Lunatic is an informal term referring to people who are considered mentally ill, dangerous, foolish or unpredictable; conditions once attributed to lunacy. The word derives from lunaticus meaning "of the moon" or "moonstruck". They believed that the night light provided from the moon, triggered illness, from an otherwise dark environment. (Mark 9:14-29 NKJV) (Also Matthew 17: 14 and Luke 9:37)

37 Now it happened on the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, that a great multitude met Him. 14 And when He came to the disciples, He saw a great multitude around them, and scribes disputing with them. 15 Immediately, when they saw Him, all the people were greatly amazed, and running to Him, greeted Him. 16 And He asked the scribes, “What are you discussing with them?” 17 Then one of the crowd, came to Him, kneeling down to Him, answered and said, “Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. 15 “Lord, have mercy on my son, I implore You, look on my son, for he is my only child. for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. 39 And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out; it convulses him so that he foams at the mouth; and it departs from him with great difficulty, bruising him. 18 And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I brought him to Your disciples, and spoke to them and implored them to cast it out, but they could not, they could not cure him.” 19 He answered him and said, “O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me.” 20 Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. 21 So He asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. 22 And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” 23 Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” 24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” 25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!” 26 Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, “He is dead.” And the child was cured from that very hour. 27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose, and gave him back to his father. 28 And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” 20 So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and
nothing will be impossible for you. 21 However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.

NOTE ON EPILEPSY

Epilepsy is a chronic neurological disorder characterized by recurrent unprovoked seizures.
The human brain is the source of epilepsy.
The brain's nerve cells (neurons) communicate with each other by firing tiny electric signals that pass from one cell to another.
The location of these signals indicates what the brain is doing e.g. thinking, seeing, feeling, hearing, controlling movements of muscles.
The symptoms of seizures affect any part of the body but the electrical events that produce the symptoms occur in the brain.
A seizure occurs when the firing pattern of the brain's electric signals suddenly becomes abnormal and unusually intense wither in an isolated area of the brain or throughout the brain.

If the whole brain is involved the electric disturbance is called a generalized/grandmal seizure.
The most easily recognizable symptom of a generalized seizure is: aura, body stiffness, jerking limbs, crying out, rhythmic movements, not breathing and turning blue, vomiting, involuntary voiding, tongue biting, banging limbs.
There are other types of seizures like partial/ petite mal seizures and sub categories within the two that I am not going to discuss.

Causes:
1. Chemical imbalances in blood e.g. sugar, electrolytes
2. Drug reactions – overdose or withdrawal
3. Medical illness – BP, liver and kidney failure
4. Local problems in the brain – head trauma, tumours, stroke
5. Others – sleep deprivation, starvation, fever, flashing lights

EXOGENESIS

37 Now it happened on the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, that a great multitude met Him.

This was the morning after Jesus was transfigured on the mountain in the presence on James, John and Peter

14 And when He came to the disciples, He saw a great multitude around them, and scribes disputing with them.

The other 9 disciples were waiting for Jesus return.
On Jesus return, He sees that they are in a heated debate with the scribes and they had a large audience surrounding them and listening to this debate. These kind of debates usually ended in violence.

15 *Immediately, when they saw Him, all the people were greatly amazed, and running to Him, greeted Him.*

Then they suddenly notice Jesus. And they are amazed. This is probably because His face was still aglow from His encounter on the mountain. And they run to greet Jesus.

16 *And He asked the scribes, “What are you discussing with them?”*

Jesus attention was focused on this debate. He questions the scribes on the topic of discussion.

17 *Then one of the crowd, came to Him, kneeling down to Him, answered and said, “Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit.“ Lord, have mercy on my son, I implore You, look on my son, for he is my only child. He is an epileptic and suffers severely; And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out; it convulses him so that he foams at the mouth; and it departs from him with great difficulty, bruising him. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I brought him to Your disciples, and spoke to them and implored them to cast it out, but they could not, they could not cure him.”*

Before the scribes or the disciples could speak this man jumps into the conversation. He was the cause of this heated argument.

He was a father with only one child. This child has an ailment – he believed it to be epilepsy. But he was not exactly sure whether it was epilepsy or it was a demon. It could be that he was seeing this epileptic attack as something that externally manifests over the boy. From a clinical perspective, this child was suffering from epilepsy characterized by recurrent idiopathic grand mal seizures. These seizures can be triggered by any precipitating factor.

But the topic of discussion was:
Was it a demon? Was it an illness? Where the disciples trying to justify the healing in the name of Jesus? Where the scribes accusing the disciples of fraud? Was there discussion around the cause of this ailment?

19 *He answered him and said, “O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me.”*
Jesus was speaking to the man and the generation that he represents. He calls them a faithless and perverse generation.

Perverse
g1294. διαστρέφω diastrephō; from 1223 and 4762; to distort, i. e. (figuratively) misinterpret, or (morally) corrupt:— perverse (- rt), turn away.
AV (7)- perverse 4, pervert 2, turn away 1;
to distort, turn aside to oppose, plot against the saving purposes and plans of God to turn aside from the right path, to pervert, corrupt (STRONG)

There is a generation that cannot believe.
This generation distorts and misinterprets, opposes and plots against the saving purposes of God. They do not walk the path of God.

This generation wants the benefits of blessings and healings without working for the faith.
The have no currency – faith – they want blessings for free.

This man went to the disciples first.
He said that He brought his son to Jesus, but in the same breath says that he asked the disciples first.
Was he bringing his son to Jesus because the disciples failed?
Did he go to the disciples because Jesus was not available?

This man didn’t know where to put his faith.
First he put it in the disciples. Now he has no idea that His faith should be in Jesus Christ the Lord of Lords. But his belief was that Jesus was a superior man than could heal and work miracles.

How long shall I be with you?
How long shall I bear you? How long shall I carry you?
What are you going to do when I am gone?
When are you going to grow up?

20 Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. 21 So He asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood.

Childhood seizures are very serious can it can cause a range of mental retardation, learning disabilities and speech problems. He could have become mute as a result of mental retardation and brain damage.
Seeing Jesus triggered a seizure.
But Jesus is not moved to heal him yet.
He engages with the father for more information.
22 And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”

Before the seizures starts, in that aura state, the patient can harm themselves. Or do something harmful to try and stop the seizure. It is possible that this boy would throw himself into the fire and water in the “aura” state.

Why should Jesus have compassion on them? Why should Jesus help them?

23 Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”

Jesus cannot help or have compassion without faith from the believer.

24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

Something else started to happen. The boy is having a seizure. Now the father is shouting and crying. The father was being delivered. He recognizes something about himself “I believe but my unbelief is so great that it drowns my belief”.

25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!”

The mob started acting now, because there were two commotions at play.

Jesus discerned that this disease was caused by demonization. And he names the spirit – the deaf and dumb spirit. One that cannot hear or speak? No. The spirit hears Jesus and leaves. This demon causes the individual to become deaf and dumb.

26 Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, “He is dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose, and gave him back to his father. And the child was cured from that very hour.

Certain demons can only be addressed once faith has been restored. Faith is a gift from God. This gift was twisted and distorted in this man.
28 And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”

Jesus instructed his disciples not to fast while he is around.

So what was he talking about?

Potency of faith
Righteousness
Relying on God and overcoming/controlling oneself

SIMILARITIES BETWEEN EPILEPSY AND DEMONIZATION WITH THE DEAF AND DUMB SPIRIT

This boy’s symptoms included:
• Sudden screaming
• Foaming at the mouth
• Lack of speech
• Falling
• Rigidity
• Self harm – falling into water and fire

It is altogether possible that the child had epilepsy and a demon spirit. This was a double miracle.

The spirit made it impossible for the child to hear or speak.
Which mean that it was operating from the speech and hearing centres in the brain.
This spirit would cause the release of electric impulses in the brain, but in a confused way. It caused a reaction. But that reaction was producing seizures and not any meaningful responses.

This demon causes the individual to react in such a way when they are face to face with Jesus. He started manifesting in this way when he saw Jesus.

Such an demonized individual is a metaphor of someone who behaves in the similar way:
1. Screams- makes a sound that is not speech. Its noise.
2. Foaming at the mouth – caused by rapid breathing with an inability to swallow. So air only enters the mouth not fluid. So they breathe hot air – but no substance can enter them.
3. Lack of speech – they are unable to speak the word of God.
4. Falling – they cannot stand
5. Rigidity – they are immobile. They cannot move with ease into the purposes of God. Cannot praise.
6. Falling into water – spirit leads them into water – study the word but is condemned by it. Theological and oedematous. Fill of word but no absorption, so they drown.
7. Falling into fire – not for refinement but for death.

So what happens ... the minute you are exposed to the word of God – and you tell yourself you need faith to trust something ....

Something goes bzzzt in your brain... multiple discharges and you start reacting....
Screaming, falling, getting rigid getting stubborn ...
You don’t know that you are seizing – but everyone around you is seeing that you are a lunatic.

1. Chemical imbalances in blood – bad spiritual diet
2. Drug reactions – destructive behaviours
3. Medical illness – spiritual disease
4. Local problems in the brain – soul ruling over spirit
5. Others – normal things affect you

And this seizure can occur at any moment – normal everyday things can become triggers – like light, noise, etc So, this person will start behaving in such a ridiculous way for no apparent reason.

You’ll be at church, just having a normal conversation – then suddenly he will go of on some tangent etc.