

Priming the Pump

1. Begin by reading the Scripture for this week's message, Luke 9:37-45
2. Has a respected authority, leader, or mentor ever said to you: "let this sink into your ears", and then given you some difficult news? Was it easy or did it require time to process? Think about how a pointed phrase like this helped you to remember the news and learn from it.

Getting into the Word

3. Read the parallel account of this week's message in the other two Synoptic Gospels, Matthew and Mark, and then compare and think about the different focuses and language used in all three.
 - a. Matthew's Gospel was written to Jews to demonstrate that Jesus is their promised Messiah. How does Matthew 17:14-23 present this week's events from that perspective?
 - b. Mark was written to Gentiles and presents Jesus as a servant of all. How does his account in Mark 9:14-32 emphasize this?
 - c. The Gospel of Luke was written to an educated Gentile believer, as a historical account of the facts of Jesus' life and ministry. How does this week's passage Luke 9:28-43 accomplish this?

Digging Deeper

4. Jesus' disciples, though having recently received the power to heal and cast out demons, were not able to help the child in this passage. They saw this gift as "their" power rather than the power of God which Jesus had given them.

We all stumble into this trap of arrogance and pride. Spend some time reflecting on how we are stewards of God's gifts and talents, which are to be used for His purposes and glory. Take some time to pray this week and confess any recent failures in this area, and ask for the Lord's help in glorifying Himself through you and through all of us. Pray over or read through Psalm 66 or Psalm 92 on how great and mighty the Lord is, and that we might be conduits for His works in this world.