

Matthew 17

▼Intro/Review

- Demanding a sign
- You are the Christ, I will build my church
- Suffer, die, resurrection
- If you want to follow me, do what I do. Put down, pick up, and go.

▼17:1-13

- Read parallels. Mark 9:2-8, Luke 9:28-36
- 17:2 transfigured. What's happening here. Flatland. Chariot of the Gods. Counterfeits.

▼17:3

- Why these guys? No one really knows. Law and prophets, prophets and end times, two witnesses?
- What were they talking about? What was about to happen. Why? Speculation - encouragement. Connect with garden and sweating blood.
- 17:5 God tells Peter to shut up. Also a string of pearls.
- 17:9 From parallels we learn that they were disturbed by this death talk.
- 17:13 Elijah will still come at some point and prepare the way for the second coming.

▼17:14-21

▼17:15

- Not a medical diagnosis. "moon struck" or "lunatic" Demon possessed.
- Demon kept trying to kill the boy with drowning and burning.
- 17:16 could not - no power, lack of dynamis.
- 17:17 Even Jesus lost His cool! But did not sin.

▼17:20

- little faith / unbelief - lack of confidence in God's power. Why? Perhaps because this was an extreme case. "I know God is powerful, but dude."
- mustard seed, move mountains - Jewish figures of speech for extremes.
- impossible - I am too weak. I am unable.
- In other words, they didn't have the power because they didn't believe (perhaps out of fear?). But even with a little amount of faith, nothing will make you say, "I am too weak, I am unable in Him."
- The flesh hears this and thinks, "You mean, Jesus is saying that I will be able to do anything I want any time I want?" Nope! It's not about you, it's about Him. It's not your power, it's His. It's not for your glory, it's for His.

▼17:21?

- Content appears in the Mark account so it is legit.
- It's this a works based power? If you fast and pray then you will automatically be able to do this stuff? Not what Jesus is saying.
- Fasting and prayer are faith muscle builders. It's about intimacy and relationship.

▼17:22-23

- gathering - One source suggests that the disciples went out with Jesus in groups at times, and this is one of the times when they were all together in one place.

▼distressed - depressed, sorry.

- Why? Didn't they get it? Nope!
- They didn't hear passed "delivered and killed" Didn't hear the whole message, didn't

get the whole picture.

- When you don't have the whole picture, whether out of ignorance or intentionally, you have a false hope at best, and are a false teacher at worst. In either case, you are in for an unhappy ending.

▼ Bell Video

▼ Will only a few select people make it to Heaven?

- Few? Yes. Matthew 7:13-14
- Select? Makes it sound like they earned it. Not earned, but elect. But we don't decide who the elect are. Discussion for another time.
- Will billions and billions of people burn forever in Hell? Yes. Revelation 20-21.

▼ In that case, how do you become one of the few?

- Is it what you believe? Yes! Romans 10:9-10.
- What you say or what you do? Yes, in that it reflects the reality of your death and resurrection in Jesus.
- Who you know? Yes, Jesus.
- Something that happens in your heart? Yes, heart transplant.
- Initiated, baptized, take a class, converted, be born again? How does one become one of these few? Baptism is an act of obedience, not a requirement of salvation. Born again? Yes.

▼ The question behind the questions. What is God like?

- Millions have been taught that the center of the gospel is that God is going to send you to Hell unless you believe in Jesus. What is subtly caught and taught is that Jesus rescues you from God. But what kind of God is that, that we would need to be rescued from this God? How could this God ever be good? How could that God ever be trusted? And how could that ever be "good news?" QUESTION THE QUESTIONS!
- This is why lots of people want nothing to do with the Christian faith. (Agreed.) They see it as an endless list of absurdities and inconsistencies. Why would I ever want to be a part of that?
- What we believe about Heaven and Hell is incredibly important because it exposes about what we believe about who God is, and what God is like. I AGREE, BUT FOR VERY DIFFERENT REASONS.
- What you discover in the Bible is so surprising, unexpected and beautiful, that whatever we've been told or taught, the good news is actually better than that, better than we could ever imagine. The good news is that love wins. I AGREE, BUT FOR VERY DIFFERENT REASONS.
- If Bell is preaching universalism, the idea that a God of love would not send anyone to Hell (maybe annihilationism), then the death and resurrection of Jesus is pointless.
- Is God out to kill us and Jesus protects us from Him? No. Is Satan out to kill us and Jesus protects us from Him? No. The what is the problem? Hang on.

▼ John Dominic Crosson article, CNN, 2-27-2011

- People like to talk about scripture, but Christians should also know history to understand Jesus, Crosson says.

In Jesus' time, Rome was forcing many Jewish families into destitution, with high taxes and land seizures. Some Jews advocated violent rebellion, but others opted for non-violent resistance.

Jesus called for nonviolent resistance to Rome and just distribution of land and food. He was crucified because he threatened Roman stability -- not as a sacrifice for humanity's sins, Crosson says.

If you believe in a God that uses violence to "save" humanity, you'll start believing that

violence is permissible in certain circumstances, such as suicide bombing or invading other countries to spread democracy, Crossan says.

The human addiction to violence, though, is so ingrained that even the authors of the New Testament had trouble accepting Jesus' nonviolence, Crossan says.

So they did a little editing.

Crossan's proof: Jesus preaches nonviolence at the beginning of the New Testament.

By the book of Revelation, he's leading armies through heaven to kill evildoers.

"Christianity both admits and subverts the historical Jesus," Crossan says.

●What is missing and flat out denied in this?

▼The problem of sin

●Sin is violent. Sin separates. It separates us from others. More importantly it separates us from God. It separates like a chainsaw cutting off a leg. Graphic? Because of sin, our best, our righteousness is compared to a used maxi pad. As we saw in Judges, when God seems extreme to us it's only because we don't understand the extreme nature of sin.

●God is not the Predator and Jesus is Arnold. God is a just judge who has found us guilty of sin and sentenced us to execution like we deserve. But because He loved us He sent His Son to take that penalty of death on our behalf.

●Romans 5:6-11 Love is not the judge letting everyone go.

●Who is in Heaven and who is in He'll, and why?

●17:24-29 Going to include with 18.

●Wrap up