

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

--MARK 9:14-29--

INTRODUCTION:

As Jesus moved with determination towards Jerusalem and His death, resurrection, and ascension, He taught the disciples a series of lessons to prepare them to minister in His absence. On either end of those lessons was a lesson on faith, that first lesson is recorded in our passage for this morning. As the incident in today's passage begins, Jesus was not present, so the nine disciples that had not gone up the mountain with Him were challenged to walk by faith, and they failed miserably. Again, we see that the disciples were a work in progress, and at times their faith was shallow and weak. Just like when they were worried about their lack of bread. Matthew and Luke also record this incident, but Mark's is the most detailed.

I. THE DISCIPLES' LACK OF FAITH (Mark 9:14-19)

- a. In last Sunday's passage we saw Jesus, Peter, James, and John coming down the _____ from having just experienced the transfiguration.
- b. As they drew closer, the crowd recognized _____ we are told they were amazed and began running to Him to greet Him. (Matthew 17:14; Luke 9:38)
- c. Demons have been active in the world ever since the _____.
- d. This demon would have preferred to gone _____ in this boy.
- e. The _____ of the disciples to cast the demon out of this boy is surprising, since Jesus had given them power over demons.
- f. After all the time that the disciples had spent with Him, such a lack of _____ was without excuse.

II. A FATHER'S DESPERATE PLEA (Mark 9:20-24)

- a. They began to bring the _____ to Jesus through the crowd, this father was about to get what he so desperately wanted.
- b. As this vile demonic display was taking place in front of Jesus, He already _____ what He was going to do.

- c. The man began to unload, this has been taking place since _____, this has been a lifelong affliction for this boy.
- d. Encouraged by the sympathy and the concern Jesus showed to this man concerning his son, the man _____ with Jesus.
- e. Jesus' reply, "*If You can?*" (Mark 9:23b, NASB95) was not a question but an exclamation of _____.
- f. Mark writes, "*Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, 'I do believe; help my _____.'*" (Mark 9:24, NASB95)

III. THE AUTHORITY AND POWER OF JESUS (Mark 9:25-27)

- a. While this dialog was taking place between Jesus and the father, _____ was quickly spreading that Jesus had returned.
- b. Turning to the boy, Jesus "*rebuked the unclean _____, saying to it, 'You deaf and mute spirit, I command you, come out of him and do not enter him again.'*" (Mark 9:25, NASB95) (Luke 9:42)

IV. THE DISCIPLE'S RE-FOCUSED (Mark 9:28-29)

- a. Mark ends this passage with Jesus _____ the disciples and helping them understand why they could not cast out the demon.
- b. Matthew's parallel passage also adds that Jesus rebuked them for the littleness of their _____ (Matthew 17:20) revealing that it was that weakness that kept them from praying.

CONCLUSION:

Jesus healed many without faith, but on this occasion the miracle is connected to faith because that was the necessary lesson for the disciples to learn. Their power will come by believing prayer. When we face a formidable foe it is not enough simply to depend on the reservoir of faith that we have, we must get on our knees. We must use all the means of grace that He has given His people, for He strengthens people through these means. Our prayer life is a true measure of our faith. We must be people of profound prayer because when we put our full dependence on the Lord Jesus Christ, we will see His power unleashed in our lives and in our church.