

“...and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw.” – Matthew 12:22

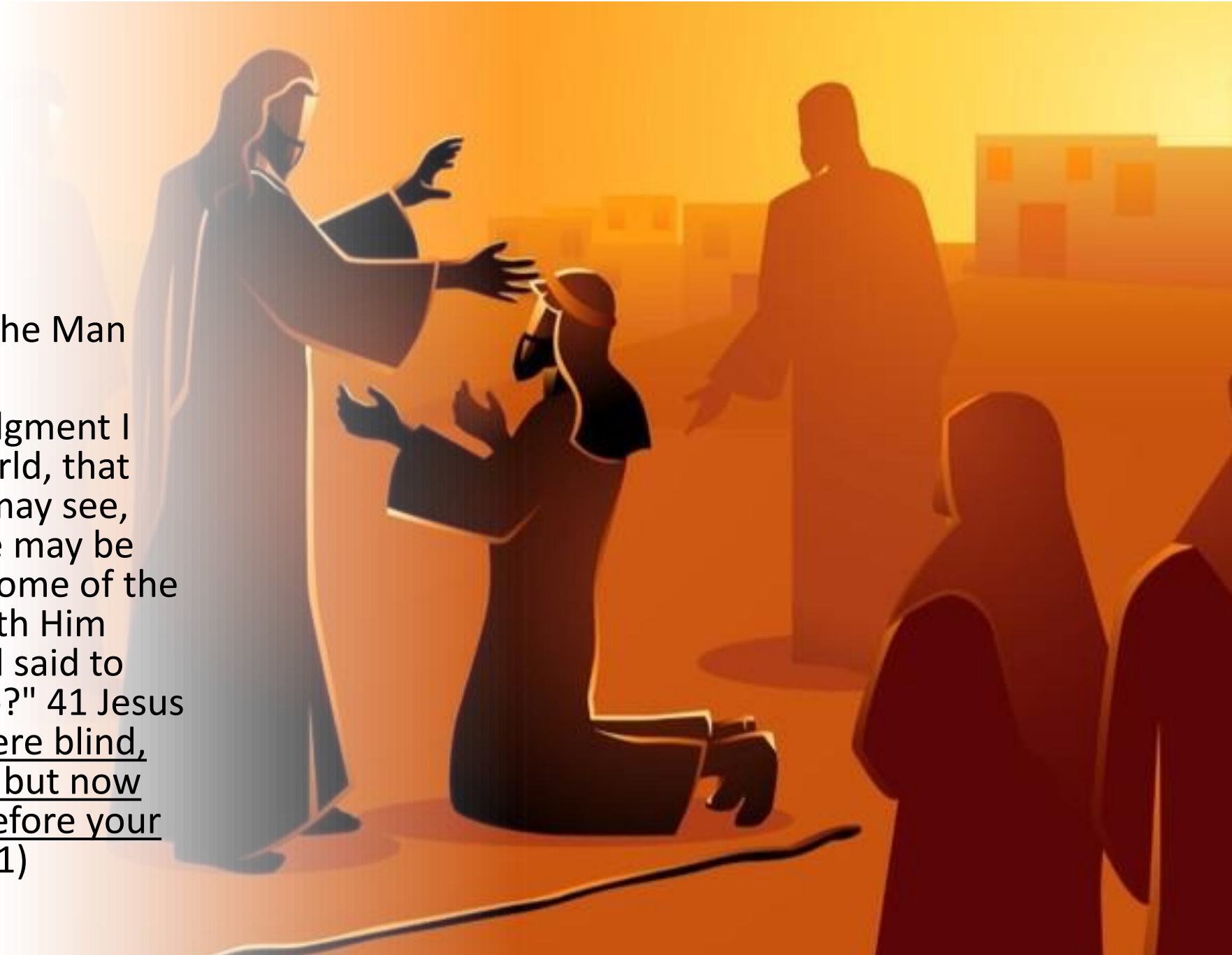
The Power of God

- God does not share His power with those who approach Him with arrogance or greed.
- EX: Simon the Sorcerer
 - “Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 8:19)



The Power of God

- EX: The Pharisees and the Man Born Blind
- And Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind." 40 Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, "Are we blind also?" 41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore your sin remains. (Jn. 9:39-41)



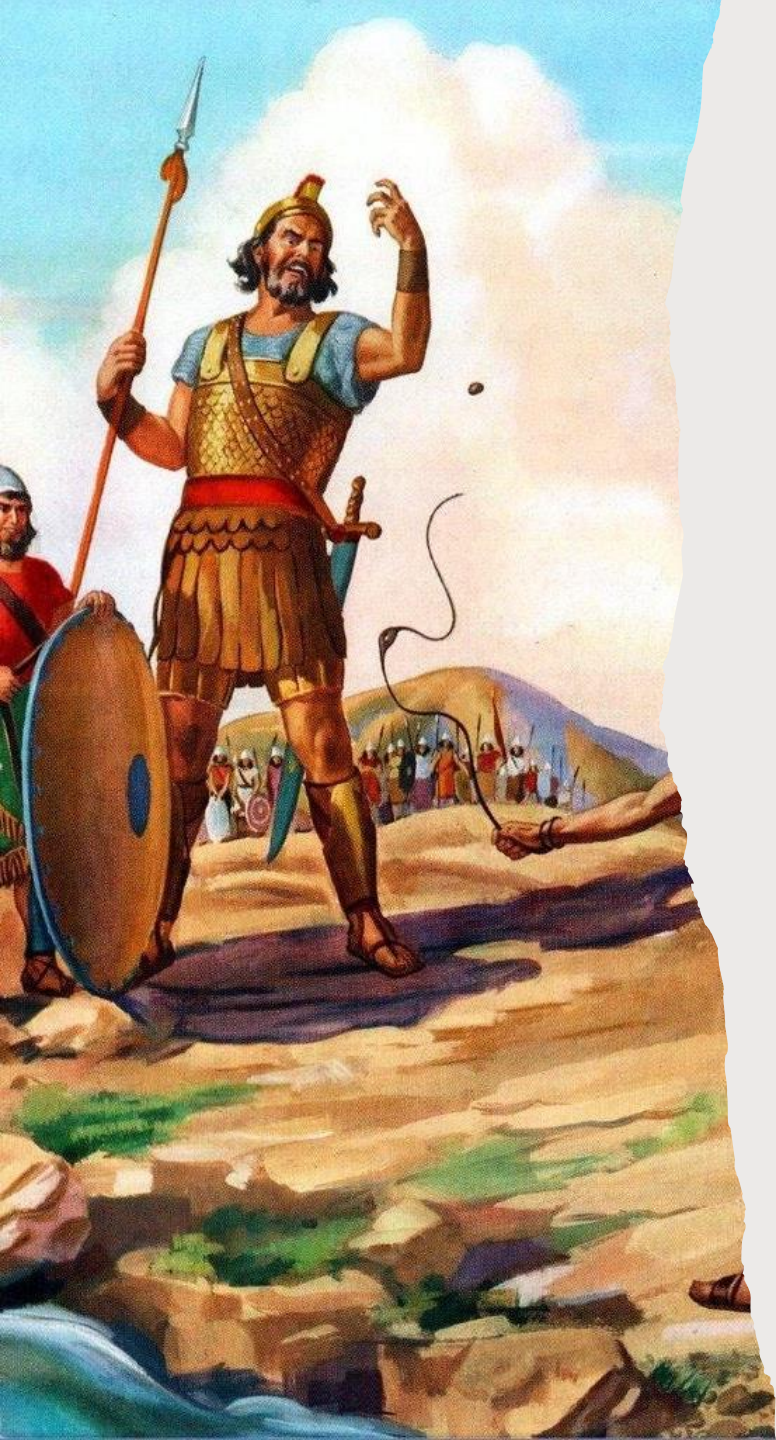


Mistaken Powers

3rd Sunday of Paope

1. Knowledge

- “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.” 20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? (1 Cor. 1:19-20)
- EX: Solomon
- I communed with my heart, saying, "Look, I have attained greatness, and have gained more wisdom than all who were before me in Jerusalem. My heart has understood great wisdom and knowledge." 17 And I set my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is grasping for the wind. 18 For in much wisdom is much grief, And he who increases knowledge increases sorrow. (Eccl. 1:16-28)



2. Physical Strength

- EX: David vs Goliath
- EX: Samson



3. Relationships

- “It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.” (Ps. 118:8-9)

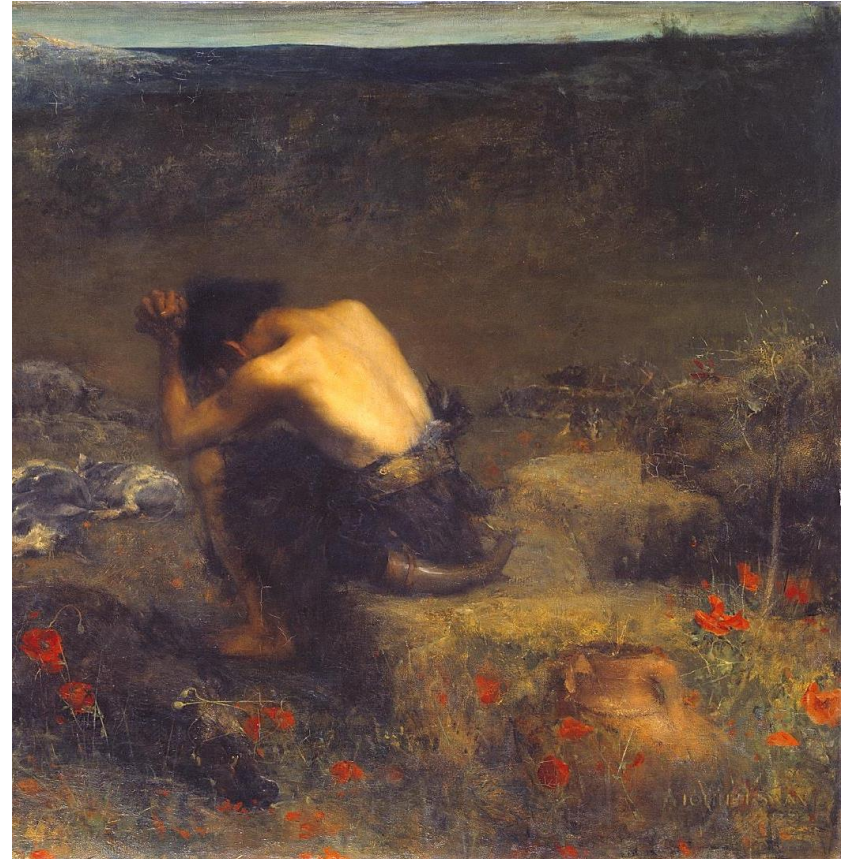


4. Authority

- But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. 26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. 27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."
(Matt. 20:25-28)

5. Wealth

- EX: The Prodigal Son
- “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” (1 Tim. 6:10)



6. Talents or Gifts

EX: St. Mary of Egypt



Summary

- “Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.” (Lk. 10:19)
- Mistaken powers
 1. Knowledge
 2. Physical Strength
 3. Relationships
 4. Authority
 5. Wealth
 6. Talent or Gift
- “The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”
(Ps.18:2)