

Trapped in Unbelief

Sermon Synopsis: Our inability comes from our lack of faith in his ability
Themes: faith

Luke 9:37-43 (ESV)

On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. And behold, a man from the crowd cried out, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out. It convulses him so that he foams at the mouth, and shatters him, and will hardly leave him. And I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." Jesus answered, "O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." While he was coming, the demon threw him to the ground and convulsed him. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astonished at the majesty of God.

Intro: turning left on State and the feeling of being trapped. Figure-eights. Burger. Frustration rises in correlation to what's at stake – [riff]

Have you ever felt trapped before?

And behold, a man from the crowd cried out, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. **And behold, a spirit seizes him**, and he suddenly cries out. It convulses him so that he foams at the mouth, and shatters him, and will hardly leave him. (Luke 9:38-39, ESV)

And I begged your disciples to cast it out, **but they could not**. (Luke 9:40, ESV)

Where nothing you seem to do can break free

Jesus gives the diagnosis

State? I just need to stay away! Still my solution today, lol.

Jesus answered, "**O faithless and twisted generation**, how long am I to be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." (Luke 9:41, ESV) Sounds harsh, but he's diagnosing

Twisted: diastrephō (διαστρέφω)

1. to turn aside from the right path

A *detour*: a long route that is taken to avoid something¹

Our detours are our avoidances of what we know we need to do

illust: Salisbury Haley (1851)²

Haley used a surveying chain that had been mended with hide strips³—avoiding the right way
Example: De La Guerra & Santa Barbara Street

1. Street still named after you!
2. Detours can wreck you (every time you drive this street, you'll remember this)
The realist problem is that we have chosen detours to true freedom in Christ
We have embraced short-term benefits for long-term change
 - Detours don't feel like a big deal, cuz they're small: "I'll just compromise this once"
 - Detour #1 = unbelief (faithlessness) iow, it starts with a lack of trust
 - I hear Jesus calling me, but I don't think he can help
 - I know what I need, but I don't want to commit
 - I know God can free me from being trapped, but I don't want to surrender

Maybe you've done that already. Maybe you feel trapped in your *unbelief*

Jesus is the one who brings the power of "unstuck" to both the boy and people

Notice, the focus of story is not on their faithlessness, but on his faithfulness!

"Bring your son here." While he was coming, the demon threw him to the ground and convulsed him. **But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and healed the boy, and gave him back to his father.** (Luke 9:41-42, ESV)

Even when we lack faith, Jesus still pursues the restoration of our trapped hearts

There are some people here today that are trapped

- in sin
- bad habits
- broken relationships
- hurtful cycles
- But worst of all—you're trapped in unbelief

You don't think there's any hope for you. And you struggle to believe. But Jesus wants to do for you what he did for that son: he wants to take you out of the clutches of the devil, and *give you back to the Father!*

John 12:46 (NLT)

I have come as a light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer remain in the dark.

The invitation: get back on to the pathway with Him

"Bring your son here." While he was coming, the demon threw him to the ground and convulsed him. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. **And all were astonished at the majesty of God.** (Luke 9:41-43, ESV)

Astonished

- Struck – conviction (they were moved more by the majesty of God than their inability)
- Continuing (there was a lasting impression)