

MARK 9

1And he said to them, “Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not John 8:52; Heb. 2:9 taste death [ch. 13:30; Matt. 10:23; 23:36; 24:34] until they see the kingdom of God after it has come ch. 13:26; 14:62; [Matt. 25:31] with power.”

- ***This verse goes very nicely with Mark 8, and in Matthew 16 it follows right in the sequences without a chapter break***
 - ***Jesus had just warned them of losing their soul because they were chasing things that did not matter***
 - ***He had told them that “whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his father with the holy angels.”***
- ***But he promised that of them would see the kingdom of God in power***
 - ***It would only be 6 days after this statement that the transfiguration took place***
 - ***The transfiguration could have been the even Jesus referenced***
 - ***It could have been his death and resurrection***
 - ***But either way some, maybe even most saw the kingdom of God in power***
 - ***Judas did not see either one***

The Transfiguration

2 [For ver. 2-8, see Matt. 17:1-8; Luke 9:28-36] And after six days Jesus took with him [ch. 5:37; 14:33] Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was [2 Cor. 3:18 (Gk.)] transfigured before them, 3and [Dan. 7:9; [Ps. 104:2; Matt. 28:3] his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one 9:3 Greek *launderer (gnapheus)* on earth could bleach them. 4And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. 5And Peter said to Jesus, [See John 1:38] “Rabbi, 9:5 *Rabbi means my teacher, or my master* it is good that we are here. Let us make three [Neh. 8:15] tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” 6For [ch. 14:40; Luke 9:33] he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. 7And 2 Pet. 1:17; [Ex. 24:15, 16] a cloud overshadowed them, and 2 Pet. 1:17; [Ex. 24:15, 16] a voice came out of the cloud, ch. 12:6; See Matt. 3:17] “This is my beloved Son; 9:7 Or *my Son, my (or the) Beloved* Acts 3:22 listen to him.” 8And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.

- ***Jesus only took 3, there are numerous reasons I'm sure***
 - ***James was the first disciple to die for Jesus***
 - ***John lived longer than all***
 - ***Peter was the leader of the early church***
- ***All of the disciples were loved by Jesus, but Jesus chose these 3 from among them to be even closer to Him***
 - ***They might have needed it most***
 - ***Or they could have been the strongest of the 12***
 - ***We can learn from this that Jesus loves all of use, but he does not use, or expect us all to be used the same way.***
 - ***We can't get frustrated or upset or even sad because God is using somebody else in a greater way than He is us.***

- *He knows what He is doing, it's our job to faithfully serve Him*
 - *Knowing that He will bring about His kingdom's glory.*
- *I can't even begin to comprehend what Jesus looked like when he was transfigure*
 - *But the 3 disciples were given a glimpse of Jesus's glory from heaven*
 - *I'm not sure how he changed, but it was enough that His clothes had a reaction to it*
 - *For his clothes to become radiant white I'm imagining a light similar to the sun being able to drain the color from Jesus's clothes*
 - *A similar light to what caused Moses's face to be radiant when coming down from the mountain with God*
- *Moses and Elijah came to Jesus and talked with him, not to him and didn't teach Jesus, but they talked together, likely they learned from Jesus*
 - *They were old friends*
 - *My imagination here says that Moses and Elijah were eager to see Jesus again, and encourage Him about his mission to bring reconciliation to the world*
- *Peter in true form, spoke, and Mark records that when he was speaking Peter didn't know what to say*
 - *Remember Mark's account of the gospel is likely coming from Peter while Peter is in Rome*
 - *But Peter spoke, when he should have listened and basked in the presences of the mighty men around him*

- ***He put Moses and Elijah on equal footing with Jesus***
 - ***He didn't put John, James nor himself on level footing, but Moses and Elijah are not equal to Jesus***
- ***They were all terrified***
 - ***Jesus can be trusted***
 - ***Jesus isn't safe, but He's good***
 - ***Following Jesus isn't safe, but He will bring his will to happen and His will is Good***
 - ***Don't fear***
- ***God came to remind the men who was to be listened to***
 - ***Peter didn't have to speak so much, he rebuked Jesus, and spoke here when he didn't have anything to say***
 - ***God rebuked Peter and confirmed that Jesus is the authority to listen to***
 - ***We can take a lesson from this***
 - ***We need to talk less, listen more***
 - ***Sometimes the biggest mistakes we can make is by rushing to say something***
- ***A quote I hang in my classroom ever year is***
 - ***"A wise man speaks because he has something to say, A fool speaks because he has to say something."***

9 For ver. 9-13, see Matt. 17:9-13 And as they were coming down the mountain, ch. 5:43; See Matt. 8:4 he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, ch. 8:31 until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. 10 Luke 9:36 So they kept the matter to themselves, [John 16:17] questioning what this rising from the dead might mean. 11 And they asked him, "Why do the scribes say See Matt. 11:14 that first Elijah must come?" 12 And he said to them, "Elijah

does come first [Mal. 4:6; Luke 1:16, 17; [Acts 1:6; 3:21] to restore all things. And [Ps. 22:6, 7; Isa. 53:2, 3; Dan. 9:26; Zech. 13:7; [Phil. 2:7]; See Matt. 26:24] how is it written of the Son of Man that he should [See ch. 8:31] suffer many things and [Luke 23:11; Acts 4:11] be treated with contempt? 13But I tell you that Elijah has come, and [ch. 6:17, 27] they did to him whatever they pleased, as it is written of him.”

- ***Even on the way down the mountain the 3 were trying to make sense of what they had seen***
 - ***Was this the prophecy of Elijah coming that was fulfilled?***
 - ***If so, why was Moses there? Was there another prophecy about Moses?***
 - ***(come to fulfill the law and the prophets)***
- ***Jesus told them to be silent until he had risen from the dead.***
 - ***As many parables as Jesus taught the 3 first began discussing what this must mean, instead of taking it literally first then working to metaphors***
- ***Jesus explained He would die and Elijah had already come***
 - ***John the Baptist was Elijah***
 - ***Matthew 17 explains that the disciples understood this***

Jesus Heals a Boy with an Unclean Spirit

14 [For ver. 14-26, see Matt. 17:14-19; Luke 9:37-42] And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. 15And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, [ch. 10:32] were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. 16And he asked them, **“What are you arguing about with them?”** 17And someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has [ver. 25; Luke 11:14] a spirit that makes him mute. 18And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I

asked your disciples to cast it out, and [ch. 6:7; Matt. 10:1; Luke 10:17] they were not able.” 19And he answered them, “O [John 14:9; 20:27] **faithless generation,** [John 14:9; 20:27] **how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me.**” 20And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it [ch. 1:26] convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth.

- ***Jesus has all power, his disciples and we do not***
 - ***Jesus gives us power, but it's to his purposes***
 - ***We can't wield it at our own desires or whenever we feel like it.***
- ***Understand that the faithless generation isn't just referring to those people during that time***
 - ***We are still in the faithless generation***
 - ***But the faithful generation is coming***
 - ***I think this is when the new heaven and new earth are created and God's children are in it***
 - ***Jesus was walking around surrounded by sin and faithlessness***
 - ***But he brought heaven into the earth***
 - ***We are now filled with Holy Spirit and called to bring glimpses of God's glory to the world we live in.***
- ***Are we faithful with our calling, or do we look more like this faithless generation?***
-

21And Jesus asked his father, “**How long has this been happening to him?**” And he said, “From childhood. 22And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But [ch. 1:40; Matt. 9:28] if you can do anything, have

compassion on us and help us.” 23And Jesus said to him, [See ver. 22 above] **“If you can’!** [ch. 6:5, 6; Matt. 17:20] **All things are possible for one who believes.”** 24Immediately the father of the child cried out 9:24 Some manuscripts add with tears and said, “I believe; [Luke 17:5] help my unbelief!” 25And when Jesus saw that ver. 15 a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, ver. 17 **“You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.”** 26And after crying out and [See ver. 20 above] convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” 27But Jesus See ch. 1:31 took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. 28And when he had ch. 7:17 entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” 29And he said to them, **“This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.”** 9:29 Some manuscripts add and fasting

- ***It was a different kind of spirit, I’m not sure how many types there are but this was a more difficult one.***
- ***I’m only going to talk about one part of this section***
- ***The father’s unbelief***
- ***Every time I read this one I get choked up***
 - ***Here is a dad, who is helpless***
 - ***All he wants is for his son to be healthy and well***
 - ***But there isn’t a thing he can do about it***
 - ***And all of us find ourselves in places like that during our lives***
 - ***We want to help take care of people, take care of ourselves, to save people and we find ourselves helpless***
 - ***But every time there’s Jesus, standing, knocking and say, “I got this.” “Give it to me.”***

- *But we don't, we hold onto it, we fight with everything we are just like this dad*
- *This dad is trying everything to get Jesus to help him, and he says "If you can do anything..."*
- *Of course Jesus can, and the man realized that he didn't believe anymore*
- *He wanted to believe, he came there looking to believe, but deep down he lost faith because he knew that nobody loved and cared about his son like he did*
 - *And yet the man who loved his son the most couldn't do a thing to help him*
 - *If he couldn't help him then what chance was there that anybody else could?*
- *Jesus loved him and his son more than this dad could imagine*
 - *Jesus calls out his unbelief*
 - *Jesus cuts to the quick and shows the man that although he is here, he doesn't believe anybody can help his son.*
 - *The man realizing the truth Jesus spoke cries out*
 - *"I BELIEVE. HELP MY UNBELIEF."*
 - *How can he believe and have unbelief?*
 - *The same way we do*
- *We believe Jesus can save us from sin and death, but not from our current struggles*
 - *He has the power to pull us from Satan's grasp, but not enough to get us through sickness, sorrow, pain, job trouble.*
 - *All of those are real, and I'm not considering them lightly*

- ***But Jesus calls us to a new and stronger belief***
- ***The question is, can we confess our unbelief's and ask him to bring them full circle to belief, faith and trust in Him and His goodness.***

Jesus Again Foretells Death, Resurrection

30 For ver. 30-32, see Matt. 17:22, 23; Luke 9:43-45; [ch. 8:31; 10:32-34] They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he did not want anyone to know, 31for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, ***“The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, See ch. 8:31 after three days he will rise.”*** 32 ch. 6:52; Luke 2:50; 18:34; 24:25; John 10:6; 12:16; 16:17-19; [ver. 10] But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him.

- ***Although Jesus only had a few short years to be with people on earth He still took time to teach and prepare the few He had chosen.***
 - ***He didn't let the masses hinder Him from spending time teaching the few men who were with Him***
 - ***I can get caught up and I see others get caught up thinking that “I'm a preacher to large groups, it's somebody else's job to do the smaller groups***
 - ***We need to remember that the smaller groups are very important because that is where teaching will produce action***
 - ***Sermons to large crowds are great at calling people to repentance***
 - ***But small groups being taught is where people are going to have life change happen***

- *It's also where your future leaders will be produced*
- *I say all of that to say that if Jesus didn't neglect teaching His small group of disciples, neither should we.*
- *Jesus didn't hide the hard truths from them*
 - *He told them plainly how bad it was about to get*
 - *I think we need to do a better job of this, at least here in America*
 - *We can get so focused on "selling" them Jesus that we start making it sound like there's no commitment, just say these "magical" words and you'll be saved from hell.*
 - *We need to honestly tell people all of the hard and difficult things about following Jesus, but also show them that it's worth the cost.*

Who Is the Greatest?

33And [Matt. 17:24] they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house [For ver. 33-37, see Matt. 18:1-5; Luke 9:46-48; [ch. 10:35-45]] he asked them, **"What were you discussing on the way?"** 34But they kept silent, for on the way [Luke 22:24; [ver. 50]] they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. 35And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, [ch. 10:43, 44; Matt. 20:26, 27; 23:11, 12; Luke 22:26] **"If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all."** 36And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and [ch. 10:16] taking him in his arms, he said to them, 37 [Matt. 10:40, 42] **"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and [Matt. 10:40, 42] whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me."**

- *While Jesus had been teaching them about His mistreatment, death and resurrection, but they didn't understand*

- *They were afraid to ask for clarification*
- *But they quickly forget the teachings that they didn't dig into and understand*
 - *On the way to Capernaum they argued over who was the greatest of the 12*
 - *Which I'm sure if Jesus was talking about dying they were considering who was going to be the leader at that point*
 - *But they missed His teaching, He would rise, and He would still lead them.*
- *They knew it was not an argument they should be having, because when Jesus asked about it, they went silent.*
 - *I wish I could figure out when it's a good time to argue and discuss something before I get into it*
 - *If I would be ashamed about it later, then it is not an argument worth having.*
- *Jesus then teaches them a great lesson*
 - *The greatest is the greatest servant of all*
 - *Even if you serve people out of selfish ambition, you still end up doing a whole lot of good for other people*
 - *But, the best would be for us to serve others like Jesus did, not because we want to be the greatest, but because we have so much care and compassion for them*
 - *We aren't to look to help people who can help us the most, or give us power or money*
 - *We are to help people, wherever we find them*
 - *Even little children, who can't give us anything in return, caring for them is caring like Jesus*

- **James 1:27 ~ “Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.”**

•

Anyone Not Against Us Is for Us

38 [For ver. 38-40, see Luke 9:49, 50] John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone [ch. 16:17; Matt. 7:22; Luke 10:17; Acts 19:13; [Matt. 12:27]] casting out demons in your name, [9:38 Some manuscripts add *who does not follow us*] and [Num. 11:28] we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” 39 But Jesus said, “Do not stop him, for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. 40 [Matt. 12:30; Luke 11:23] For the one who is not against us is for us. 41 For truly, I say to you, [See Matt. 10:42] whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward.

- **Don’t fight with people who are on Jesus’s side**
 - **Too often, FAR TOO OFTEN, Christians are so busy attacking other believers about behaviors etc. that we lose focus,**
 - **and we tear down our brothers and sisters, when we should be building them up**
 - **and the outside world looks at our churches and want no part of it because its disgusting to them**
 - **the church shouldn’t look like the outside world, it should be the picture of a loving and unified family**
 - **will there be problems, of course, but we need to handle those problems with care and empathy**
 - **not condemnation and division**

- **Jesus made it clear to allow this man to continue**
 - **He was doing it in Jesus name**
 - **He was removing demons so he was helping people**
 - **He couldn't turn around after casting demons out and denounce Jesus' power**
 - **That's a great test, is that person Loving and Glorifying God, Loving People?**
- **People not against us are for us, not people not with us are against us**
 - **Look at everybody as being for you until they prove differently**
 - **We need to set our default mode to people being for us, not everyone is against me**
 - **We will have greater impact on the people around us by coming with this attitude**

Temptations to Sin

42 [Matt. 18:6; Luke 17:2; [1 Cor. 8:12] **“Whoever causes one of** [Zech. 13:7] **these little ones who believe in me to sin,** [9:42 Greek to stumble ; also verses 43, 45, 47 [ch. 14:21] **it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. 43** [Matt. 5:30; 18:8] **And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to** [See Matt. 5:22, 29] **hell,** [9:43 Greek Gehenna; also verse 47] **to** [ver. 48; Matt. 3:12; See Matt. 25:41] **the unquenchable fire.** [9:43 Some manuscripts add verses 44 and 46 (which are identical with verse 48)] 45 [Matt. 18:8] **And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into** [See ver. 43 above] **hell. 47** [Matt. 5:29; 18:9] **And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom**

of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into See Matt. 5:22,
29 hell, 48 'where Isa. 66:24 their worm does not die and the fire is not
quenched.' 49 For everyone will be salted with fire. 9:49 Some manuscripts add *and*
every sacrifice will be salted with salt 50 Luke 14:34 Salt is good, Matt. 5:13 but if the
salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Ezek. 43:24; Col. 4:6;
[Eph. 4:29] Have salt in yourselves, and Rom. 12:18; 2 Cor. 13:11; 1 Thess. 5:13; [ver.
34]; See Rom. 14:19 be at peace with one another."

- ***Sin is a very big deal***
 - ***We are so used to sinning and seeing sin that it doesn't strike us as awful or strange unless it is truly horrendous***
 - ***But Jesus said it would be better to die than to lead a child to sin***
 - ***Better to cut off our hand, foot, or tear out our eye than to allow those to sin***
 - ***If it is better to harm ourselves than sin, we must see how important sin is to God***
 - ***I love the book of James when it comes to lesson like this***
 - ***James 4:17 ~ 17 So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.***
- ***We get a glimpse of Hell here,***
 - ***Some people think hell is described as a metaphor in the Bible using fire, gnashing of teeth, etc.***
 - ***Ok, but think about that***
 - ***If hell is described as burning that never ends, with pain and agony forever***
 - ***And all that is a metaphor...***
 - ***How bad is it really?***

- *If Hell's description is a metaphor for something so awful we can't comprehend it other than saying it's going to be similar to burning forever with no comfort or relief*
 - *Then that is a truly awful place*
 - *It's even worse than the description of the Bible*
- *He closed this teaching out with reminding them to salt themselves and have peace with each other*
 - *Remember what happened earlier*
 - *They argued about who was the greatest*
 - *They tried to stop the man casting out demons*
 - *Jesus reminded them of what they were united against to call them back into unity*
- *We need to remember what we are up against and suddenly all of the small squabbles can be seen for what they truly are*
 - *Trivial squabbles*
 - *Whenever disunity begins to creep in, we need to look to the cross that united us and remember we're united to attack the gates of hell*
 - *Divided we push people toward sin and death*
 - *But, Together we call people from death and to LIFE in Jesus!*