

Episode 53

"O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here."

- Luke 9:41

This is probably the strangest verse to highlight from this amazing chapter, but it has always stood out to me. It seems so out of place, so out of character for Jesus to respond to a request for healing like this. Maybe He was tired, or maybe the suffering of a son, an only son, was pressing a nerve a little close to home, or maybe there is something more going on here.

The phrase 'faithless and twisted generation' seems to be a quote from Moses' song in Deuteronomy 32. A song that Moses sang recounting the history of God's people and prophesying into their future as he prepared his congregation for a time when he wouldn't be there. Moses doesn't hold back here by describing in detail the mistakes of his crooked and twisted generation, but he doesn't leave it there. Ultimately the song praises God, the Rock, a God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is He! And the song ends as all the nations are called to rejoice and bow down to Him!

Jesus, having just met with Moses and Elijah, and knowing that He was soon to be "taken up", was preparing His disciples for when He wouldn't be there. (There are even connections to Elijah's last moments before he was taken to heaven.) Jesus had clearly been meditating on these scriptures and Luke has helped connect these stories.

Jesus also changes one word from Skolios (meaning crooked) to Apistos (meaning faithless). It doesn't take a Greek scholar to see the connection between skolios and scoliosis. A few years ago, one of the young ladies in our church was struggling with scoliosis to the point where she was about to go for corrective surgery, but through a miraculous healing went from 24 degrees to a 19 degree bend, and no longer needed the surgery!

All through this chapter, Jesus is trying to perform some corrective surgery of faith as he prepares the disciples for His departure. Sending them out, empowering them and teaching them, and like Moses, Jesus doesn't hold back. He says that there will be challenges and temptations that will come your way, but you have a God of faithfulness, a Rock that you can rely on. Just like Jesus sent out the twelve, He has also given power and authority to His church, so that we can be men and women full of faith, standing straight up as we proclaim the kingdom of God!

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