

## The Biblical Father

Introduction: The Background Story. (Mark 9:14-29)

- A. The boy in need – demonic involvement.
- B. The father's concern – recognition of need.
- C. The Savior's deliverance – Messianic demonstration.

I. The Father was a Man of Discernment. (V 17)

- A. He saw his son's real need as the spiritual problem it was.
- B. What tragedy would have followed if only discipline, training, education, and rejection were utilized.
- C. Not many men have the discernment to recognize the real need in their children.

II. The Father was a Man of Compassion. (V 22)

- A. When he understood the need he did not turn away.
- B. His compassion was proven genuine by his willingness to sacrifice, admit his inability, go to the Lord Jesus, see the problem through to completion, and most of all – be personally involved. (Too often we substitute money.)

III. The Father was a Man of Honesty. (VS 17,18,21,22)

- A. Note the honest confession of his boy's need.
- B. Note the lack of defense, explanation, and pretense.
- C. Note the honest confession of his own need. (V 23).

IV. The Father was a Man of Humility. (V 17)

- A. His honest confession could have brought suspicion upon him and his family.
- B. He was willing to let his pride go and bear the rejection and gossip of the community.
- C. Too many men practice their pride and shift the blame.

V. The Father was a Man of Faith. (VS 17,23 24)

- A. He brought his boy to the Lord Jesus in spite of doubt, perhaps family opposition, and failure of the disciples.
- B. His faith was proven by the activity of bringing his son, a desire to be a true believer, and most of all his clear submission to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
- C. The father accepted what the Savior showed him – the way for the boy to be helped was through the meeting of his own need. "If thou canst believe . . . ." (V 23).

VI. The Father was a Man of Action. (VS 17,11,14)

- A. This father did not count his: work finished by bringing his boy to the disciples or even the Lord Jesus.
- B. There is no evidence in this father of a passive resignation, a surrender to the inevitable, or a shifting of responsibility to the disciples or even the Savior.
- C. Each of the above characteristics find expression in the activity of this Biblical father.

Conclusion

- A. This father made it possible for the Lord Jesus to display His compassion and power by bringing His son. The Savior's response to the father's discernment, etc., is seen in His compassionate deliverance of the boy from demonic bondage.
- B. We can only imagine the new relationship between this father and his son.
- C. We can only imagine what happened when they arrived home!
- D. Question: What would have happened if the father had not responded as the Bible relates the story? Answer: The father would have become a man of shame, remorse, and then a terrible bitterness.

Victor M. Matthews