

Three Failures of the Disciples

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I. Introduction.

- A. We learn from our own experiences as well as others.
- B. Text: Matthew 17.
- C. The Apostles failed in three ways.

II. Failure of faith.

- A. When we are blessed, we are to share with others.
- B. Christ calls the whole generation twisted because the failure of the Apostle's in casting out the demon was a reflection of their generation.
- C. The Apostle's failure was a failure in faith. The fault always lies with the healer in one attempting to heal—whoever came to be healed in the New Testament was healed. Faith the grain of a mustard seed was enough to be healed.
- D. It is possible that the Apostles' faith lapsed because Jesus was not with them, but He was training them for when He would not be with them.

III. Failure of comprehension of Jesus' resurrection.

- A. Even though the Apostles had been with Jesus for such a long time, they did not believe Him.
- B. They despaired at His death showing that they missed His resurrection.
- C. We too must remember that Christ is alive and with us because of the resurrection.

IV. Failure in the understanding of Christ's sovereignty.

- A. The question arose whether Jesus paid the Temple tax.
- B. Jesus said to fetch a fish, and the disciples found within it more than enough to pay the tax.

V. Application.

- A. This episode is a picture of the present age.
 - 1. It reflects the failure of Israel.
 - 2. It also reflects that Jesus is risen and present with His church now.
 - 3. Right now Christ is sovereign, but His kingdom is hidden.

B. Our walk of faith depends on our view of Jesus.

C. Faith has to have a beginning point—it begins with Jesus Christ.

Application questions:

1. Why is it that the healer, and not the one seeking healing, is responsible for the healing? What does this tell us about many modern faith healers?

2. How does a constant belief in a resurrected Jesus enable us for whatever task we face?

3. Why is faith in general insufficient? Explain.
