

3-12-17
THE TEARS OF A DOUBLE MINDED MAN
DOUBLE MINDED FAITH

TEXT:

Mark 9:14 And when he came to his disciples, he saw a great multitude about them, and the scribes questioning with them.

Mark 9:15 And straightway all the people, when they beheld him, were greatly amazed, and running to him saluted him.

Mark 9:16 And he asked the scribes, What question ye with them?

Mark 9:17 And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit;

Mark 9:18 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.

Mark 9:19 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.

Mark 9:20 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.

Mark 9:21 And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child.

Mark 9:22 And ofttimes 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.

Mark 9:23 Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.

Mark 9:24 And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.

Mark 9:25 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.

Mark 9:26 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.

Mark 9:27 But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose.

Mark 9:28 And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out?

Intro:

- 1. Jesus had just come back from the mount where His visage was transfigured before Peter James and John.***
- 2. He comes down and sees the Pharisees questioning His disciples.***
- 3. As if embarrassed that He would show up the crowd was amazed to see Jesus***

It is like when people are talking bad against you and get embarrassed when you show up.

Mark 9:15 And straightway all the people, when they beheld him, were greatly amazed, and running to him saluted him.

4. *Jesus knew they were up to no good, and says,*

Mark 9:16 And he asked the scribes, What question ye with them?

5. *One out of the multitude gives away the issue of controversy:*

Mark 9:17 And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit;

Mark 9:18 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.

No doubt the Scribes were calling into question the power of Jesus because the disciples could not cast this demon out.

Here we have a story about a man whose child was afflicted of Satan. Possessed of a dumb and deaf spirit, this spirit afflicted this man's son causing him to have suicidal tendencies, often trying to burn himself and at other times trying to drown himself. The ultimate goal of Satan is to cause a person to self destruct and take their own life. If you think about it, Satan would like no more than to cause people in their thinking to decide to hurt themselves or kill themselves.

The worst problems a person can have are mental problems rooted in demonic oppression or possession, which causes them to self destruct. In the Bible, the source of these afflictions is clearly given as demonic and Satanic. Today we are more educated and sophisticated and think that these are just Chemical imbalances in the brain. Problems that can be treated with medication. In my experience, our health care industry has less success with mental illness than they have treating cancer, or a host of other physical problems. In fact, by my observations, mental illnesses are rarely cured.

As we see here, apparently the disciples of the Lord had been successful in healing a lot of people in Jesus name and they themselves could not heal this child afflicted with this deaf and blind spirit. In fact, they were amazed that the same thing they did for others would not work on this child.

Later in private the disciples asked the Lord, why is it we could not cast this spirit out of this child? Jesus said this kind cometh not out but by fasting and prayer. Apparently by the kind of prayer and fasting our Lord did at the start of His ministry when He was tempted of the devil in the wilderness. He fasted and prayed 40 days and nights. I don't think any of the us or the early disciples ever did that type of fasting and praying.

Then the father falls before the Lord and asks the Lord to heal his son.

Mark 9:20 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.

Mark 9:21 And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child.

Mark 9:22 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.

Mark 9:23 Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.

Mark 9:24 And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.

What a statement this man made to the Lord. He said Lord I believe help mine unbelief.

So sad and devilish how people call into question the power of our Lord just because one of us don't have the faith we ought to have: That is what the Pharisees were doing in this case. But they were caught in the act.

Why call into question God's character because his servants are not up to things as they should be able to do?

6. *Our Lord Declares the real problem "we are a faithless generation"*

Mark 9:19 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.

On the mount there was no problem, in the Kingdom of God there is no problems, but in this life we walk amongst a faithless generation and we ourselves are a faithless generation.

What a contrast between heaven and earth:

THY KINGDOM COME THY WILL BE ONE. IT IS NOT BEING DONE BECAUSE WE ARE A FAITHLESS GENERATION:

7. *THE MAGNIFICATION OF THE PROBLEM BY THE DEVIL*

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Mark 9:22 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.

Straightway the spirit tear him.

The devil is a pro at putting on a show of how hopeless a situation it is.

The Demon manifested itself, and showed off how he was able to get this child to do just unbelievable things, so that if possible even the Lord might give up on the situation.

Devil is a pro at magnifying obstacles.

The child, was foaming at the mouth, falling on the ground, wallowed and foamed, cast him into the fire, and into the water.

8. *THE REAL PROBLEM EXPOSED THAT ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE THROUGH FAITH.*

THE MAN SAYS HE HAS FAITH AND THEN ADMITS HE DOESN'T.

Mark 9:23 Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.

Mark 9:24 And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.

9. WITH THIS CONFESSION OF THE REAL PROBLEM, THE MAN GETS HELP FROM THE LORD.

Mark 9:25 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.

Mark 9:26 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.

Mark 9:27 But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose.

TEXT:

Mark 9:24 And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.

DOUBLE MINDED FAITH:

There is not one of us that at times have not been a bit double minded:

Peter walking on the water, got double minded and sunk.
The Children of Israel in the wilderness got double minded.
John the Baptist, "Is it you that we have been waiting for?"
John Mark, Got homesick and deserted Paul.
Demas forsaken me having loved this present world.
Doubting Thomas got double minded and doubtful.

If each of us would be honest there would not be one of us that could not list a time when their faith wavered. Maybe some of you are like this man who said, HELP MINE UNBELIEF.

This morning I want to talk to you about this man's contradictory and double minded statement.

LORD I BELIEVE HELP MY UNBELIEF!

I. THE REASON A PERSON MAY BECOME A DOUBLE MINDED MAN:

The hopeless condition of his son caused this:

Mark 9:20 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.

Mark 9:21 And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child.

Mark 9:22 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.

The obstacles appear insurmountable:

We have all at one time or another seem to have faced obstacles that were insurmountable.

Moved from Levittown to Clarks Trailer Park mountain of stuff to move.
We just cried,

People have problems at times seem insurmountable and hopeless.

Mark 9:23 Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.

Mark 9:24 And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.

I BELIEVE

HELP THOU MY UNBELIEF.

Which was it? Did he believe or did he not?

He wasn't sure, and when you are not sure, you are in the quagmire of doubt.

II Corinthians 1:18 But as God is true, our word toward you was not yea and nay.

II Corinthians 1:19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, even by me and Silvanus and Timotheus, was not yea and nay, but in him was yea.

II Corinthians 1:20 For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

God's promises are sure.

God's promises are not yea and nay, yes and no, I believe no I don't believe.

But when the devil complicates things, and makes mountains out of mole hills, and brings confusion, then into the picture comes a double minded man.

James 1:8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

What are the causes of being a double minded man?

THE GREATEST CAUSE OF BEING DOUBLE MINDED IS FEAR:

I John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

A Squirrel in the middle of the road can't decide which way to go.

The squirrel can become so scared it actually will freeze and become immobile.

Why did the devil put on this exhibition of foaming at the mouth, hysteria, jumping in the fire than water? It was to create fear in the person who was going to dare to try and cast this demon out.

Fear is one reason people never venture out to do things for God.

Fear is the reason people never try new things.

Fear is the reason people vacillate between two decisions.

Fear is the reason people become immobilized and never attempt to do anything for God.

Fear is the number one reason people do not get saved.

Fear is the greatest reason people will not give their lives to the Lord:

Revelation 21:8 *But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

Why are people afraid to believe and get saved?

They are fearful of the change that may happen in their lives..

They are fearful of loss of things in this world..

They are fearful of what people will think..

The Devil builds a case of fear in peoples hearts to immobilize them so they will not come to the Lord and be saved.. This ungodly fear leads to doubt and torment.

Amazes me how I see macho men who fear coming to church and getting saved. I had a man invite a co-worker to church one time. He seemed awful nervous, we began to sing a hymn and he got up and walked out. After the service I asked his friend what happened. He said he couldn't take it and had to leave. I said take what? He was shaking in fear. Men are afraid to change, afraid of leaving darkness and coming to Christ. Fear of forsaking their pet sin.. Fear of a change life.

1. First Cause of being double minded is fear..

2. Second Cause is doubt.... Of double mindedness is doubt

THINK OF THIS:

Doubting God is when we attribute evil to his character.

Genesis 3:4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

Genesis 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Genesis 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

When we doubt God we make God a liar. He says one thing and we say "I DON'T BELIEVE IT.." Is God a liar?!

THE DEVIL SAID TO EVE:

YOU WON'T DIE. GOD IS A LIAR.

GOD HAS EVIL MOTIVES.

Doubt will cause you to vacillate.

When we doubt God we vacillate in our decisions to obey Him.

3. THE THIRD GREAT CAUSE OF DOUBLE MINDEDNESS IS LUST OR SIN.

The Woman desired the forbidden fruit.

Sin is fun for a season. She desired to eat what was forbidden.

Covetousness is a great cause of double mindedness.

Acts 5:1 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession,

Acts 5:2 And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Fear of getting older, caused double mindedness.

Doubting God's ability to take care of them.

Covetousness or greed for money.

Think on this, all of these things that cause a person to be double minded are not good at all.

I would challenge you to have faith in God.

I would challenge you to trust him to believe on Him.

The Bible says,

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Romans 10:10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

All the Lord wants from us is our faith and trust in Him. How do we show that faith?

We believe on him in our hearts. NO ONE CAN SEE YOUR HEART.

So the Bible also says:

WE NEED TO BELIEVE IN OUR HEARTS AND
WE NEED TO CONFESS WITH OUR MOUTHS.

When these two things come together we are saved.

Jesus told his disciples to go into the world and preach salvation, asking men to believe on Christ and confess Christ, and then we are commanded to baptize all those who believe and confess Christ.

Baptism is the way we make our faith public.

You can say you believe. I can't see if you believe.

But I can see when you get baptized.

There are three types of people in this world:

1. THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO DO NOT BELIEVE AND ARE LOST ON THEIR WAY TO HELL.

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

He that believeth not shall be damned. That is what Jesus said.

So if you do not believe, the Bible says you are on your way to hell unless you repent and believe on Him.

2. THERE IS ANOTHER GROUP OF PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD. THEY ARE PEOPLE WHO SAY THEY BELIEVE BUT HAVE NEVER PROFESSED PUBLICLY THAT FAITH IN BAPTISM. THEY ARE DOUBLE MINDED.

There are double minded people. They one day think they are saved and the next day wonder if they are saved. Their faith has never been followed through with an open, clear, profession in Christ. They waver around have no victory in their lives. Because there is this great obstacle, they have never truly obeyed the Lord in believers baptism.

3. THERE IS ANOTHER GROUP OF PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD. THEY ARE PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE AND ARE SAVED AND HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED AND ARE TRYING TO LIVE FOR THE LORD.

I hope that is you, but if not this can be you. You can respond to the invitation this morning and you can come to Christ in faith and trust and obedience.

SUNDAY EVENING

II. THE RESULTS OF BEING DOUBLE MINDED:

TURN TO JAMES:

James 1:6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

James 1:7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

James 1:8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

Mark 9:24 And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.

CRYING AND TEARS ARE THE END OF DOUBLE MINDEDNESS.

A double minded person is going to make lots of mistakes.

Waste time. Remember the Squirrel.

Could lead to loss of life, time, goods, health.

Tears of regret.

Crying over spilt milk.

Crying over the power satan gets in a persons life:

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

James 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

A double minded person will be a person who cries out.

Two types of crying: Tears of remorse and self pity.

Or anger, getting mad at others.

James 3:14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

James 3:15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

James 3:16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

James 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

James 3:18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

James 4:1 From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?

James 4:2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

James 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

We all have been double minded. Proof:

We all have wept when things don't go well for us.
We all have gotten angry when things haven't gone well for us.

All this leads to instability in your life.

A DOUBLE MINDED MAN IS UNSTABLE IN ALL HIS WAYS.

James 1:6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

James 1:7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

James 1:8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

The fruit of being double minded is that you do not get the blessings in your life that you pray for and crave.

A double minded person does not trust the Lord, but lives in doubt and fear and receives nothing from the Lord. He becomes unstable in all his ways.

Somethings do not come right away, the Bible says:

WE HAVE NOT BECAUSE WE ASK NOT. James 4:2

Luke 18:1 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

Jesus said, we should pray like the little widow lady in Luke 18:3 that petitioned the unjust judge so much that he gave her her petition.

Why should she make her petition continually!

III. THE CURE FOR THE DOUBLE MINDED PERSON:

Mark 9:24 And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.

Admit your case: I Believe oh Lord no I don't help my lack of faith.

Confession. Cry out to God. He will see and have pity on you.
He will answer a sincere repentant sinner....

LORD I BELIEVE BUT NOT AS I SHOULD.

Too many people are laying the blame on others.

Some people say it is too hard, God requires too much of me.
Some people blame the church, the preacher, churches in general.
Problem is with people, and they look for someone else to blame.

LORD HELP ME I DON'T BELIEVE AS I SHOULD!

If God says it we should believe him:

A double minded man will live a life of remorse.

Application:

Build your faith: I Believe. If you are saved you have some faith.
Build that faith, increase in faith.

How do we increase our faith???

We increase it by stepping out in obedience to His Word:

HELP MY UNBELIEF!!!!

There is no promise in the Bible that will not work if we believe.

Psalms 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

Psalms 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psalms 1:3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

We are all by nature double minded, it is only through meditation and the transformation of God's spirit through the washing of the water of the Word that we are changed:

Solution:

- 1. Recognize your condition, LORD HELP MY UNBELIEF.**
- 2. Become a student of the word: Meditation, memorization, reading.**
- 3. Take the challenges of faith. Faith steps out. Peter walked on water.**
- 4. Prayer and fasting increases your faith:**

Matthew 17:19 Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?

Matthew 17:20 And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

Matthew 17:21 Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.