

# What Are You Talking About?

• Mark 9:1–25

# THE GOSPEL OF MARK

WHO AM I? // WHO IS JESUS?



## **Mark 9:1–8 (NASB)**

1 And Jesus was saying to them, "Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power." 2 Six days later, Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John, and brought them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; 3 and His garments became radiant and exceedingly white, as no launderer on earth can whiten them. 4 Elijah appeared to them along with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. 5 Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three tabernacles, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah." 6 For he did not know what to answer; for they became terrified.

## **Mark 9:1–8 (NASB) [continued]**

7 Then a cloud formed, overshadowing them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is My beloved Son, listen to Him!" 8 All at once they looked around and saw no one with them anymore, except Jesus alone.

- Jesus and his inner 3 climb a 9,000 foot mountain for some alone time with God...and the disciples fall asleep!
- Jesus, while in prayer, is transfigured—the veil is removed and his inner glory is revealed
  - How much did the disciple miss because they were asleep?
  - Are you being diligent in following Christ?
  - What is Jesus doing that you're missing bc you have fallen asleep?

- Why does the Transfiguration happen at this point in time?
  - He's showing his divinity
  - He's showing the disciples the glory and world that will come to those who follow him
  - All miracles point forward to this—and nothing compares to Jesus!

- “This is my son—listen to him”
  - The disciples are having a hard time hearing/seeing Jesus
- Listen—the glory of God doesn’t rest on him; it emanates from within him!
- Concentrate on him—be caught up in his glory!

- Why is God so concerned that we get caught up in Christ?
  - Because we become like what we worship
  - Our hearts are desperate for something eternal
  - To become like Christ we have to see him as the best, most glorious, most beautiful thing in existence
- We pursue what we value bc it seizes our souls
  - Nothing else can satisfy this inborn desire like Jesus can!
- When we look to someone/something for fulfillment, we haven't seen Christ's glory
- When we are crushed by disappointment, we haven't seen Christ's glory

- Jesus says, "Follow me into suffering because this glory comes after suffering."
- Peter says, "This is awesome—let's just stay on top of the mountain!" Why not?
  - The mountaintop doesn't last...for now
  - Following Jesus means we walk through valleys carrying our cross
  - We always see the valleys as only being negative
  - Mountains and valleys go together
  - It's in the valley I learn the power of Jesus



## **Mark 9:14–16 (NASB)**

14 When they came back to the disciples, they saw a large crowd around them, and some scribes arguing with them.

15 Immediately, when the entire crowd saw Him, they were amazed and began running up to greet Him. 16 And He asked them, "What are you discussing with them?"

- The disciples have said Jesus is Messiah, but they struggle to see him as having all power over everything NOW
- We should seek to identify most with this father
  - Pharisees and disciples are both stuck in self-sufficiency
  - The only one who sees Jesus rightly is the father
- Christ calls this man to a deeper faith
  - Trusting Jesus regardless of the outcome and regardless of the circumstances

## **Mark 9:17–21 (NASB)**

17 And one of the crowd answered Him, "Teacher, I brought You my son, possessed with a spirit which makes him mute; 18 and whenever it seizes him, it slams him to the ground and he foams at the mouth, and grinds his teeth and stiffens out. I told Your disciples to cast it out, and they could not do it." 19 And He answered them and said, "O unbelieving generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to Me!" 20 They brought the boy to Him. When he saw Him, immediately the spirit threw him into a convulsion, and falling to the ground, he began rolling around and foaming at the mouth. 21 And He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood.

- The father shows us several truths about following Christ
  - Helplessness is the prerequisite for coming to Jesus
  - The man struggled with belief, but he was honest about it
  - Suffering with Christ always means giving up the things we treasure most

## **Mark 9:22–27 (NASB)**

22 It has often thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!" 23 And Jesus said to him, "'If You can?' All things are possible to him who believes." 24 Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, "I do believe; help my unbelief." 25 When Jesus saw that a crowd was rapidly gathering, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You deaf and mute spirit, I command you, come out of him and do not enter him again." 26 After crying out and throwing him into terrible convulsions, it came out; and the boy became so much like a corpse that most of them said, "He is dead!" 27 But Jesus took him by the hand and raised him; and he got up.

## **Mark 9:28–29 (NASB)**

28 When He came into the house, His disciples began questioning Him privately, "Why could we not drive it out?"

29 And He said to them, "This kind cannot come out by anything but prayer."

- God responds to and is attracted to faith and honesty (the father)
- The disciples didn't seek God through prayer
  - In prayer we have access to every resource Jesus has
  - He just wants us to trust him and seek him
- Prayer is an act of faith
  - It means I abandon my self-reliance and self-hope
  - Our hope is on Christ, his work, his power!

## **Mark 9:20 (NASB)**

20 They brought the boy to Him. When he saw Him, immediately the spirit threw him into a convulsion, and falling to the ground, he began rolling around and foaming at the mouth.



- Evil is ugly and destructive- but also deceptive
  - Where are you struggling with evil, bc it is pleasing and attractive?
  - You're playing with things that can only lead you to death and destruction
- Christ is putting the ugliness of evil on full display
  - Not just demons, but the sin in us of self-destruction, self love, self-reliance

- What are you talking about?
  - Jesus wants to change your internal dialogue- about yourself and about Him!
  - Not the avoidance of suffering, but the opportunity to learn how to properly carry glory
  - Not the earning of Jesus' favor but in humility knowing I can do no good without Jesus
  - Not the self-identity as loser but one who is totally dependent on Jesus
  - Not despair over losing precious things but giving them Jesus so I can know him as fulfilling
  - Not hardness from suffering transformation because of suffering

- Face suffering with a different heart attitude
- Fight evil with an unrelenting love of Jesus' glory
- PRAY!