

"Why Could not we?" Mk. 9:28

Failure Complete - public - painful - humiliating -
Unexpected - Contrary to the promise of Christ -
He had commissioned them & ordained them to do
just this thing -
He had sent them forth to heal - Cleanse - Raise
Their previous experiences -

Now they had failed -

Humiliating to them -

Grave reflection on the Lord - for His name
had proved powerless -

a public failure -

provided the enemy with an occasion to
disciples' ~~failure~~ ^{faith} had been badly shaken - ^{blesspheme}

Today - Christ's followers vs a devil-possessed world -
Commissioned & empowered to do miracles -
Sent - "to face & overcome prince of this world"
now - powerless - Suffering defeat -

Why Cannot we cast out devils today?

Jesus gave the answer - Unbelief -

Were they not believers? left all to follow?

zealous & active -

they thought they could - They had not -
their faith was shaken -

they had caused the father to doubt -
His faith wrecked by disciples' doubt -
unbelief is terribly infectious -
Faith is equally infectious -

Christ gave the reason - "Unbelief" -
"the remedy" -

Christ gave ^{the} REASON - the REMEDY - "Prayer"

Fasting - we are far too comfortable -
there is a price to pay for power

Montgomery came to take over vs Rommel
Insisted on two things -

1st 100 % fitness - Eliminated the unfit -
Every man must renounce everything that
might hinder his personal effectiveness.

2nd 100 % belief - must believe in victory

Prayer + fasting + faith -

2nd June 33

"Why Could not we?" Mk. 9:28 -
"They were not able"

Failure - public - painful - humiliating - unexpected - Contrary to His promise
He had called them - trained them - commissioned them -
Their previous experiences -

Now - "Failure" -
1. Humiliating to them -
2. Grave reflection on their Lord -
3. a public failure
4. provided the enemy with an occasion to blaspheme
5. Faith of disciples badly shaken -

Contrast. High vision - vs tragic suffering and confusion -
Impotence of disciples - Fruitless discussion about it.

Jesus spent his life "going down hill". Communion with the Father -
From place of vision & communion to the place of need -
"hill of privilege to plain of suffering & need"

Today - Christ's followers vs a devil-possessed world -
Commissioned & empowered to do miracles -
Sent to face & overcome prince of this world -
Powerless - defeat - chagrin - embarrassed -

"Why Can't we?" Jesus gave the answer - "UNBELIEF" (1st failure)
The disciples? Believed - left all to follow -
The thought they could - They had in the past - Now failure
Their lack of faith had helped destroy the faith of the father

Christ gave the Reason - "Unbelief".
" " " Remedy - "Prayer and fasting" - A price to pay for power
8th Army vs Rommel - Impotent until Montgomery came -
Insisted on two things -

Prayer Fasting Faith
1st 100% fitness - Every man must renounce anything that might hinder
2nd 100% belief - must believe in victory -

"They were not able" - Reproach of a suffering world to an impotent church -

They look to us - hurt - disappointed - in despair -
Prayer - never a small thing to Jesus - [we bring only the faint force of a
Powerless because they were prayerless - depleted, fatigued,
unrenewed, unresolute spirit]

28 1953 Why could we not? Mk. 9:28
 "They were not able."

Failure - public - unexpected -
 called - commissioned -

Now failure - humiliating to them
 Reflection on Jesus
 Public -

gave enemy occasion
 Faith of disciples shaken

Contrast

High Vision vs. failure & need
 Impotence of disciples -
 Fruitless discussion

"Going Down Hill"

Vision - need / Privilege need

Today - Christ's followers vs a devil possessed
 we are commissioned to do miracles

Powerless - defeat - embarrassed.

Why can't we? Jesus gave answer

"Unbelief" - (disciples believed)

1st failure
 Lack of faith had hurt faith of father

- The Reason - Unbelief -

- The Remedy -

8th Army vs Rommel - They were not able -
 They look to us
 100 % fitness - Powerless because prayers
 100 % belief - depleted, fatigued, unrenewed