

# LIVING ON LEFTOVERS

Mark 9:21-24 And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child. 22 And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: **but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us.** 23 Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. Jesus said unto him, **If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.** And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, **Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.**

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## THE DILEMMA OF TODAY

The desire for **MAN'S COMPASSION** (v22)  
over **GOD'S POWER** (v23)

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**MAN'S COMPASSION** empathizes, sympathizes, consoles, comforts  
**GOD'S POWER** creates, enables, energizes, overcomes, outlasts

**MAN'S COMPASSION** seeks acceptance, approval, and validation  
**GOD'S POWER** seeks command, rule, independence, and liberation

**MAN'S COMPASSION** 'FEELS'  
**GOD'S POWER** 'WILLS'

**MAN'S COMPASSION** TREATS the PAIN  
**GOD'S POWER** ELIMINATES the CONDITION

## SERMON OUTLINE - THE CONSEQUENCES OF 'LIVING ON LEFTOVERS'.....

1. IT WILL **HELP** YOU, BUT WON'T **HEAL** YOU (v22...help us, v23...all things)  
**HELP** is a TEMPORARY FIX  
**HEALING** is a PERMANENT CURE

**HELP** leads to DEPENDENCE (crutches, canes, braces, etc.)  
**HEALING** leads to INDEPENDENCE (freedom, wholeness, completeness)

**HELP** erases the **DEBT**, but not the **HABIT**  
**HEALING** eliminates the **HABIT** that causes the **DEBT**

### THE WORD FROM THE LORD

"**I AM NOT** here to just **HELP** you (v22),  
**I AM** here to **HEAL** you (v23)"

2. IT WILL FEED YOU, BUT WON'T NURTURE YOU  
FEEDING gives you ENERGY  
NURTURING gives you GROWTH

FEEDING is FAST FOOD  
NURTURING is SLOW COOKING

we LOVE to be FED, and DESIRE those who FEED US  
we HATE to be NURTURED, and REJECT those who seek to NURTURE US

#### THE WORD FROM THE LORD

"I AM NOT here to just FEED YOU (give you ENERGY),  
I AM here to NURTURE YOU (give you GROWTH)"

3. IT WILL COMFORT YOU, BUT WON'T CHALLENGE/CONFRONT YOU  
(v23....If you can believe)  
COMFORT seeks the EASY ROAD  
CONFRONTATION/CHALLENGE seeks the 'ROAD LESS TRAVELED'

COMFORT SETS limits  
CONFRONTATION/CHALLENGE TESTS limits

COMFORT DULLS the senses  
CONFRONTATION/CHALLENGE SHARPENS the senses

#### THE WORD FROM THE LORD

"I AM NOT here to just COMFORT YOU,  
I AM here to 'BETTER' YOU"

### CONCLUSION

#### LORD, I BELIEVE.....

- I BROUGHT MY SON
- I WENT TO YOUR DISCIPLES
- I PRESSED THROUGH THE MULTITUDE
- I ENDURED SHAME AND EMBARRASSMENT (son WALLOWING and FOAMING)

#### HELP MY UNBELIEF.....

- Its been TOO LONG (TIME)
- My 'ARMS ARE TOO SHORT' (LIMITATIONS)
- NOTHING ELSE has worked (PAST FAILURES)
- NO ONE ELSE has 'come through' (UNFULFILLED PROMISES)