

Reflection Questions: Luke 9:37-45
For the message, "I Believe, Help My Unbelief!" given by Pastor John Ferguson
at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on May 10, 2020

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Luke 9:37-45

37 On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. **38** And behold, a man from the crowd cried out, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. **39** 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. **40** And I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." **41** Jesus answered, "O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." **42** While he was coming, the demon threw him to the ground and convulsed him.

[**Mark 9:21** And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. **22** And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." **23** And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible for one who believes." **24** Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!"]

But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. **43** And all were astonished at the majesty of God.

But while they were all marveling at everything he was doing, Jesus said to his disciples, **44** "Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men." **45** 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.

A summary of the message: Jesus response to the pain and suffering and unbelief of this world is to move towards it with his healing. Therefore, we hope in Jesus who is the foretaste of the coming kingdom of God.

Let's get started. What initially grabs your attention in this text?

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- What do you make of the father's prayer, "I believe, help my unbelief"? What do you learn about faith and doubt from this statement?

- Notice that in this moment when the boy's father most acutely felt a mixture of belief and unbelief, he cried out to Jesus to do something about it. What should we learn from this?
- Do you find it easy to be honest with God in prayer about your faith, or do you feel like you have to put on a mask, and try to look stronger in faith than you might be in the moment?
- How does this text help me to understand the good news of Jesus? Specifically, why did Jesus want the truth of his upcoming death to be prominent in his disciples' minds at the very moment they were all marveling at the majesty of God?

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- Do you find it easy to reach out to followers of Jesus and admit when your faith feels weak? Why or why not?
- What role should we have in each other's lives in encouraging one another when someone feels weak in faith? How can we point one another to Jesus and encourage the kind of honesty that this boy's father displayed?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- How might this passage shatter stereotypes of what faith entails? How might this passage clear up some misconceptions people in our city have about "perfect faith?"
- How does this text serve as Good News for those outside the faith? In other words, how is what Jesus did in this man's life a picture of what he'll do for the entire cosmos in the future?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

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