

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
MARK

WEEK 28: MARK 9:14-29 "BELIEVE!"

From the mountain top experience of the transfiguration, to the trenches of life under the Middle-Eastern sun. Here we pick up the story after Jesus has been transfigured and displayed in a brilliant white light alongside Moses and Elijah with the voice of the Father stating "This is my beloved Son, listen to him". Now, coming down from the mountain, Jesus faces again the unbelief of those around him, and a young boy tormented by an evil spirit. And so begins a lesson on faith...!

1. Jesus doesn't just have what we are looking for; He is what we are looking for!

- Read Mark 9:14-15

Whatever the reason, the fact that Jesus drew a crowd is undeniable.

- ❖ Q: When the crowds saw Jesus they ran to him. Why do you think that was?
- ❖ Q: How do you view God? A celestial butler? A cosmic vending machine? Or, a person who you can approach and have relationship with?
- ❖ Q: In light of the previous question, what behaviors or attitudes do you sometimes have that act as evidence for what your view of God is? (ie: do you approach Him only when you need stuff? Do you strive for time in His presence regardless of your life circumstances?)

2. Jesus addresses our cardinal failure – faithlessness!

- Read Mark 6:7-13 & Mark 9:16-19

Jesus had been with His disciples 24/7 for almost 3 years. They'd witnessed the most remarkable miracles and events, yet they didn't trust Him. They were not meant to be self-sufficient. They were always meant to rely on Jesus even when He wasn't around.

- ❖ Q: What was the result of the disciples' faithlessness?
- ❖ Q: What is it that leads us into faithlessness?
- ❖ Q: What would trusting Jesus more look like for you with regard to things that are happening in your life at this time, as well as past circumstances that have perhaps left you feeling faithless?

3. Jesus cares about your story, but it only makes sense in light of His story.

- Read Mark 9:20-27

Picture the scene. The man's son is foaming at the mouth and convulsing while rolling around in the dust before Jesus. It must have been a terrible sight and although the man had seen this many times, this time he was standing in the presence of hope.

- i. *The boy was evidence of Satan's relentless resolve to destroy the Imago Dei, the image of God in man.*

- ❖ Q: Why did Jesus ask the father to explain more about the boy's condition? Do you think Jesus required that information to be able to cast out the spirit? What was the effect of Jesus' questions on the father?
- ❖ Q: How do you think Satan is trying to distort the image of God in you currently?
- ❖ Q: Do you believe that Jesus cares about the story of your life, even through suffering?
- ❖ Q: How does your story make sense in the light of God's bigger story of reconciliation and redemption for His glory and your joy?





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4. Prayer connects us with the Person, Power and Presence of Jesus.

- Read Mark 9:28-29

Jesus is not a force but a person, the 3rd person of the Trinity and He has power and authority over all things. Nothing is impossible for Him, nothing. We should approach Him relationally and follow Him daily to learn from Him. Whatever your story is, tell it to Jesus and allow Him to retell it from His perspective. Pray as if your life depends on it, because it actually does. When you pray know that you're praying to the God of angel armies, the King of Kings, the Alpha and the Omega and the Prince of Peace!

- ❖ Q: What is it that we acknowledge when we come before Jesus in prayer?
- ❖ Q: How do you personally go about seeking the Person, Power and Presence of Jesus in prayer?

