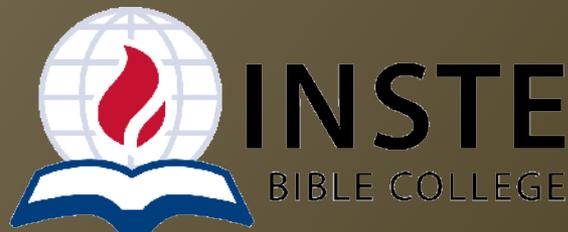


ENCOUNTERING JESUS (2): A DESPERATE FATHER

Drs. Nick and Leona Venditti



Encountering Jesus

◎ The Biblical Text

- Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief” (Mark 9:24 ESV)

Encountering Jesus

◎ Introduction

- The overarching theme is faith (and/or unbelief)
- Jesus is sort of exasperated at the unbelief of the disciples
- Jesus takes authority over the situation
- Jesus demonstrates his power

Encountering Jesus

◎ Introduction

- The story also appears in Matthew 17:14-21 and in Luke 9:37-43
- This is the last exorcism story in Mark's Gospel
- It occurs when Jesus, Peter, James, and John rejoin the other disciples after the experience of the Transfiguration

Encountering Jesus

◎ The Characters (in order)

- The disciples
- The great crowd
- The scribes
- Jesus
- The father
- The boy
- The unclean spirit

Encountering Jesus

◎ Jesus and the Disciples

- Jesus appears with three disciples and returns to be with the rest
- The disciples are arguing with the scribes
- The disciples could not cast out the demon from the boy

Encountering Jesus

◎ Jesus and the Disciples

- Later the disciples ask Jesus the reason why they could not cast out the demon from the boy
- Jesus responds that this kind of demon could not be cast out without prayer (some Bibles state “without prayer and fasting”)

Encountering Jesus

- ◎ Jesus and the great Crowd
 - The crowd formed around the disciples and the scribes
 - They saw Jesus and were amazed and greeted him
 - Jesus then asked them what they were arguing about
 - Later he rebukes them because of their unbelief

Encountering Jesus

◎ Jesus and the Scribes

- Professional secretaries were needed in the various aspects of public life, i.e., social, political and religious life
- During the pre-exilic times, the earliest biblical notion of the term scribe, has no particular religious connotation (Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible)

Encountering Jesus

◎ Jesus and the Scribes

- Scribes were employed to keep accounts or transcribe legal information (Jer 32:12), military data (2 Chr 26:11), other public documents (Jgs 8:14; Is 50:1), or personal correspondence (Jer 36:18) (Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible)

Encountering Jesus

◎ Jesus and the Scribes

- These secretaries were essential to royal administrations, and there is frequent mention of a chief scribe who functioned as a court recorder (1 Kgs 4:3; 2 Chr 24:11), advisor (2 Sm 8:16, 17; 2 Kgs 18:18; 22:12; 1 Chr 27:32; Is 36:3), and financial overseer (2 Kgs 22:3, 4) (Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible)

Encountering Jesus

◎ Jesus and the Scribes

- Secretaries or scribes were associated with the priesthood as well, serving as recorders for temple affairs (1 Chr 24:6; 2 Chr 34:13, 15) (Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible)

Encountering Jesus

◎ Jesus and the Scribes

- With the restoration under Ezra–Nehemiah, the term scribe begins to be associated more narrowly with those who gathered together, studied, and interpreted the Torah
- They became in essence a separate profession of teachers (although unpaid), able to preserve accurately the Law of Moses and interpret it (Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible)

Encountering Jesus

◎ Jesus and the Scribes

- In this initial period, Ezra himself appears as the ideal scribe, “learned in matters of the commandments of the Lord and his statutes for Israel” (Ezr 7:11) because he had “set his heart to study the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach his statutes and ordinances to Israel” (v 10) (Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible)

Encountering Jesus

◎ Jesus and the Scribes

- It is also significant that from this time forward, the history of the scribe in Jewish life is closely linked with the rise of the Pharisees (Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible)

Encountering Jesus

◎ Jesus and the Scribes

- Although there were apparently some scribes affiliated with the rival Sadducean party, the lay party of the Pharisees with its absolute devotion to the Law (including the oral law) became the primary religio-political affiliation for the scribes (Mt 5:20; 12:38; 15:1; Mk 7:5; Lk 6:7) (Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible)

Encountering Jesus

◎ Jesus

- In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus is the “Son of God.” (v 1:1)
- Jesus is also the active and non-stop miracle worker
- Immediately, at once, as soon as, suddenly, quickly are used 42 times

Encountering Jesus

◎ Jesus and the Father

- It was the father of the boy who called out from the crowd to Jesus
- He explains the situation of the boy
- The disciples could not cast out the unclean spirit
- The father turns to Jesus

Encountering Jesus

◎ Jesus and the Boy

- The boy would be possessed by a mute spirit and he would be thrown into the fire
- This happened since childhood
- Jesus prays for the young boy
- The boy goes into convulsions and appears to be dead

Encountering Jesus

◎ Jesus and the Boy

- Jesus takes the boy by the hand
- Jesus lifts him up
- The boy gets up fully healed
- There is no more mention of the boy and his father

Encountering Jesus

- ◎ Jesus and the unclean Spirit
 - Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit
 - Jesus commanded the spirit to come out
 - Jesus ordered the unclean spirit to never enter the boy again
 - Jesus had full control over the spirit
 - Jesus won the power encounter

Encountering Jesus

◎ The Characters (in order)

- The disciples
- The great crowd
- The scribes
- Jesus
- The father
- The boy
- The unclean spirit

Encountering Jesus

◎ Conclusion

- Not everyone who encountered Jesus responded positively i.e., scribes and other religious leaders etc.
- However this was a learning lesson for the disciples, the crowd, the father, the boy and even the unclean spirit

Encountering Jesus

◎ Conclusion

- The resurrected Jesus continues to change and impact the lives of people today!
- Write down and tell your story of your encounter to someone (a follower of Jesus or not a follower)
- Let's pray

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