

God's greatest problem is not our evil, it's in the world, but a) the own people. Hosea 6:4. "O, Ephraim, what shall I do w/ you? What shall I do w/ you, O Judah?" II Peter 3: "But it is longsuffering toward us..."

X's immediate reaction of pain & indignation was not directed toward the evil spirit but at the powerless disciples -

- He had a right to expect much more of them -
- The tragedy is not the ~~poor~~ possession by, but the powerless disciples - "if they could not." The words might be haunting us.
- They were as helpless as the world -

- The more so since in Matt 10 Jesus had given them the power to cast out demons & they had done it.

The Tragedy of This Day is not the rampant lawlessness, & gallivanting ~~young~~ = broken homes, etc. = but the inability of the Church to do anything about it!

- If we are the light, world = why so much darkness?
- If we are salt of earth, why so much bitterness & decay?

Gives Delight

I - Our Failure Enters the Enemies & is a Reason to Work
Mark 9: 14-16 - The Scribes were delighted by the failure of the disciples & taunted & shamed them before multitude
- Here was justification for their unbelief -

II - Our Failures Leave the world in Despair - the father -
"and they could not."

Causes men to doubt the power of X

III - Our Failure Brings Doubt upon The Sufficiency of X
"If you can do anything..."

IV - Our failures must Drive us to Jesus for Answer

"Why could we not?"

1 - Ask the right person = not a committee

2 - The answer = Because of your little faith

(1) Their little faith had saved them from drowning but not from defeat = will never let you overcome you but not make you overcome the Devil

(2) - Faithless = save them behind - else could not have tried or been surprised at their failures.

- 1- In Matt 10 - Jesus gave them power to do this -
↳ they had done it - what happened?
- 2- What is faith - more than intellectual conviction, but whole-hearted commitment
- 3- A gulf had widened between X & His Disciples =
 - (1) Jesus words of suffering = They were grieved - didn't understand & didn't ask - first time they failed to ask:
Did not want to know - their minds struggled against the plain meaning of X's words -
 - (2) They were divided - not in sympathy w/ me anyone of Jesus - did not want a crucified Savior -
The thought of the cross was totally opposite, what they wanted
& disputed as to ~~which~~ ^{who} would be the greatest -
 - (3) Faith is a total commitment, not TV a minister, or a cause, or even the needs of man, but X & his Cross -
 - (4) They had ~~secret~~ reservations w/ their faith -
a holding back
- willing to follow as long as it fit into their plans,
& suited their ideas of victory -
- Devil asks O a good question - "Will a man serve
O for nothing?"

Plurited = heart turned in the wrong direction.

Gulf Coast Keswick - 1978
Valley View, Louisville, Ky - 1978
~~down-home~~, Wichita, Kan - 1979

say "no" to self
not "I" but X

- Personality conflict - self-life
nothing against your self-life
- Same face = soul = "How we
before the people"
- unification

1. I should report in part of my
things worth to do - things we can do & things we
perhaps may suggest & you may be doing