays;
He knows he must resign.

In spite of unbelief, and pride,
And self, and Satan's art,
The gates of brass fly open wide,
And Jesus wins the heart.

J. Newton

