

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

- o 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!
- o 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*)

- o 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
- o 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
- o 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
- o 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
- o 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**
 - o 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...

- o 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...
- o 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

- o 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

- o Jesus answers – “O faithless generation, how long 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
- o “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 too 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**

- o 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’!
- o 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!