



Lessons For The Disciple of Jesus

Mark 9:14-50

Gospel of Mark Outline

Coming of the Servant

Mark 1

Ministry of the Servant

Mark 1-13

Ministry in Galilee

Mark 1-9

Journey to Jerusalem

Mark 10

Ministry in Jerusalem

Mark 11-13

Self-Sacrifice of the Servant

Mark 14-15

Resurrection of the Servant

Mark 16

MacArthur - Christians trust in God whom they have not seen, Christ whom they have not seen, the Holy Spirit whom they have not seen; they embrace a death and resurrection they have not seen; trust in a justification they have not seen; and look forward to eternal life in a heaven they have not seen. Believers are saved by faith, sanctified by faith, and hold the hope of glory by faith. That faith is not perfect, but it is sufficient—not because of human ability but because it is a gift of God. It is not a blind faith but a proven faith anchored in the testimony of the Word of God, which is “the prophetic word made more sure” and “the word of His grace, which is able to build [believers] up and to give [them] the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”

Theme Statement

All Christians should be growing in their faith, be faithful witness of the Gospel, faithful servants to others and salt and light to the world.

“This kind cannot come out by anything but prayer”
Mark 9:14-29

1. After the transfiguration, Jesus returned with Peter, James and John from the mountain back to the other nine disciples - v. 14a
2. What they saw: scribes vehemently arguing with the nine disciples surrounded by a large crowd and the crowd was overcome by emotion when they saw Jesus - v. 14b-15
3. Jesus asked what the argument was about but neither the nine disciples nor any scribes responded - v. 16
4. It was a man in the crowd who answered and begged Jesus to cast out the demon within his only son because the nine disciples had failed to do so - v. 17-18

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4. It was a man in the crowd who answered and begged Jesus to cast out the demon within his only son because the nine disciples had failed to do so - v. 17-18

Matthew 17:15b - he is a lunatic and is very ill; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water.

Mark 9:17b-18a - possessed with a spirit which makes him mute; and whenever it seizes him, it slams him to the ground and he foams at the mouth, and grinds his teeth and stiffens out.

Mark 9:20b - the spirit threw him into a convulsion, and falling to the ground, he began rolling around and foaming at the mouth.

Mark 9:22a - It has often thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him.

Luke 9:39 - and a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly screams, and it throws him into a convulsion with foaming at the mouth; and only with difficulty does it leave him, mauling him as it leaves.

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4. It was a man in the crowd who answered and begged Jesus to cast out the demon within his only son because the nine disciples had failed to do so - v. 17-18
5. Response of Jesus: O unbelieving (and perverted - added by Matthew and Luke) generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to Me!”
6. The Great Physician added a personal touch in His conversation with the troubled father - v. 20-22
7. The Main Lesson: “IF You can? All things are possible to him who believes.” - v. 23

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8. The man responded, “I do believe; help my unbelief.” - v. 24

Louis Barbieri: “He believed in Jesus Christ, but faith can never be perfect for sinful creatures. No matter how strongly one believes, there is always an element of unbelief.”

John MacArthur: “The Lord is not limited by imperfect faith; even the strongest faith is always mixed with a measure of doubt.”

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7. The Main Lesson: “IF You can? All things are possible to him who believes.” - v. 23
8. The man responded, “I do believe; help my unbelief.” - v. 24
9. Finally, Jesus cast out the demon presently and permanently - v. 25-27
10. This narrative ends with a teaching moment for the disciples:
They asked why they were unable to cast out the demon.
Jesus answered by pointing to prayer to God

“The Son of Man is to be delivered into the hands of men”

Mark 9:30-32

1. For the second time, Jesus predicted His own death at the hands of men and His own resurrection three days later - v. 30-31
2. The disciples did not understand and were afraid to ask any questions - v. 32

Isaiah 53:5-6 - But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

“If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all” Mark 9:33-37

1. The disciples were having a prolonged argument about which of them was the greatest - v. 33-34
2. Jesus initiated a teaching moment with the disciples explaining that one who desires to be first shall be last and a servant of all, illustrating it with their relationship to a child - v. 35-37

Philippians 2:5-7 - Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

“He who is not against us is for us”
Mark 9:38-41

1. The disciple John raised the question of an exorcist casting out demons in the name of Jesus - should we stop him? - v. 38
2. The answer: No, Jesus opposed sectarianism within the body of Jesus Christ - v. 39-41

The Dividing Line

Galatians 1:8 — But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!

“Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another”
Mark 9:42-50

1. Whoever causes a child who believes to sin is worse than certain death - v. 42



“Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another”
Mark 9:38-41

1. Whoever causes a child who believes to sin is worse than certain death - v. 42
2. What ever causes you to sin, it is better to take radical action to eliminate that item than to be cast into hell - v. 43-48
3. Everyone will be salted with fire - v. 49
4. Have salt in yourselves and be at peace with one another - v. 50

Application

1. Walk by a growing faith in our sovereign LORD God through regular reading, studying, memorizing and listening to the Word of God

John 20:29 — Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen Me, have you **believed**? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet **believed**.”

2 Corinthians 5:7— for we walk by **faith**, not by sight—

Galatians 2:20 — “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by **faith** in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Hebrews 11:1 — Now **faith** is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:6 — And without **faith** it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must **believe** that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Application

1. Walk by a growing faith in our sovereign LORD God through regular reading, studying, memorizing and listening to the Word of God
2. Walk by a growing faith in our sovereign LORD God through a regular prayer life

Mark 9:24 — Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, "I do **believe**; help my **unbelief**."

Mark 9:29 — And He said to them, "This kind cannot come out by anything but **prayer**."

Romans 8:26 — In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to **pray** as we should, but the Spirit Himself **intercedes** for us with groanings too deep for words;

Ephesians 1:18–19 — I **pray** that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.

Ephesians 6:18 — With all **prayer** and petition **pray** at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

Application

1. Walk by a growing faith in our sovereign LORD God through regular reading, studying, memorizing and listening to the Word of God
2. Walk by a growing faith in our sovereign LORD God through a regular prayer life
3. Be a faithful witness of the Gospel to those who are not in Christ

Matthew 28:19–20 — “Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Acts 1:8 — but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My **witnesses** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

Ephesians 6:19 — and pray on my behalf, that **utterance** may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to **make known with boldness** the mystery of the gospel

1 Thessalonians 2:4 — but just as we have been approved by God to be **entrusted with the gospel**, so we **speak**, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts.

1 Peter 4:6 — For the gospel has for this purpose been **preached** even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit according to the will of God.

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