for Personal Study and Small Groups 8/11/13

Matt. 17.14-27

Purpose of SG: to foster in its members the biblical values of worship (God), discipleship (church), and outreach (lost).

2013 Annual Focus: Drawing Near to the Good and Mighty King.

Announcements: (1) Hope Counselor training starts 9/15 and (2) SGL Day Retreat is 9/21 (mention to your SG so that they are aware & can possibly help out).

SG Discussion Questions:

Focus: on growing a faith that prays and sees God do great and mighty things, and on yielding our freedom and rights for the sake of those who are yet to believe the gospel.

Read 17.14-20 and Mark 9.14-29. Discuss why the disciples could not heal the boy. In what ways do we have that same struggle?

Discuss the remedy Jesus proposes in verse 20 and in Mark 9.29. How do these 2 answers best fit together? And how can you grow that kind of "mustard seed faith" that God will use to move mountains?

How does the promise of v. 20 encourage you? What questions does it raise? How should it affect your faith and your prayer life?

Read 17.22-23. How do you explain the disciples' grief when Jesus clearly talks about the resurrection?

Read 17.24-27. What do you think is the point Jesus is trying to teach Peter about not having to pay the tax? And what is the point he is trying to teach him by paying the tax anyway?

What do you learn about Jesus from this passage? And what insight did you glean from it about what it means for you to follow him? What steps of obedience should you take as a result?