

# Treasure Hunt

- What is the scene structure of 17:14-21?
- Who first prayed, “Lord, have mercy on me,” and where?
- Who does, and who does not, pray this prayer in the gospels?
- What earlier disciple anticipates the failure of the disciples in this story?
- Whom is the Lord rebuking in v. 17, and what is he echoing in his rebuke?
- What is surprising about the disciples’ failure, in the light of earlier portions of Matthew?
- What is the remedy for lack of faith?

# Two Scenes in 17:14-21

Scenes are marked by continuity of place, time, and characters.

Changes in any one indicate a new scene.

- 17:14 and when they were come **to the multitude οχλος**
- 17:19 Then came **the disciples** to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?

# “Lord, have mercy”

Psa 6:2 **Have mercy upon me, O LORD**; for I *am* weak: O LORD, heal me; for my bones are vexed.

Psa 9:13 **Have mercy upon me, O LORD**; consider my trouble *which I suffer* of them that hate me, thou that liftest me up from the gates of death:

Psa 31:9 **Have mercy upon me, O LORD**, for I am in trouble: mine eye is consumed with grief, *yea*, my soul and my belly.

+ 5 others, all by David

Mat 15:22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, **Have mercy on me, O Lord**, *thou* Son of David;

Mat 17:14 there came to him a *certain* man, kneeling down to him, and saying, 15 **Lord, have mercy** on my son:

Mat 20:30 And, behold, two blind men sitting by the way side, when they heard that Jesus passed by, cried out, saying, **Have mercy on us, O Lord**, *thou* Son of David. 31 And the multitude rebuked them, because they should hold their peace: but they cried the more, saying, **Have mercy on us, O Lord**, *thou* Son of David.

# Parents' Petitions for their Children

Mat 9:18 While he spake these things unto them, behold, there came a certain ruler, and worshipped him, saying, My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay thy hand upon her, and she shall live.

Mat 15:22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, *thou* Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

Recall:

Mal 4:6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

# A weak disciple in 2 Kings 4

2Ki 4:18 And when the child was grown, it fell on a day, that he went out to his father to the reapers. 19 And he said unto his father, My head, my head. And he said to a lad, Carry him to his mother. 20 And when he had taken him, and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and *then* died.

2Ki 4:28 Then she said, Did I desire a son of my lord? did I not say, Do not deceive me? 29 Then he said to Gehazi, Gird up thy loins, and take my staff in thine hand, and go thy way: if thou meet any man, salute him not; and if any salute thee, answer him not again: and lay my staff upon the face of the child.

2Ki 4:31 And Gehazi passed on before them, and laid the staff upon the face of the child; but *there was* neither voice, nor hearing. Wherefore he went again to meet him, and told him, saying, The child is not awaked.

# The rebuke in v. 17

## O faithless and perverse generation

Deu 32:5 They have corrupted themselves, their spot *is* not *the spot* of his children: *they are a perverse and crooked generation.*

Mar 9:14 And when he came to *his* disciples, he saw **a great multitude οχλος** about them, and the scribes questioning with them. 15 And straightway **all the people οχλος**, when they beheld him, were greatly amazed, and **running to him saluted him.**

Mat 27:20 But the chief priests and elders persuaded the **multitude οχλος** that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus.

## How long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you?

Num 11:11 And Moses said unto the LORD, Wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant? and wherefore have I not found favour in thy sight, that thou layest **the burden of all this people upon me?** 12 Have I conceived all this people? have I begotten them, that thou shouldest say unto me, Carry them in thy bosom, as a nursing father beareth the sucking child, unto the land which thou swarest unto their fathers?

Num 14:26 And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, 27 **How long shall I bear with this evil congregation**, which murmur against me? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they murmur against me.

Contrast:

Mat 28:20 lo, **I am with you alway**, even unto the end of the world.

# The Disciples' Lack of Faith

Mat 10:1 And when he had called unto *him* his twelve disciples, he gave them power *against* unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

Mar 9:23 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.

Rom 10:17 faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.