



**Series:** Unexpected Messiah  
**Passage** Matthew 17:14-21  
**Title:** Overcoming Evil Strongholds  
**Speaker:** Pastor David Menard– 1/17/2021

**Discussion Starter** – How would you define what an evil stronghold is? In what way has this sermon helped you or encouraged you in the overcoming of evil strongholds?

### **Overcoming Evil Strongholds** (Matthew 17:14-17)

- Read Matthew 17:14-17, Mark 9:14-19 and Luke 9:38. How does the combination of these three passages give us a deeper understanding of the background of this story? Describe the kind of life you think the father had lived up to now. What are some of the consequences of this evil stronghold?
- What are some similar situations that families have to deal with today that parallel this type of pain and suffering? What does this reveal about Satan the leader of all demons? Read Ephesians 2:10 and John 10:10. What insights do these verses give us on dealing with evil strongholds?
- What do you see going on in this story as Jesus comes to the disciples? How and to whom does Jesus respond to after receiving the recap from the father who was trying to get his son healed by the disciples? Why do you think Jesus responds in this manner? (Matthew 17:17)
- Faithless and Perverse. What does each of these words mean? How did this statement apply to the disciples? What was Jesus trying to teach them? How do these words apply to us?
- What is the relationship between Faithlessness and Perversion? Where did the disciples fail in their faithfulness and how did that lead to perversion?
- The disciples had demonstrated faith in many things, what was different about this situation? What is the overall lesson we can learn about the purpose of God allowing evil strongholds to remain in our lives by the example of this story? What does this reveal about us?
- How has faithlessness affected our marriages and our nation?

### **Faith In Jesus Moves Mountains** (Matthew 17:17-24)

- Read Mark 9:19-29? After Jesus requests that the boy be brought to Him, what was the purpose of the questions He asks of the father? What was Jesus trying to reveal to the father?
- What lessons can we learn from how the father responds to Jesus in Mark 9:24? Describe how we might apply this in our own lives?
- When Jesus rebukes the unclean spirit what does He say to it? What does this reveal about Jesus and what do we learn about demonic strongholds?
- What role does persistence play in our faith in Jesus?
- Some Evil Strongholds are not remove except by prayer of fasting? This is not a formula for casting out demons. Describe what prayer is and what fasting is. How can we better apply these in our lives to bring down the evil strongholds in our lives?