

Luke 9:37-45

Christ's Majesty

What a beautiful Spring morning we have today.

It is so good to be here with you all this morning.

Today we are going to continue in our study of the Gospel of Luke.

We will be in Luke chapter 9, verses 37-45.

Let us pray...

Last week our message was titled Christ's Glory, and this week our message is entitled Christ's Majesty.

Last week, on top of the Mount of Transfiguration, Peter, John, and James were privileged to witness the greatest revelation of God's Glory ever granted to any human being in history.

These men witness the Shekinah Glory of God, as Jesus' Divine essence shone through His humanity.

They also saw two men with Jesus, perhaps because of what they knew through tradition, or maybe Jesus revealed their mysterious identities, but it is certain that Moses the Lawgiver, was finally in the Promise Land, because of Jesus, and also the Prophet's representative Elijah too was back on earth to meet with Jesus.

They discussed Jesus' final orders here on earth, and the manner of His 'exodus' from earth, through His,

death, burial, and resurrection, and finally His ascension to His Father's throne in Heaven.

However, the sleepy, misguided leader of the Apostles, Peter, thought it would be better if all parties stayed permanently upon that glorious mountain.

He wanted to build shelters for the Holy Men, and the Holiest Man.

But after the Father spoke a Word of correction to the Apostles, and made clear that Jesus was His beloved Son, they were instructed to "Hear Him."

You see Jesus had been warning the disciples over and over again that He was destined for Jerusalem, and there in that Holy City, Jesus would be rejected as the Messiah, and killed, but He would rise again on the third Day.

But these men were blinded by their own ambitions, their hopes of the Kingdom of God being established and them having places of prominence, overshadowed the real reality of what lay ahead for them, and the Messiah.

"Let's stay here!" Peter proclaimed, "Let's establish the Kingdom, Jesus you could rule from this mountain, and Moses and Elijah will co-rule with You."

And God the Father, replied, "Hear Him!"

Peter you are missing the mission, can't you hear your Teacher.

There is work to be done, the greatest work, Jesus must fulfill the Old Testament Prophecies, and He must Suffer as the Sin-Bearing Messiah as Isaiah spoke.

Isa 53:4-6 Surely He has borne our griefs

And carried our sorrows;

Yet we esteemed Him stricken,

Smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But He was wounded for our transgressions,

He was bruised for our iniquities;

The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,

And by His stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray;

We have turned, every one, to his own way;

And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

The disciples should understand, even the testimony of scripture foretold of Jesus' sacrifice.

Now after God the Father commanded that they "Hear Him," the Glory departed, the Lawgiver and Prophet had finished their purpose, and they were gone as well.

And only Jesus remained.

Now, the thunderstruck disciples kept this whole scene to themselves, how could they even begin to explain it,

who would believe their report, there were no words left in Peter's rambling tongue.

The All-powerful, Omnipotent voice that came from the Glory Cloud would have been so overwhelming for them; in fact, in the Old Testament it caused PTSD in the wondering Israelites.

We see this as Moses recounts the scene to the Nation in **Deut. 5:23-27** "So it was, when you heard the voice from the midst of the darkness, while the mountain was burning with fire, that you came near to me, all the heads of your tribes and your elders. 24 And you said: 'Surely the Lord our God has shown us His glory and His greatness, and we have heard His voice from the midst of the fire. We have seen this day that God speaks with man; yet he still lives. 25 Now therefore, why should we die? For this great fire will consume us; if we hear the voice of the Lord our God anymore, then we shall die. 26 For who is there of all flesh who has heard the voice of the living God speaking from the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived? 27 You go near and hear all that the Lord our God may say, and tell us all that the Lord our God says to you, and we will hear and do it.'

Now, we can imagine, the same voice speaking to the disciples that day, they were shell-shocked.

So Jesus will spend a day with them alone on the mountain, and the scriptures are silent on what was said or done.

Perhaps Jesus took the time to explain the details of all they saw.

Now, every mountaintop experience will at one point come to an end, and in the next scene we will see the same Glory that was seen in Jesus on the Mountaintop will Majestically be shown on the Valley bottom as well in a different way.

The disciples, who wanted to stay on the mountaintop, are now found dutifully following Jesus to the work below...

Look at Luke 9, verse 37 now, as we set up the next scene....

A Boy Is Healed

(Matt 17:14-21; Mark 9:14-29)

9:37 Now it happened on the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, that a great multitude met Him.

Coming down from the mountain, we can imagine the energized conversation of the disciples, as they talked and questioned all that took place, trying to use the scripture they knew to bring light upon all that took place.

Peter, and these two brothers, “The Sons of Thunder,” were no doubt pumped up.

But their excitement and enthusiasm gained upon the mountaintop is about to be hit with a dose of reality.

Now this is a huge and enlightening contrast we see coming down from the mountain.

Up on the mountaintop, they had such wonderful time alone with Jesus, such a wonderful revelation of Jesus, they encountered God and His Glory.

Yet as they came to the bottom of the mountain, a great multitude met Him and the disciples.

There are always many people in the Valley.

In fact, this is why we must come down from the mountaintop experiences.

There is an earthly ministry to be done.

The mountaintop experiences in our spiritual journey are thrilling and many times life changing, but we can never stay there, this Christian life is not about us, or our experience.

When we come to Christ, our main mission is to work to bring others into a relationship with God.

Jesus models this for us here... Jesus explained this in...

Mark 10:45 “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Jesus did not come to be ministered to on a mountaintop; He came in power of the Spirit to preach the gospel to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, to restore the sight of the blind, to set free those who are oppressed. (Luke 4:18)

Often times I warn those who are experiencing a mountaintop experience that our enemy and those under his captivity will be waiting for them in the Valley Low.

You know, after a retreat, or a thrilling missions trip, or an amazing worship time, often we want to stay in that place.

But those times are not meant to be permanent or lasting, they are refueling stations in our walk, but as soon as our spiritual gauge is refilled, we are to get back into the masses and the work.

Our reality in this life is one of engaging in the mission, soon after this life is over, we will enjoy the permanent mountaintop experience.

But here, we imitate our Lord, who descended to the valley, and there we will see a devil, and discouragement immediately meets Jesus.

Expect it Christian, Expect the Valley Low, immediately after the Mountain High.

Now Luke omits some details in his account, Mark has the fuller account, in Mark, we see Jesus arrives first to

his disciples that He left at the bottom, and finds them in a dispute with the scribes.

Jesus sees His disciples are pinned up against a wall by these legalistic bullies, and in **Mark 9:16** we see

16 And He asked the scribes, "What are you discussing with them?"

And immediately after Jesus comes to the defense of His followers, no one is able to answer Him, but the subject of the dispute comes to the surface by a desperate cry from the crowd.

Let us pick it up now in verse 38...

38 Suddenly a man from the multitude cried out, saying, "Teacher, I implore You, look on my son, for he is my only child. 39 And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out; it convulses him so that he foams at the mouth; and it departs from him with great difficulty, bruising him. 40 So I implored Your disciples to cast it out, but they could not."

The highlights of the mountaintop immediately get lost in the extreme anxiety of this moment.

A heartbroken father implores Jesus, the original word in the Greek is *Deomai*, which is to beseech or beg.

Now, the petition would grab the Son of God's heart very specifically.

Jesus just had an encounter with His Father on the mountaintop, and here, an only begotten son is suffering at the hands of a very powerful demon.

Jesus knows the great bond between father and son.

The helpless father is powerless to do anything to help his only boy.

He can only watch as the strong spirit overpowers his son, and seizes his body, and the effects of this terrible monster controlling his boy is much like epilepsy.

A screeching cry, and convulsions and foaming at the mouth.

In Mark, the details make this scenario even direr.

The boy's body becomes rigid, and he gnashed his teeth, and the filthy spirit tries to destroy the boy by throwing him into a fire, and even in water.

The father informs Jesus that this has happened his whole childhood.

You can imagine the pain of this father, once holding his son as a baby, having so many hopes and aspirations for his son.

Believing that he would be his joy and pride in life.

But this demon for some unknown reason chose to torment the lad.

And this father has had many sleepless nights, many terrible encounters, saving and snatching his boy from death, wither by burning or drowning.

The boy that was to bring him pride in this life, instead brought frustration and even humiliation as everywhere they went, it was unknown if the monster would manifest.

There is no doubt this suffering son had marks of torture, as the father here speaking of bruising every time the bully spirit left the boy.

The desperate father lets Jesus know, that His disciples were powerless over this superior spirit.

And here we see what the debate was over, between the disciples and the scribes.

It was not that long ago that we saw in **Luke 9:1**

Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases.

Yet the disciples were powerless here. And we can picture the scribes mocking them in their questioning.

Why would the disciples be found incapable of performing the same feats they were doing not so long ago?

The answer lies in the next verse, look at verse 41...

41 Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here."

Now we can see here in Jesus, an annoyance in His frustrated reply.

This whole scene was all too much after a Holy Night upon the mountaintop.

The French Commentator Fredrick Godet says... "*Jesus* feels himself a stranger in the midst of unbelief... the holy enjoyment of the night before, as it were made Him homesick." Godet p. 435

Jesus' emotions rise as He is heading toward Jerusalem to die, and these men will be the one's He entrusts to carry on His message and ministry.

I am sure this comment was not just directed at the disciples but to all who participated in this scene, the scribes, multitudes, and even the father.

The disciples had been given authority over the forces of darkness and yet they are powerless.

It is not because this demon was much stronger than any others, or that it was mightier in power.

You see the disciples as we will see in the weeks to come have had a different ambition ever since Jesus made it clear that He was the Christ of God.

They had now become puffed up, self-dependent, they may be doing the motions of ministry, but they had lost touch with their source of power.

They tried all their previous formulas for success, but to no avail.

Maybe one disciple remembered, “the last time I did this, I was kneeling, and he took a knee, and the boys mouth foamed all the more.”

Another disciple remembered when he was on the shores of Galilee, he laid two hands on a tormented man, and he tried his formula.

And disputes broke out, no, no you are doing it all wrong, “when I did it, I did it this way.”

The scribes also having their own legalities and expertise when it comes to exorcism.

And the whole scene is one prideful man trying to one up another.

They are no longer humbly dependent upon the Spirit of God, but procedure and self-confidence has overcome the ministers of Christ.

Luke leaves out the conversation that takes place after this scene, but the disciples come to Jesus and ask why they could not do what they had done previously.

Mark 9:29 So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."

They were no longer seeking the Lord in prayers and fasting.

They were relying on past's successes to minister to this boy.

It is interesting, that their faithlessness and prayerlessness only took a week to develop.

Isn't it sad how quickly we go from clinging to Jesus, to self-dependency?

So Jesus rebukes the faithless and perverse generation that He was ministering among, and is taken back that the disciples had begun to depend upon themselves and not God's Spirit.

It is a warning for the minister today, that we too will only meet frustration and disappointment, when we trust in our own abilities and skill.

Victory over evil, and success in the ministry cannot happen apart from the prayers of the righteous continually buffeting heavens throne.

We must remain dependent upon the Holy Spirit.

Church, understand oftentimes the dry seasons of our personal ministries, the seasons of failure, and disappointment come when we are moving in the flesh and not Spirit.

So Jesus ends this verse, with "Bring your son here."

Now, I am going to spend some time on this point here in our conclusion, but here is a great example of what

a parent should do when they are troubled about their child.

I imagine some of you here this morning are just as vexed and troubled about your own children as this father was.

You too had so many hopes and dreams when you held that little one in your arms.

But as they grew and matured, you do not know how it happened, but they drifted from the Narrow Path, they rebelled, and joined the crowds of sinners.

And your soul is just overwhelmed, that daughter that was once the flower and delight of the family, has embraced the world's philosophies, and has become self-willed and recklessly selfish.

Your golden child, the boy who was never afraid to kiss his momma in public, and hold his momma's hand, now seeks the inclinations of this world and is a lover of pleasure rather than a lover of God.

I imagine many of you have known the pain of a hot iron piercing your soul as it seems that at the moment the devil is the winner over your child's life.

Now, what should a parent do in this kind of situation?

Well, this man before us in the text, gives us the solution, go to Jesus, and without ceasing cry out in prayer on behalf of their soul.

Give Jesus every detail of your sorrow and suffering, because Great is the power of prayer.

J.C. Ryle explains “The child of many prayers shall seldom cast away. God’s time of conversion may not be ours. He may think it fit to prove our faith by keeping us long waiting. But so long as the child lives, and a parent prays, we have no right to despair about the child’s soul.” Ryle p. 246

You see we have no right to despair, because as we will see next, Jesus is ready and willing to show mercy to our children!

42 And as he was still coming, the demon threw him down and convulsed him. Then Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the child, and gave him back to his father.

The demon gave one last attempt to keep his captive bound.

The boy is thrown to the ground, and is convulsing in torment.

We can imagine the pain of this father as well, as he watched his only son writhe helplessly on the ground.

But we must now consider the heart of Jesus, who compassionately sees this lost boy, and heals him, and restores him back to his father.

Jesus gives this young boy a future and a hope, and a normal life.

This young boy would never forget the day his daddy brought him to Jesus.

And as the people see the boy whole again, it had such an impact on the crowd, that they will began to praise God, as the majesty of Jesus was revealed to them.

Jesus Again Predicts His Death

(Matt 17:22,23; Mark 9:30-32)

43 And they were all amazed at the majesty of God.

You see the majesty is all around us today, it was seen when the demoniac boy was healed, it is also seen in every person that is touched by God's Grace today.

In every sinner that is saved, the Majesty of Jesus shines through.

All whose lives are transformed and made new, there the Majesty of Christ is revealed.

You see personal devotion, and corporate worship bring us to the experience of the Glory of the mountaintop.

But it is in our service, in evangelism, and reaching others, that we get to see the majesty of Jesus as He touches people's lives in the dark valleys of this world.

Whenever you are used to bring a person to Christ, and the person is born again, and you watch God's Spirit rule and reign in their lives, when the light of Christ indwells them, then we see the majesty of Christ.

Today, it is believers who possess the majesty and glory of Christ.

2 Cor. 3:16-18 Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

When the light of Jesus sparks in a person's heart, we get a glimpse, as though we are seeing through a fuzzy mirror now.

We cannot quite make it out fully, but there is no doubt the person's heart is ablaze with the glory of Jesus.

This is how we encounter the majesty of Christ today. You who have come to Christ in this life, you all are beholding the glory.

The little boy healed and touched by Christ showed the Majesty of God and the people knew it.

But Jesus saw here what was stirring in their hearts, and the false idea of His Messiahship was once again rising in their minds, so He brings them back down to reality here.

But while everyone marveled at all the things which Jesus did, He said to His disciples, 44 "Let these words

sink down into your ears, for the Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men." 45 But they did not understand this saying, and it was hidden from them so that they did not perceive it; and they were afraid to ask Him about this saying.

Jesus commands them here to let these words sink down into their hearts.

But their emotions and misconceptions never let it sink down.

Jesus has told them multiple times now that He was going to suffer, but each time, it is not understood by them.

They were afraid to ask the meaning of this because they were beginning to understand that Christ's sacrifice meant a cross for them to bear as well.

And they rather hold onto their own ideas of who Jesus was, rather than hear anything that makes them feel sad or doomed.

But all followers of Christ must understand where the Lord went, we must be willing to go as well.

That is why the Apostle Paul said in **Gal 6:14**

14 But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

And it was only after the cross did Jesus ascend into His eternal glory.

The disciples will learn all of this much later, but in the weeks to come we will see their misconceptions grow.

And for us today, we must remember that in this life of faith, a cross, sacrifice is unavoidable in our service to Christ our King.

Amen?

So now, let us consider the father and his boy once again.

This father in our story this morning gives us such a wonderful template.

I want to ask every man in here to stand up for a moment.

If you are confident you are a man, please rise.

Look around at these men, here, many fathers, and husbands, or one day will be.

These are those who are called to lead in our families and church.

You can be seated.

Listen, it is not popular in our culture today to say such things, but this is the reality within the church.

Men, you are called to lead your families, men you are called to lead your wives.

Now, with such a clear call in the scriptures to the men to lead, why is it we see women having to take the place of spiritual leadership in the family.

Now, I will quickly mention this, some of you women dominate your man, or cut down his headship, and that man will never rise to the occasion, you are called to be his helpmate, and if you want him to thrive in his role, you must depend on his leadership.

I have seen the strong willed wife cut down her man, right in front of me, just in normal conversation, if you want your man to lead as he is called to, you must not cut him down.

Honor your man, pray for him and let him lead, and even let him fail, and get back up again to lead.

You hold so much weight on whether your man is leading, much of his leadership, will depend on your support, if it is not there, he will never rise to the place he belongs in the godly home.

Really quick, if you can, if your man is next to you, grab his arm.

Now, I imagine every single man in here flexed.

You see ladies the hero is in him, you just have to let it out, he wants to be your hero, your provider, your leader.

But he will never rise to the occasion if you don't follow his lead.

Now, I want to speak to you fathers who just are spiritually lazy this morning.

I don't know if you are aware of the ramifications that you are having your family.

Men, you carry a great burden and today much of the failure in the home falls upon dad.

I want to challenge you men for a moment who have handed over your household to your wives.

They were not created to lead, but to support.

But you women are incredible, because where man has failed, and bowed out you have had to assume both roles.

But men, I want to show you the impact you can have in your household and community, simply by stepping up and being the spiritual head of your household.

Like the father in our story, I want to show you the importance of bringing your children to Jesus.

You have an impact that greatly outweighs your wife's role in the Biblical household model.

Now this does not diminish mom's role, both are vital to the health and spiritual life of our children.

And scripture is not silent on the role of even a single mother, as we know that Paul's most prized companion and student, Timothy came to the Lord through the influence of two godly women.

We see this in his tender greeting to young Timothy.

2 Tim 1:3-5 I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, 4 greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, 5 when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.

Mom's you are so very important and have a great impact, but I want to talk to you men and present some facts this morning.

Now even secular data shows that there is a father aspect in almost every single one of our societies issues.

The Census Bureau came out with some research in in 2013, <https://www.fatherhood.org/The-Father-Absence-Crisis-in-America>

They found that when a child grows up without a father's influence there are serious ramifications, and understand dad, you can be in the home, and completely absent from your family.

But the kids without a father, are four times more likely to live in poverty.

They are more likely to suffer emotional and behavioral problems.

There is two times of a greater risk of infant mortality. They are more likely to go to prison.

More likely to commit a crime.

Seven more times more likely to become pregnant as a teen, to repeat the fatherless cycle.

8 times more likely to be drawn into an abusive relationship.

They are more likely to abuse drugs and alcohol.

More likely to suffer from obesity.

And two times more likely to drop out of high school.

- 63% of youth suicides are from fatherless homes (US Dept. Of Health/Census) – 5 times the average.
- 90% of all homeless and runaway children are from fatherless homes – 32 times the average.
- 85% of all children who show behavior disorders come from fatherless homes – 20 times the average. (Center for Disease Control)
- 80% of rapists with anger problems come from fatherless homes –14 times the average. (Justice & Behavior, Vol 14, p. 403-26)

<https://thefatherlessgeneration.wordpress.com/statistics/>

And the absent father is the greatest crisis in America right now.

As 1 in 4 children live without a father in the home in the US.

Now for us in the church, there is more to the story.

Understand Men, you are called by God to lead, no matter what society decries, society is falling apart by what they decry!

For those of you concerned about your child's salvation, and spiritual life this morning.

The father's role is paramount.

Breakpoint.com came out with an article last month called "Dad's take your kids to Church!"

<http://www.breakpoint.org/2019/03/breakpoint-dads-take-your-kids-to-church/>

The article touched on research done looking at Christians living in Switzerland.

They researched and studied to see how the setup of the home contributed to a child growing up and going to church.

In homes where only a mother went to services each week, bringing the children, this is crazy, only 2-3 percent of the children grew up to do the same.

Now, when the father is inserted into the research whether it be in household with a husband and wife going to church, or just a father going to church, the numbers shot up to at the high mark 44%.

Even if the mother never attended and only the father attended church, the numbers were considerably higher.

Dad's you have a huge, huge factor in the future of your child's walk with the Lord.

No wonder Satan is trying to kill masculinity in our culture, as they are trying to demonize raising a boy to become a man.

Now, in every country, I have been in, so not just an American observation here, but in the church at large, it is the women that are the spiritual leaders in their households.

We have a crisis today, that people blame on the culture, universities, and peer pressure, in that the young people are leaving the church in droves, and never coming back.

And those things have something to do with it.

But dad's, it is your influence on your children that is impacting the future of the church more than anything else.

Understand, if Sunday church service is only done at the convenience of your Sunday schedule.

And church is not a necessity, or your Bible reading comes second to your TV shows and hobbies, and is nonexistent.

Your kids will have as shallow of a faith as you, and when they get into this world, they will not be able to withstand the influence of this fallen system.

If you are letting your wife lead in the home, your home is unbalanced, your home is unbiblical, and there

will be severe consequences in the future of your children's lives.

Dad's you have the greatest impact in your home, and it is imperative that you lead your home spiritually.

I did my own research on this, and my findings actually shook me to the core.

I surveyed 7 children, ranging from the ages of 10 years old to 10 months.

First I asked the seven year old, who I will call Sofia, she is a bright up and comer, and has many hopes for her future, she wants to be a missionary or a doctor, and more recently a horse back rider.

I asked her, "Why are daddies important to their kids."

Her reply was the most detailed of those surveyed.

Daddy's make their kids feel safe, they protect their kids, they love them, they protect their wives, they work hard, teach us to do chores, and make us listen to mommy.

But she also added, they teach their kids about God.

So then I asked the 3 year old boy and his friend Bubba, why daddy's are important, and their answer was a little more simple, Bubba put up his arms and flexed, and said Daddy's are strong, for which his pal Freedom agreed, yeah they are strong.

Then I asked an almost five year old beauty named Lola, why daddy's are important, and she said, God

made them, they make me feel safe, and Daddy's love God.

Then I asked two friends a 10 year old and 9 year old the same question.

Both of them spoke of protection, and Dad's teaching them about life.

Now, this is where my research got a little tricky, I asked the 10 month old, who goes by Daisy the same question, I wanted to keep my research simple and valid, she was eating her breakfast, and she just looked at me and pointed and smiled big.

Now, I am having trouble getting data from the last one, but from what I can find, she was saying what the others did.

Dad's we bring security to the home, a secure enough environment where they can find answers for life and they want us to bring them to Jesus.

Now, those kids questioned in my survey were my own, with a couple friends, and I will admit, it caused a heaviness in my heart.

Knowing that their eternities are so dependent on the example I give them.

That is an incredible weight and burden.

Now, maybe dad is gone, not in the home, and that is a reality for many of us here this morning.

You moms who are going alone at this, it is so important that you find a mentor, a coach, a youth pastor, an uncle or the most effective I have seen, is Grandpa.

Grandpa can have a similar impact on your children if dad is not there to lead.

Your children need a spiritual man guiding them in their upbringing.

Dr. Dobson says this should begin to take place around 3 years old to help them through the developmental years.

Now, many of you have raised your kids, and have done well, I want to encourage you not to stop there, in the church there are many young children without fathers, and they are looking for mentors.

It is such a joy to see so many married couples teaching in our children's ministry together now.

It is so good for the kids to see this.

Because these couples are being used by God to impact and influence many kids who need to see men spiritually leading.

Now dad's I hope you are paying attention today, I hope the reality of your impact has challenged you this morning.

It has challenged me.

But this story in our text this morning, sheds much light and instruction for us fathers.

Jesus commanded, "Bring the boy to me."

There was great conflict as the father approached Jesus, the demon trying to hold onto to his captive.

But once Jesus rebuked the spirit, the child was healed, and this day would be a day the boy never forgot.

This was the day his daddy brought him to Jesus.

And this is the answer for all of us here this morning, whoever is under our influence and whoever we have been entrusted with, those we have the ability to speak into their lives, for the children in our lives, we must bring them to Jesus.

And how this looks today, is they must see Jesus as priority in our life.

Parents, understand, when you allow anything to take precedence over your spiritual life, when you allow any good thing to come before your family's commitment to Jesus, your children will be impacted.

Dad's if they hear you tell your wife, "I am too tired to go to church today."

That will be their excuse when they get out on their own.

Bring them to Jesus.

When they are old, they will never forget their parent who brought them to Jesus.

**Prov. 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go,
And when he is old he will not depart from it.**

You know everyone of us in here, have some kind of impact on someone else.

Now, I know for some of you, your children are gone out of the house, and maybe you feel it is too late.

It is not, I cannot tell you how important it is to consistently have a prayer campaign for your prodigal son or daughter.

That is how you bring them to Jesus, your prayers are powerful, and they are effective, and they are accomplishing much.

Continually bring your children to Jesus, set aside often a time of prayer and fasting for your children, no matter if they are little or grown.

Bring them to Jesus. Jesus is ready and willing to show mercy to our children!

Then we will have the hope of seeing the Majesty of Christ working in our family's lives as well.

This is how the next generation will be reached, when our generation is diligent to bring them to Jesus, and let Jesus work in their lives.

Today as we close out with this last song, I want to encourage you to bring your children to Jesus this morning, in prayer.

Bring your nieces and nephews before the throne room, pray for the students in your classroom, for the kids on the ball team, and may we flood heaven with the righteous prayers of the saints this morning on behalf of the next generation.

Also, you men that are here this morning, maybe you like me feel heaviness about our responsibility.

Come up and get prayer this morning, for strength to lead in your homes, to be the spiritual head of your household.

Your homes are mini churches, and what takes place in your home will have a huge impact on their lives.

Come up and get prayer, pray that the Spirit would fill you and equip you for the duty you have been entrusted with.

Let's pray...