

How to be a Loser
Step One: Think Small
August 30, 2009

Matthew 17:14-23

¹⁴ And when they came to the crowd, a man came up to him and, kneeling before him, ¹⁵ said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly.

For often he falls into the fire, and often into the water.

¹⁶ And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered, "O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." ¹⁸

And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was healed instantly. ¹⁹ Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" ²⁰ He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."

²² As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men, ²³ and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day." And they were greatly distressed.

Discussion Questions

When have you felt like a loser?

When have you seen someone and thought "What a loser?"

What makes a 'loser'?

Who is Jesus talking to when He addresses a 'faithless and twisted generation'?

Why do you think the disciples could not heal the boy?

What does it mean that they have little faith?

How can you have big faith or little faith?

Can you measure faith?

If Jesus says they failed because of 'little faith' how can 'faith like a grain of mustard seed' accomplish the impossible?

Why do you think Jesus uses this opportunity to speak again of His death and resurrection?

What does that have to do with His followers' trust in God?