



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE
MARK 9:14-29
LESSON: POWERFUL FAITH — March 6, 2016

INTRODUCTION:

9:11 And they asked him, saying, Why say the scribes that Elias must first come?— After seeing all this, there's something the disciples can't figure out. Elijah was supposed to come before the Messiah. They were referring to OT scripture: Mal.4:5—"*Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. 6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.*" They saw Elijah for the first time after the Messiah had arrived. So, therefore, they asked Jesus, for they needed to know what's going on.

9:12 And he answered and told them, Elias verily cometh first, and restoreth all things; and how it is written of the Son of man, that he must suffer many things, and be set at nought.

1. **First**, Jesus responds by agreeing that the scripture does teach that Elijah must come first and prepare the way. In Malachi, the mention of Elijah was to announce the Messiah's arrival. John the Baptist was a type of Elijah at Christ's first Advent in the New Testament. John the Baptist came not in the body of Elijah, but in the spirit and power of Elijah, doing the work of Elijah (Jh.1:21)! In Revelation it says two witnesses and most commentators speculate that it will be Moses and Elijah. However, it does not predict the resurrection of Elijah, but rather God raising up one who will do the same kind of work that Elijah had done. So, to read this in a spiritual manner, the spirit and power of Elijah has indeed come through the person of John the Baptist preparing the way of the Lord.
2. **Secondly**, Jesus also makes them take notice of the scripture which teaches that the Messiah must suffer many things, and be set at nought (*to slight, disregard, disdain, utterly despised, and be treated with contempt and rejected*) [Ps.22; Is.53:3]. This also was written, as well as the mission of Elias. Elijah did what he was supposed to do and Jesus came to do the ultimate. And this was a fact that they were overlooking. He is trying to bring them back to the real point. He will be killed and then be resurrected the third day. So if Elijah was supposed to restore all things, why must the Son of man still have to suffer many things and be treated with contempt? The Son of man must suffer to remove the curse from God's disobedient, hard-hearted people.

9:13 But I say unto you, That Elias is indeed come, and they have done unto him whatsoever they listed, as it is written of him. The answer is that Elijah came, but the people did whatsoever they listed (desired). The word, "*list*", is related to the word "*lust*". It means that they simply followed their base inclinations; their desires. ...**as it is written of him**, means, they have done whatever they listed to do to John. Too many people ignored him and John the Baptist was executed by King Herod. And **as it is written**, they will do to the Son of man, and the fate for Jesus is crucifixion. Therefore, if the forerunner was treated in such a way, then the Christ, the One who came after him, will expect a similar fate.

In finishing the Transfiguration story, the Book of Mark, again brings back the theme of the cross. This is the paradox and the anxiety of following Jesus: self-sacrifice and persecution, mingled with glorious divine revelation. The sacrifices are temporal. The glory will be eternal.

LESSON

I. A NEEDY SON MARK 9:14-20

9:14 And when he came to his disciples, he saw a great multitude about them, and the scribes questioning

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with them. As Jesus descended from the mountain, He saw that a great crowd had gathered at the foot of the mountain awaiting His return. As He drew closer He noticed that the Scribes were ridiculing and shaming the disciples. The Scribes were of course questioning and belittling their credentials to minister. By discrediting the disciples, they hoped to discredit Jesus in the eyes of the people.

9:15 And straightway all the people, when they beheld him, were greatly amazed, and running to him saluted him. The crowds were amazed; filled with wonder as they see Jesus approaching. What made it such a wonder when they saw Jesus?

- Perhaps Jesus retained some of the glory of the Transfiguration as when Moses came down from the mountain after having been with God. The people might have seen a glow on Jesus.
- Perhaps Jesus came at such an opportune time that the people were amazed to see Him, as though His timing was destined. He arrived just when His disciples needed help.
- Perhaps Jesus walked with a renewed air, a more authoritative and decisive countenance than before. Just coming from the Transfiguration was bound to instill a renewed confidence and authority within Him.

The people ran to Jesus and **saluted Him** which means, they greeted Him.

9:16 And he asked the scribes, What question ye with them?—When Jesus reached the Scribes and the disciples, He asked the Scribes what it was they were questioning about?.

9:17 And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit;—Note, it was not one of the Scribes who answered Jesus, but one of the multitude. He was a desperate father speaking on behalf of his son, who had a dumb spirit. Demon possession and epilepsy, and leprosy were cursed diseases; diseases that caused isolation and rejection by society. A dumb spirit may be rendered a "*spirit of silence*" or a "*mute spirit*."

9:18 And whosoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not. The son's illness seems to have been both physical and spiritual. The father gives Jesus a description of what occurs with his son—"*...whenever the demon is in control of him it dashes him to the ground and makes him foam at the mouth and grind his teeth and become rigid.*" So, when the father had spoken to the disciples to cast out this dumb spirit, he found out that the disciples couldn't cast out the demon. They did not have the power.

9:19 He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me. The very persons who should have been able to help were the disciples. Evidently, the Scribes' unbelief and questioning didn't add to the matter. The father's faith was weak. The disciples faith was weak, and the religionist's faith was not even a possibility, and the crowd was unspiritual and worldly, and Jesus labeled them **O faithless generation**. The word "*generation*" refers to a whole race. The child had not been healed because of weak faith. It was not just the weak faith of the disciples; no one had faith enough to heal the child. Jesus asks two pertinent questions: **how long shall I be with you?** and **how long shall I suffer you?** Having no faith saddened and brought sorrow to the Lord's heart as He expressed these questions. Therefore, His love for the desperation of the hurting heart of the father and seeing the son's demonic state, He said **bring him unto me**, for He saw their plight.

9:20 And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming. When they brought the boy to Jesus, the evil spirit within the boy began to tare

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him, which means causing him to have convulsions. The boy would fall and wallow on the ground, foaming at the mouth. This description was horrific for a child in that condition.

II. A BELIEVING FATHER MARK 9:21-24

9:21 And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child. Jesus began to inquire of the father about the history of the boy's illness. Jesus was not interested so much in the boy's case history but to get the father's attention, to focus upon Jesus Himself. The length and severity are clearly expressed to dismiss any conclusions that the ailment may have been temporary. The father reveals that this illness came upon him since he was a child.

9:22 And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us. The father continued to give the history of his son's illness—makes him fall into the fire, and into the waters. Jesus' purpose worked—to get the father's attention unto Jesus Himself. The father said "but"; for the father's attention was now resting on Jesus, and he asked two significant things:

1. if thou canst do any thing... help us.
2. have compassion on us, and help us.

Our faith is important, as it is our cry for mercy and compassion that arouses God to help us. Our faith is important to allow God to be the object of our faith that saves us.

9:23 Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. The question to the father was not If I (Jesus) can; but, if thou (you) can (believe). Believe is trust. T.R.U.S.T. — The Real Underlying Stable Truth. If Jesus is on the scene He's going to do something about the situation. If we can praise God, whom we don't see, then we can believe. If we can call on the Name of Jesus when we don't see Him, then we can believe. If we can trust Jesus for some things, then we can trust Him for all things; just for His Word sake: all things are possible. There's a stipulation in that promise He gives—It is to him that believe. You might say all people don't get healed when we ask for it, and they die. Well, if you look at it this way: Yes God does what He promises as far as healing. Maybe not on this side of heaven, but on the other side of heaven, they are healed. The Word says all things are possible. God holds all things in His hands and He knows where to best allow His promises to be revealed that gives us peace and still mature us. But when God wants to prove a point and reveal something to mature us, He knows best how to do it. All He asks us to do is believe— If thou canst believe. And believing is having peace. The boy's father had to get to a peaceful state in his mind and heart to believe. That's where our heart and mind has to get to.

9:24 And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief. The father's attention has matured enough to cry out Lord, with tears of repentance to admit prayerfully, I believe, but help my unbelief. That's that part that might have some doubt; some struggles. Help me where faith falls short. He confessed his faith and he confessed his weakness. We all have faith to believe in some things, and in some things we are weak in our belief. I admonish you to arrest those things that weaken your belief; your doubts, by going back to His Word; His Promises, and speak them out loud to mature your faith continuously. Remember, we live in a fallen world, and when you look at this world as being perfect, it is not! God wants us to mature daily in our faith as we live in Him in this world. That's why He lets us know in verse 23 that all things are possible to him that believe. One commentator says, the father longed for stronger faith, and God granted his request, not because God saw mature faith, but because God honored his desire for growth. The power of God is available, but a person must trust that God's power is available to them. Why would we cry out to someone else, when God is the only One who holds all things in His hand?

III. A POWERFUL SAVIOUR MARK 9:25-29

9:25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou <http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>

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dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him. The crowd came running to where Jesus, the father, and the boy were, and Jesus wasted no time. The reason?-Don't know. The power of His Word came with a rebuke at the **foul spirit**. He called it by name: **Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him.** It wasn't enough to call it to come out of the boy, but it was not to enter into him anymore. The power of God's Word broke the devil's power. The power of God's Word spoiled principalities and powers of evil. The devil can't stand against the Word of God when it's spoken with belief and rebuked in the authority of Jesus' Name!

9:26 And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead. The spirit made one last effort to disrupt and discredit the power of Christ; trying to destroy the boy. It "**rent him sore**", meaning it threw him into terrible convulsions; fit after fit, coming out and leaving him as one that looked dead as a corpse.

9:27 But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose. Jesus grasped the boy by the hand causing him to rise up. He stood up on his own feet healed and whole.

9:28 And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out? The disciples had a question that only the Lord could answer. **Why could not we cast him out?** Yes, even in our faith that seems to be mature, there are things that God has the answers when we hit a bump. Yes, we have faith and pray, but God has to reveal the strategy; the approach. We know not everything, but we know who holds everything, and it's alright to ask Him questions. The disciples may have cast out devils before, healed the sick before, but everything Jesus does is not done in the same manner. He has a glimpse into the Spirit realm that reveals what approach to take. And we can too. God has no respecter of persons. He can show us what we're dealing with and what approach to take in those circumstances. Anything that God is ready to reveal to us means that He knows that we're ready to deal with it and handle it.

9:29 And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting. Jesus lets them know prayer is not the only way to position ourselves. Some evils have to come out by **prayer and fasting** (not eating). Evidently, the disciples weren't paying close attention to Jesus' pattern of when He ate or prayed or not ate. God can even show us when it's time to set aside food and crave God more; a time to discipline our bodies for the tough times; a time that He warns us—it's that time!

SUMMARY:

The disciples can't figure out something so they ask Jesus. The Scribes thought Elijah was to come first. Jesus answered their questions; however, their response still showed that they didn't quite understand. It was also difficult to understand that their Messiah would have to suffer. The Jews who studied the Old Testament prophecies expected the Messiah to be a great king like David. Well, all of this leads me back to what they heard the voice say in the cloud, "*This is My beloved Son: hear Him.*" Hear Him in the Spirit; Hear Him with a walk of faith; Hear Him and follow Him as your Messiah. He was on His way to the cross, and therefore, we can't help but follow the true Messiah, who is the Beloved Son of the Father (9:11-13).

Coming down from the Mount of Transfiguration with His three disciples, Jesus finds His other disciples embroiled in controversy, surrounded by a multitude, disputing with Scribes. The multitude ran to meet Jesus. Jesus asks the Scribes, why all the questions? One of the multitudes who is a father, answers Jesus, and gives the history of his son's illness. The controversy apparently involved a failed attempt to heal a deaf-mute boy,

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who from childhood had been prone to seizures; whose father desperately wanted him healed, and whom the disciples of Jesus was not able to heal. Jesus called them *"O faithless generation", "how much longer must I be with you until you believe; how much longer must I be patient with you?"* They brought the boy to Jesus and the spirit began to tare him causing him to fall on the ground and have convulsions; wallowing and foaming at the mouth (9:14-20).

Jesus finds out that this illness has been with the boy since he was a child. The father says if Jesus can do anything, have compassion and help them. Jesus replies unto the father to believe for all things are possible to those who believe. The father then breaks into tears crying I believe; help my unbelief (9:21-24).

Jesus began to rebuke the foul spirit from the boy commanding the dumb and deaf spirit to come out and never to return anymore. And the spirit began to give a cry trying to destroy the boy's body leaving his body looking like a corpse. Jesus took the boy's hand and lifted him up and he rises to his feet. As Jesus talked with His disciples privately, He let them know the reason they were unable to cast out the evil spirit was that some evils have to come out by prayer and fasting (9:25-29).

APPLICATION:

Through our valleys and mountaintop experiences with God, it is always a step of faith in the Son of the Living God. The key Word today is, believe for all things are possible to them that believe in the only One who holds all things.