

# WHY COULD NOT WE

## MATTHEW 17

Text: Matt 17:19

(Matthew 17:19) "Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?"

### **1. CONDITION**

- A. Dreaded
- B. Disturbing
- C. Discouraging

### **2. CONCERN**

- A. Father
- B. Saviour
- C. Disciples

### **3. CAUSE "WHY COULD NOT WE?"**

There are many things today that we should be asking the same question to.

- Make A Difference
- Impact Our City
- See the vilest reached with the Gospel
- Fill up a bus
- Win more souls
- Sacrificially give

A. Unbelief

B. Prayer and Fasting

1. Reasons for fasting

- National Crisis

(Judges 20:26) "Then all the children of Israel, and all the people, went up, and came unto the house of God, and wept, and sat there before the LORD, and fasted that day until even, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD."

(2 Samuel 1:12) "And they mourned, and wept, and fasted until even, for Saul, and for Jonathan his son, and for the people of the LORD, and for the house of Israel; because they were fallen by the sword."

(Nehemiah 1:4) "And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,"

- Time of revival

(1 Samuel 7:6) "And they gathered together to Mizpeh, and drew water, and poured it out before the LORD, and fasted on that day, and said there, We have sinned against the LORD. And Samuel judged the children of Israel in Mizpeh."

(Daniel 9:3) "And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes

- Family crisis

(2 Samuel 12:16) "David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth."

- Spiritual decision

(Ezra 8:21-23) "Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance. {22} For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way: because we had spoken unto the king, saying, The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him. {23} So we fasted and besought our God for this: and he was entreated of us."

- Spiritual warfare

(Isaiah 58:5-6) "Is it such a fast that I have chosen? a day for a man to afflict his soul? is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the LORD? {6} Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?"

- Spiritual discernment

(Acts 13:2-3) "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. {3} And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away."

- Times of Sickness

(Psalms 35:13) "But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: I humbled my soul with fasting; and my prayer returned into mine own bosom."