

# The King's Highway

## An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

And an Highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The Way of Holiness.—Isa. 40:3

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### BECAUSE OF UNBELIEF

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I want to read a few verses from the seventeenth chapter of the Gospel according to Matthew, beginning with the 14th verse, and closing with the 21st.

There are various kinds and degrees of unbelief. I shall not take time to delineate them, but mention the one particular kind that concerns our message this afternoon and that is, the unbelief that gets into the hearts of good men and women, oftentimes Christian men and women, robbing them of their keen victory and joyous faith. Whatever is the cause there is evidence of that kind of unbelief in this instance that I read to you this afternoon.

Jesus had been transfigured before Peter and James and John. The other disciples were down in the lowland representing the Master, meeting the different calls that came, and here was a father with a sorely afflicted son possessed of a demon. He was torn and distressed and in terrible anguish of body and mind and soul. The father evidently had heard of the wonderful power of Jesus Christ and with the thought in mind that perhaps his son, too, might be healed, he brought the young man to the place where he expected to find Jesus. I sometimes try to imagine what that journey must have been. I have **sometimes wondered** what this father must have experienced as he got that young man across the country—how far we do not know. In bringing him to Jesus, the old devil that was possessing him, knowing that his time was short, would take him and tear him and he would froth at the mouth; just tormenting his life. What must have been the task of that poor, crushed, anxious, broken-hearted father as he was trying to get that lad to Jesus! And he was not the last father who has had that struggle! There are some fathers and mothers today who are having heart-breaking times bringing their sons and daughters to Jesus. Sometimes they give up in discouragement. But thank God, this father kept going until he got his son almost to Jesus, and then it looked as though his chances were gone—gone forever. There was nothing more to hope for.

When he came to the place where Jesus was supposed to be, here were the disciples. They took the case under consideration. They discussed it pro and con with the Scribes and Pharisees, and there are always some Scribes and Pharisees around when souls want to get to God. Here were the Scribes and Pharisees, and when the father told about the boy and he stood there in his rags—an uncouth figure, the Scribes and Pharisees may have looked on with a bit of scorn. What could they do with a fellow like that? They probably said, "He is an incurable; he has been that way so long. There is nothing that you can do for him. Don't try to do something

that is impossible and bring reproach upon the cause. Keep in the middle of the road; be safe and sane about it, you know. It is an extreme case and you can't do anything with it."

About this time, when the faith, and hands, and vision, of the disciples were all put out of business by this cheap discussion of these things, Jesus came down from the mountain. Have you ever thought how many times Jesus seems to be almost too late, but he never is? He always gets in in time! Oh, Jesus is always on time, but sometimes our clocks aren't with His clock, and we get a bit confused. But don't worry, Jesus will get in on time if the case is committed to Him!

And that afternoon it looked as if Jesus was going to be too late, and the father no doubt was turning away discouraged. The case was dismissed, so far as the disciples were concerned. And when Jesus looked at the disciples and saw them in conference with the Scribes and Pharisees He said, "What were you arguing about," and before they, in their confusion, could answer, the father, encouraged and inspired by the very face of the Master, came running to Him and said: "Oh, Master, I brought unto them my son," and he told Jesus all about him. Then he adds this pathetic touch: "I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him." And friends, I believe we are justified in thinking that that father had less faith for the deliverance of his son after he came in touch with the disciples than he had before he met them. I believe a careful reading of the Scriptures will warrant us in believing that that father's contact with that group of disciples weakened his faith rather than strengthened it. And the tragedy of it is that that is true again and again today! I know it is true in the foreign fields. Any missionary here will tell you that some of the hardest obstacles to overcome are those who have misrepresented the Lord Jesus in foreign lands.

But when that father got to Jesus, somehow he was encouraged. Jesus said, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible." "All things are possible to him that believeth." "Believe ye that I am able to do this?" Oh heart here this afternoon, if you haven't perfect health in Jesus Christ, if you are lame, or halt, or blind—spiritually speaking—Jesus Christ is able to do this, and meet your particular, individual need, if you will give Him the chance. The father fell worshipping and said, "Lord I believe," and the work was done. The demon was cast out, the child was cured and restored to his right mind and went on his way rejoicing. I should like to have a picture of the way the father went back with the son, in contrast to the way he was brought when he brought him.

The disciples had reason to believe that Jesus expected them to bring release to that captive. They were embarrassed about it. They went to Jesus after the crowd was dispersed and asked Him the why of it. The dis-

Disciples came to Jesus and said, "Master why could not we bring him out? What was the cause of our failure? Please explain it to us." Jesus did not say that it was because this was such a chronic case; that it was an unusually difficult situation or circumstance. Jesus did not say it was because they had not yet finished their training, and still lacked experience. He did not put the blame or the responsibility for the failure out yonder somewhere: He put it on them personally, individually. It was a subjective difficulty. "Because of your unbelief." That was the difficulty. Now, whatever was he source of it—we will not enter into that.

Let us think of this sin of unbelief for a little while. Unbelief in what? To make a direct application—your unbelief in the condition of man. Your unbelief in the condition of the race. You know, friends, we are living in a day when it seems to be unpopular to call some things by their real name. Belief in this matter decides relief, and unless we recognize the real condition of a lost race we will never see any need of a radical cure. What is the matter with the race anyway? Are we just awkward; is it that we just haven't evolved sufficiently to shake off the animal traits, like some modern theologians would like to tell us? If that is so, then all we need is a bit of culture and polish to polish off those animal traits so we will know how to behave in public.

We can't put all the blackness and sin that goes on in the world today under the head of immaturity. We can't do that and keep our self-respect. Mothers and fathers here this afternoon, are you willing to admit on your knees before God that that beautiful daughter of yours is eternally lost without Jesus Christ? Have you ever come to the place where you admitted frankly before God that that talented son is lost, lost without Jesus Christ? Unless we recognize the depth of the need we will have no cure to prescribe. Your unbelief in the condition. What is the matter with the world anyhow? God says in His word that the heart is deceived above all things and desperately wicked. Who can know it? God's picture of the human race is one of sin and incurable disease, of lostness apart from the divine plan.

Because of your unbelief in the cure. Man has not only done wrong; man is wrong. Back of every wrong action is the wrong condition; and when God provided a cure for the disease of the human race, He provided an all-sufficient cure—not only forgiveness for wrongs committed, but a complete cleansing from wrong inherited in the nature. And beloved, just as surely as we recognize the picture of the double-need in the Word of God, just so truly must we recognize the picture of the double-cure provided in the Word of God; for we shall be very incomplete until that cure has been fully applied to meet our need. Your unbelief in the cure!

What is the cure? Are you recommending

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Mrs. Wm. Churchill, June 28