Mark 9:1-29

Introduction…

- **Mark** – the Gospel to the Gentiles – showing Jesus as the servant of all - **Mark 10:45**
- **Mark 1:1 – 6:56 – Jesus ministry in Galilee…**
- **Mark 7:1-8:21… Confrontations with the religious leaders – leaving Galilee**
- **Mark 8:22-38… Revelation of Jesus as the Christ…**
  - Healing the blind man – Jesus spit in his eyes – partial healing…
    - Too often in the church we focus too much on our differences – rather than on Jesus
    - When we 1st get saved – are eyes are opened… a little – keep going back to Jesus!
  - At Caesarea Philippi Jesus asks His disciples – 'Who do men say I Am?'
    - Lots of opinions – John the Baptist / Elijah / one of the prophets
    - The real question – 'Who do you say I am?' – Peter answered – the Christ!
  - Peter knew who Jesus was (*by the Holy Spirit*) – but not why He had come…
    - From then on Jesus plainly told the disciples about the cross & resurrection…
    - Peter rebuked Jesus for talking about the cross – dying…
    - Jesus answer – 'Take up your cross and follow me!'
    - Jesus was headed for the cross – to follow Jesus – means taking up our own cross…

Looking to Jesus… vs. 1-13

- **Choosing the "special" ones… vs. 1-2**
  - There are some standing here who will not taste death until they see...
    - This statement has led to a lot of speculation about it's meaning...
    - Jesus was not saying some of the disciples would not die – He was talking about…
    - The mount of transfiguration – 3 of the disciples would see Jesus in all His glory
  - 6 days later - Jesus took Peter, James, and John up to a high mountain…
    - The highest mountain in Israel is Mt. Hermon – 2,814 meters
    - You can see Mt. Hermon from Caesarea Philippi (*who do you say I am*)
    - It is about a ½ day hike from the city to the base of the mountain
  - Why only these 3 disciples...
    - The first thing we notice is that not all the disciples go with Jesus – just the 3…
      - Bring the girl back to life – **Mark 5:37** / Mt. of Transfiguration – **Matthew 17:1**
      - End time teaching – **Mark 13:3** / Now the Garden of Gethsemane – **Matthew 26**
      - The typical view is to think these disciples were special – super disciples
      - The ones destined to be powerfully used by God – so they saw more
    - But it was not a matter of being special – as much as they were "special"
      - Not that they were better than the rest – they were more trouble!
      - Peter – speak first – then think – always getting him into trouble...
      - Sons of Thunder – Should we call down fire - **Luke 9:54**
      - We may think that God only uses those with great gifts, talents, or ability
      - Turns out that not the case – God uses the foolish! - **I Corinthians 1:26-27**
      - God loves to use people like you and me – the 'Special' ones!

        - That way when God does a work – everyone knows it's the Lord!
- **Light of the world… vs. 3**
    - When they reached the top of the mountain - Jesus was transfigured...
        - His clothes as white as snow (*whiter than anyone could ever make them by washing*)
        - For just a moment Jesus reveals Himself in all His glory... God almighty!
        - Like the sun and light – **Luke 9:29**
            - **John 8:12** – "Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."
            - Jesus is the light of the world that takes us out of darkness
            - He shows us the light of salvation – the hope of the Gospel – heaven!
    - Jesus was transfigured – *metamorphoo* – to change into something else...
        - We are also called to be a light to the world - **Matthew 5:14**
        - In of ourselves – we are not that light – we don't shine like the sun…
        - We become that light as we are transformed - changed... (*2 things*)
            - **Romans 12:2** – "...do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed [same word] by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."
            - It is really easy to get caught up in this world
            - We want to be accepted by those around us – be like them
            - We don't want to stand out – become a target - we want to blend into the world...
            - But if we conform to the world – we are not transformed for Jesus
        - Without Jesus – we are just a big dead rock…
            - The moon is a just a large dead rock – it gives off no light...
            - If the world comes between the sun and the moon – it stays dark...
            - But when the moon looks at the sun – it is transformed...
            - It reflects the light of the sun for the whole world to see!
            - **II Corinthians 3:18** – "...we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed [same word] into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."
            - When we look to Jesus – we are transformed - we reflect the Love & Light of Jesus...
            - We become that light that shows the world the hope of Jesus!

- **How to be transformed – be a light to the world… vs. 4-10 (*4 things*)**
    - 1st - Through the Word...
        - Moses & Elijah appeared with Jesus there on the mountain
        - **Luke 9:31** – "Speaking of how he was about to fulfill God's plan by dying in Jerusalem."
        - The testimony of the Law and the Prophets...
            - Moses wrote the 1st 5 books of the Bible – the Law of God
            - Elijah was the greatest Prophet – he never died – **II Kings 2:11**
        - They represented the Word of God – testifying Jesus was the Christ!
            - And they talked with Him about God's plan of salvation – the Gospel
            - **Luke 23:44** - "[The plan] that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning [Jesus]."
            - We will be transformed - changed – become a light to the World...

        - As we spend time in the Word – learning about Jesus!
        - We will be a light as we share the Word – Gospel – with others
    - 2nd - Through the good times and the bad...
        - During this whole encounter Peter and the boys were sleeping – **Luke 9:32**
        - Perhaps because it was a REALLY tall mountain – they were just tired
        - When they finally woke up and saw Jesus, Moses, and Elijah revealed in glory...
        - Peter answered – its good for us to be here – let us make 3 tents – Jesus / Moses / Elijah
        - The idea being Peter wanted to stay right there – in the presence of God's Glory
        - Life if full of mountains and valleys – ups and downs – good times and bad
            - When we get to the mountain top... we want to stay right there
            - Set up a couple of tents and just hang out in the good times!
        - But things don't grow very well on high mountains...
            - High mountains are barren on top – things grow best in the valleys
            - It seems every mountain is followed by a valley
            - In the hard times we have to depend on Jesus – it's where we grow more in Jesus...
        - We become a light to the world when we look to Jesus...
            - Not just when we are on the mountain top – good times
            - But when we are in the Valleys – tough times
    - 3rd - By listening to the Lord…
        - While Peter was still speaking – a voice from the cloud said... "This is My Beloved Son..."
        - Hear Him! (*Imperative*)
            - Peter was talking – not knowing what he was saying – rather than listening
            - So often we end up talking to God when we should be listening
            - There is nothing we know – God does not already know
            - There is a LOT God knows – that we have yet to learn...
            - Hear Him – we become a light to the world when we take the time to listen
    - 4th – By not looking to our fears – but looking to Jesus...
        - When they heard the voice – they fell on their faces terrified – **Matthew 17:6**
        - But Jesus touched them – and said arise (*Imperative*) do not fear (*Imperative*)
            - If we are overwhelmed by fear – or the circumstances of life
            - The best answer is to fall on our faces – and pray!
            - When we find ourselves on our knees – that is when Jesus touches us
            - Its on our knees we can hear the Lord - be encouraged we have no reason to fear
        - When the 3 looked up they saw only Jesus!
            - Then when we look up – we no longer see the things that scared us
            - We just see Jesus – when we see Jesus – we reflect the Light of the World
    - On their way down the mountain Jesus commanded them – tell no one…
        - Tell no one about what they had seen – until the Son of Man had risen from the dead…
        - Now Jesus is risen – so let's tell everyone!

- **Why must Elijah come first... vs. 11-13**
    - The disciples question Jesus on the way down the mountain...
        - They had just seen absolute proof that Jesus was the Messiah – in His glory!
        - They had also just seen Elijah the Prophet...

- So they wanted to know why the Scribes (*religious leaders*) say Elijah came first...
  - The answer is in the last verses of the Old Testament - **Malachi 4:5**
  - Elijah did have to come before the Messiah – to prepare the hearts of men...
- Looking towards the cross…
  - Jesus answered Elijah needed to come first – but Elijah had already come...
  - John the Baptist was Elijah - but men missed him – they did not know who he was...
  - Instead they killed him to silence him & his message – they'd do the same with Jesus
  - Jesus knew His time was short – and the cross was near...

Pointing others to Jesus… vs. 14-21

- **The Epileptic son… vs. 14-18**
  - Returning from Mt. Hermon Jesus saw the Religious leaders arguing with the disciples…
    - Likely they were questioning – perhaps mocking them – for not being able to help…
    - The son with a 'mute spirit' – 'seized him, convulsed, foamed, cried out, then fainted...'
    - The Father had brought him to the disciples - but they were unable to help the boy...

- **Faithless generation… vs. 19-27**
  - Jesus answers – "O faithless generation, how longs shall I be with you…"
    - Not that they had no faith – they had misplaced faith…
    - Our problem is never a lack of faith – it was where our faith is placed
      - I have seen extraordinary faith in 'faith healers' – but they have not power to heal…
      - I have seen stubborn faith in money – but money disappears as quick as it comes…
      - We all have faith – lots of it – our problem is we don't always put our faith in Jesus
    - Far too often we put our faith in our own abilities – or the abilities of others
      - And when we or they fail – then we blame God for not taking care of us
      - Yet we were not looking to God – we were looking to ourselves or others
  - "Bring him here to Me!" (*Imperative*) – the simple answer to every problem…
    - The son was brought to Jesus – immediately he fell onto the ground rolling around
    - The father explained this had been happening since his childhood…
    - Jesus answered - If you can believe – all things are possible…
      - The father had faith in himself to be able to help his son – and failed
      - The Father had faith in the disciples to be able to help his son – they failed
      - The only answer left was for the Father to believe that Jesus could help his son
    - The father answered with tears - Lord I believe – help my unbelief…
      - An honest and transparent answer – he believed – and he doubted…
      - If I asked – is anything to hard for God – we would all answer no
      - Yet when we are faced with trials – hardships in life – God is the last place we go…
      - We believe – but somehow we also doubt – how do we overcome our doubt…
      - It is not how - but who we spend time with - **Romans 10:17**
      - Our confidence in Jesus grows as we spend time in His Word – time with Jesus!
    - Jesus rebuked the 'deaf and dumb spirit' – and it came out of the boy…
      - The moment we have faith in the right answer – Jesus – there is hope

        - Only when we take our problem to the ONLY answer do we find the cure!

- **Why could we not… vs. 28-29**
    - When the disciples came into the house they asked Jesus privately…
        - They had their pride a wounded – and they did not want to make it public
        - They asked, "Why could (*dunamis - to have power*) we not..."
        - The answer was in their question – why could 'We'…
        - They were not trusting in Jesus – they were trusting in themselves
        - Worse than that – they were teaching others to look to the wrong answer...
        - If people come to us looking for answers and help – it's easy to be the answer...
            - If someone needs food, money, or wise counsel... we try to be Jesus
            - And men would much rather look to someone they can touch and see...
            - Therefore they are much more inclined to trust in a man than God
            - The problem is we are limited – and can't always help those who look to us
            - Maybe we can help them once – but when they come back... again and again...
            - We have limited abilities and resources – only God has limitless!
        - It is only when we point others to Jesus we really give them the answer
            - He has no limitations – all the abilities – all the resources – all the power!
            - He is the only answer that we need to give to those who are in need!
            - Our opportunity – responsibility – it to be a billboard that says, 'this way to Jesus'!
    - Prayer and fasting...
        - However this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting...
        - Jesus point is that some problems are tougher than others...
        - The toughest of them take prayer and fasting...
        - Prayer – taking time to talk to Jesus / Fasting – focus on Jesus
        - When we are faced with the toughest problems – the answer is the same
        - The point being really tough problems take LOTS of Jesus to cure it!
        - Our problems may change – the answer never does!