

Discussion Guide - Week 22 - Mark 9:14-29

Answer the questions highlighted **BOLD first**.

From Exalting Jesus in Mark

What has been your most profitable mistake—the one from which you learned the most valuable lessons?

Do you tend to berate others for making mistakes or encourage them to learn from mistakes?

How did witnessing the transfiguration prepare the disciples for this next lesson? How did this lesson bring them down to earth from their mountaintop experience?

How does our failure reflect badly on Jesus in the eyes of the world? What might we say when we have failed that would mitigate the damage done to His name?

How would you respond to someone who said the child's behavior probably represented epilepsy or some other natural disease rather than demonic forces?

Is our generation more or less of a "faithless generation" than the one Jesus confronted? In general, what causes people to change over generations?

How does turning to Jesus with questions and doubts demonstrate at least small faith rather than no faith at all? What would no faith look like?

Should our daily lives be divided into things we can do on our own and things we need Jesus' help to do? Explain.

What did the disciples do after their failure? How can failure be made profitable?

How does self-sufficiency express pride, while prayer and humility express "faith, trust, and dependency"?"

From Tim Keller's book: Mark Study Guide

Read verses 14-29. What do you think is the main point of this miracle? How do we know? Why does Mark put this story here, sandwiched between two passages on how the Messiah has to die (8:31-9:13 and 9:30-32)?

From verses 19 and 23, what does Jesus see as the basic problem of all who are involved? Why does Jesus speak so sharply to the disciples? Why can't they handle the situation?

What did you learn about faith from this passage? About prayer?

From Preaching the Word: Jesus – Servant and Savior

Do we believe God can do anything? Or, put another way, do we believe in the God the Scriptures describe?

Do we believe that he will do what he has promised to do?

From “Mark” by N.T. Wright

Read Mark 9:2-29. Take these quite common experiences and move them up a few notches on the scale of fact and experience. The story of Jesus' "transformation" or "transfiguration" (vv. 2-13) describes what seems to have been an actual event, but an event in which the deepest significance of everyday reality suddenly and overwhelmingly confronted Peter, James and John.

It's easy enough (and the three of them must have known this) to dismiss such an experience as a hallucination, albeit a very odd one. The three watchers were of course terrified, and Peter blurts out the first thing that comes into his head. The sheer oddity of his bumbling suggestion is itself strong evidence of the story's basic truth. Nobody inventing a tale like this would make up such a comic moment, lowering the tone of the occasion in such a fashion. How have we so far seen in Mark's Gospel Jesus continuing and finishing the work of Moses and Elijah?

As at Jesus' baptism (1:9-11), a voice from the sky speaks, affirming Jesus as the deeply loved Son we should listen to. How can we listen more closely to Jesus' voice?"

The disciples were puzzled about what Jesus meant by "rising from the dead" (vv. 9-10). In Jewish thought in Jesus' day, "the resurrection" would happen to all the righteous at the end of time, not to one person ahead of all the others. They couldn't understand Jesus' implication that the Son of Man would rise from the dead, while they would be still living the sort of normal life in which people would tell one another what they had seen months and years before.

Jewish tradition held that Elijah would return before the final victory of God's people (see Malachi 4:5). In the next exchange about Elijah (vv. 11-13), what is Jesus talking about when he says Elijah has already come?

At Caesarea Philippi he had told his followers that it was time to take up the cross. His vocation, and the disciples' awareness of it, has been confirmed by the heavenly voice. The road now leads to Jerusalem. It begins with a problem for the disciples. What is that problem (vv. 14-18)?

How do the father's words in 9:24 echo your own feelings at times?

How does Jesus deal with the problem (vv. 19-27)?

The disciples have turned a corner in their pilgrimage; now it's getting harder. People today often suppose that the early years of a person's Christian pilgrimage are the difficult ones, and that as you go on in the Christian life it gets more straightforward. The opposite is frequently the case. Precisely when you learn to walk beside Jesus, you are given harder tasks, which will demand more courage, more spiritual energy. How have you seen this truth in your life?"

What have you learned from this passage about what to do when you face problems and crises?

OIKOS THOUGHTS

During Covid how has your Oikos changed?

Who are you praying for?

What might Jesus only taking three disciples to His Transfiguration say about your Oikos, are there a "few" people God is calling you to invest in more than others?

It's one thing to pray for others, who are you praying with?

Digging deeper

[28 - Backing Up The Boat: Good News For The Weak and Doubting - Larry Osborne \(49:51\)](#)

[Sermon Notes and Discussion Guide](#)

[Jesus Heals a Boy - Alistair Begg \(44:58\)](#)

[Reflection Mark 9:14-29 text](#)

[Cowboy Sermon](#)