

## FIVE ATTITUDES TO AVOID WHEN COOPERATING WITH GOD

### Session Five: A Stubborn Heart

5.11.22

#### Avoiding: 5. Unbelief

**Matthew 13:57-58 NRSV** And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor except in their own country and in their own house.”<sup>58</sup> And he did not do many deeds of power there, because of their unbelief.

**Mark 6:5-6 NRSV** And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them.<sup>6</sup> And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching.

**Luke 22:68 NRSV** and if I question you, you will not answer.

#### Christian Life Lessons

1. Unbelief is not generally the “inability” to believe; it is usually the refusal to believe.

- Wickedness

**Psalms 78:56-58 NLT** But they kept testing and rebelling against God Most High. They did not obey his laws.<sup>57</sup> They turned back and were as faithless as their parents. They were as undependable as a crooked bow.<sup>58</sup> They angered God by building shrines to other gods; they made him jealous with their idols.

- Weakness

**Mark 9:14-27 NLT** When they returned to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd surrounding them, and some teachers of religious law were arguing with them.<sup>15</sup> When the crowd saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with awe, and they ran to greet him.<sup>16</sup> “What is all this arguing about?” Jesus asked.<sup>17</sup> One of the men in the crowd spoke up and said, “Teacher, I brought my son so you could heal him. He is possessed by an evil spirit that won’t let him talk.<sup>18</sup> And whenever this spirit seizes him, it throws him violently to the ground. Then he foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast out the evil spirit, but they couldn’t do it.”<sup>19</sup> Jesus said to them, “You faithless people! How long must I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.”<sup>20</sup> So they brought the boy. But when the evil spirit saw Jesus, it threw the child into a violent convulsion, and he fell to the ground, writhing and foaming at the mouth.<sup>21</sup> “How long has this been happening?” Jesus asked the boy’s father. He replied, “Since he was a little boy.<sup>22</sup> The spirit often throws him into the fire or into water, trying to kill him. Have mercy on us and help us, if you can.”<sup>23</sup> “What do you mean, ‘If I can’?” Jesus asked. “Anything is possible if a person believes.”<sup>24</sup> The father instantly cried out, “I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!”<sup>25</sup> When Jesus saw that the crowd of onlookers was growing, he rebuked the evil spirit. “Listen, you spirit that makes this boy unable to hear and speak,” he said. “I command you to

come out of this child and never enter him again!”<sup>26</sup> Then the spirit screamed and threw the boy into another violent convulsion and left him. The boy appeared to be dead. A murmur ran through the crowd as people said, “He’s dead.”<sup>27</sup> But Jesus took him by the hand and helped him to his feet, and he stood up.

2. Faith is not automatic for every Believer, but it is natural.