



This Kind Pt 3: But by Prayer and Fasting!

October 10, 2021

Text: Matthew 17:14-21 (emphasis on verse 21)

What we don't think Jesus meant in Verse 21:

1. That prayer and fasting is some kind of legalistic, works-based method.
2. That prayer and fasting is a guarantee of spiritual success.
3. That God doesn't answer prayer without prayer and fasting.

What is the LORD teaching us in Matthew 17:21?

1. Simply that there are some instances where "more" will be required.
2. The implication of the Text seems to be that "This kind," (which in context, is an especially entrenched demonic entity) needed a "a different kind" of preparation.
3. Success here means comfortable ways must be abandoned for uncomfortable ones. More difficult devils require higher dedicated levels. More fevered battles need further focused soldiers!
4. "Kind" here is *genos* in Greek. It can mean a certain *kindred, family or nation*. When used in the NT, it refers to a certain group.
5. Our LORD "may" be intimating that this "kind" of devil (*daimonion* in Greek, v18) is more difficult to deal with. Recall past thoughts on the wicked ranks of the spiritual world:

- Satan

- Called by many names in Scripture, such as the devil (Matt 4:1; Rev 20:2), the great dragon and the old serpent (Rev 20:2), the god of the world (2 Cor 4:4), the accuser of the brethren (Rev 12:10), a roaring lion (1 Pet 5:8), and an angel of light (2 Cor 11:4).
- In July, in a message called "Dealing with the Devil," we said of his unholy activity, "Satanic work often comes through thinking about things wrongly; having a carnal, worldly, fleshly perspective. His devices often thrive through man-centeredness and human opinion. Hence the connection between 'the world, the flesh, and the devil.' They are an unholy trinity. We are warned again and again in Scripture against such. We must think biblically!

- Other Fallen Angels

- Scripture speaks of "the devil and his angels." (Matt 25:41; Rev 12:9)
- Scripture does speak of other fallen angelic beings. Maybe these are the principalities and powers we learn about in Eph 6:12 and Col 2:15?
- Some are very powerful. Remember Daniels vision? In Daniel 10, after a 3-week time of fasting, Daniel receives a vision of a man whose description resembles that of Jesus (Dan 10:6, Rev 1:13-16). Daniel then hears a voice (perhaps the angel Gabriel) begin to explain:

Daniel 10:11-13 (KJV) *And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling. 12 Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. 13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me: and I remained there with the kings of Persia.*

- Apparently, Michael, a chief prince, had to intervene. Some of these wicked “princes” possibly held sway over large territories.
- Genesis 6 perhaps describes another fall. And Peter speaks of it as well:

Genesis 6:1-4 (KJV) *And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, **2** That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. **3** And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. **4** There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.*

2 Peter 2:4-5 (KJV) *For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; **5** And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;*

2 Peter 2:9 (KJV) *The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:*

- Unclean Spirits
 - Often, the words *demon, devil, and unclean spirits* are used somewhat interchangeably.
 - Many believe fallen angels and these beings are the same. I believe there may be a difference between them for a couple reasons. One, in Scripture, angels can manifest a physical presence; they have no need to possess human bodies (Gen 6:4, Matt 8:30-31; Luke 24:4; Heb 13:2). Two, fallen angels seem to desire rule (Eph 6:12), unclean spirits seem to wander: **Matthew 12:43 (KJV)** *When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none.*
- **Our point here is this: Jesus “may” be suggesting that *type, time, and/or temperament* matters. There is enough biblical evidence to confidently infer that not all spirits are the same!**
- “This kind” likely means that this particular spirit: 1) Was of a type that was harder to exorcise, 2) Had been firmly entrenched for a long time, and/or 3) Was of a power level/temperament that required “more” from the disciples.

6. The principle we believe we see here is this:

At different points your journey with Christ, “more” will be required of you, unto the glory of God. At times, standard practices and patterns will not be enough to engage in the level of spiritual warfare you will face. “This kind” will necessitate extraordinary sanctification.

Some of you may be facing a *this* kind situation using *that* kind patterns. *That* kind worked with *that* kind, but not with *this* kind!

7. We certainly see this principle in the Scriptures:

- Recall when Israel sinned with the golden calf while Moses was on Mount Sinai for forty days and nights to receive the Law from God. (Exodus 32) In addition to the 3000 that died at the hands of Moses and Levites (Ex 32:28), God's judgment was a plague among the people. (Ex 32:35). The situation was so extreme, and God's anger so hot, that Moses had to endure ANOTHER forty days and nights of fasting:

Deuteronomy 9:13-19 (KJV) Furthermore the LORD spake unto me, saying, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people: **14** Let me alone, that I may destroy them, and blot out their name from under heaven: and I will make of thee a nation mightier and greater than they. **15** So I turned and came down from the mount, and the mount burned with fire: and the two tables of the covenant were in my two hands. **16** And I looked, and, behold, ye had sinned against the LORD your God, and had made you a molten calf: ye had turned aside quickly out of the way which the LORD had commanded you. **17** And I took the two tables, and cast them out of my two hands, and brake them before your eyes. **18** And I fell down before the LORD, as at the first, forty days and forty nights: I did neither eat bread, nor drink water, because of all your sins which ye sinned, in doing wickedly in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger. **19** For I was afraid of the anger and hot displeasure, wherewith the LORD was wroth against you to destroy you. But the LORD hearkened unto me at that time also.

If time permitted, we could discuss the extraordinary way God used prophets like Elijah, Isaiah, or Hosea...or the incredible daily sacrifice of the apostles while battling devils, establishing the Church and communicating the New Testament.

8. We also see the principle in the life of Christ:

- At the beginning of His ministry:

Matthew 4:1-2 (KJV) Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. **2** And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.

- When preparing to call the disciples:

Luke 6:12-16 (KJV) And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. **13** And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles; **14** Simon, (whom he also named Peter,) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew, **15** Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called Zelotes, **16** And Judas the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor.

- At the end of His ministry:

Matthew 26:36-42 (KJV) Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, *Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.* **37** And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. **38** Then saith he unto them, *My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.* **39** And he went a little further, and fell on his

face, and prayed, saying, *O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.* **40** And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, *What, could ye not watch with me one hour?* **41** *Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.* **42** He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, *O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.*

9. There are times where prayer and fasting are needed:

2 Chronicles 20:1-3 (KJV) *It came to pass after this also, that the children of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and with them other beside the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle. 2 Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they be in Hazazontamar, which is Engedi. 3 And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.*

Joel 1:13-14 (KJV) *Gird yourselves, and lament, ye priests: howl, ye ministers of the altar: come, lie all night in sackcloth, ye ministers of my God: for the meat offering and the drink offering is withholden from the house of your God. 14 Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the LORD your God, and cry unto the LORD,*

10. Hopefully, we are familiar with the “Ordinary Means of Grace” (Preaching, corporate prayer, singing, discipline, fellowship, ordinance, etc.) Perhaps our LORD intends for us to understand, and at times, utilize the “Extraordinary Means of Grace” (extended times of prayer and fasting)!

Prayer Review

To fast is to engage in purposeful abstinence—of food or other things for the crucifixion of the flesh—in order to seek and honor God with fewer distractions. For time’s sake, please review the following message on prayer: [Five Places of Prayer in a Healthy Church](#), from Oct 2020.

In short:

- Prayer is simply communication with God. It can involve praise and adoration, intimate communing, thanksgiving, confession, reflection, vows, supplication, intercession, and prayers for healing, deliverance, and transformation.
- Prayer is an extremely vital but often neglected part of our walk with Christ both as individuals and as a corporate body. This should not be so! Jesus said:

Matthew 21:13 (KJV) *...It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.*

- As we said when last teaching on corporate prayer (June 25, 2017, “The Power of Corporate Supplication”), “There is an undeniable call in Scripture for the people of God to *always be praying*. We are to live prayer-filled lives, individually and corporately. Prayer should be the heartbeat of our walk with God in Christ, and empower our love for others, study of Scripture, obedience to the precepts of God, and service to His body the Church.”

Fasting Review

We'd also recommend this message on fasting: [The Ministry of the King in Matthew: And Then They Shall Fast](#), from Oct 2018.

We learned there are at least 15 benefits of fasting from Isaiah 58:6-12:

1. Helps loose the bands of wickedness—helps people emerge from evil!
2. Undos heavy burdens and breaks yokes—helps the oppressed go free!
3. Allows us to share our bread—to feed the hungry!
4. Positions us to bring in the homeless—to be hospitable and serve others!
5. Covers the naked—literally to clothe others and not hide from family and friends in need!
6. Increases our light within the culture.
7. Brings forth speedy healing!
8. Helps us establish and put forward a righteous testimony! When our praying leads to good works, our lives match our words!
9. Gives divine protection! When God's people move out in faith and serve, the glory of the Lord protects them from attack!
10. Increases answered prayer! Why? Because this sort to fasting and ministry suggests a heart that prays according to the Lord's own heart...His will!
11. Causes less bondage! True fasting means less yokes!
12. Helps us control our tongues! True fasting produces less corrupting talk and more of that which builds up! (Eph 4:29)
13. Promotes greater guidance, clarity, and strength from the Lord!
14. Promotes the establishment of old, but godly patterns.
15. Helps us fight for multigenerational restoration and reformation!

Application of Today's message:

1. It is quite possible that we will face "this kind," the extraordinary, whether situations or spirits.
2. Perhaps a deeply entrenched unhealthy family pattern, or a besetting sin, or a demonic entity. Or even an area of anger or unforgiveness that you just haven't been able to shake! Maybe even a health challenge!
3. These extraordinary times can be extraordinarily frustrating!
4. All too often, after failing using normal patterns, we look to the world for solutions.
5. In those moments, we rarely think: "I need to fast and pray."
6. The big application for today is to more often, by God's grace, embrace "This Kind" thinking.
7. Sometimes, the solution is not another book or conference or expert. Sometimes, we must afflict our souls (Isa 58:5) and lay before God until heaven moves:

Daniel 9:3 (KJV) And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:

Daniel 9:20-21 (KJV) And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God; **21** Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation.

Amen!