

Mark Part 18 - "Prayer of Faith" (8-24-25)

Main Text: Mark 9:14-29 (parallels: Matthew 17:14-20, Luke 9:37-42)

Mark 9:14-29 (ESV)

[14] And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. [15] And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. [16] And he asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?" [17] And someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. [18] And 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 they were not able." [19] And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." [20] And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. [21] And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. [22] And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." [23] And Jesus said to him, "'If you can!' All things are possible for one who believes." [24] Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" [25] And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." [26] And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, "He is dead." [27] But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. [28] And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" [29] And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer."

Let's explore today's Passage . . .

1) From the Mountain to the Valley

Mark 9:14-19 (ESV)

[14] And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. [15] And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. [16] And he asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?" [17] And someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. [18] And 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 they were not able." [19] And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me."

Note: Terrible condition of the son, tormented by the deaf & mute spirit - It seizes him, throws him down, foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, goes rigid. It tries to destroy him (Mark 9:22), shatters him and will hardly leave him (Luke 9:39), the son suffers terribly (Matt 17:15)

- **Rigid** (Mark) - **Translated:** "Pineth Away" (KJV). **Meaning:** dry up, parched, wither away, waste away
- **Shatters** (Luke) - also **Translated:** broken, broken-hearted, bruised. **Meaning:** to break down, break into pieces (shatter), break the power of any one, deprive of strength, debilitate

Luke uses twice - here and also Luke 4:18 (Jesus quoting Isa 61:1-2) **"Heal the broken-hearted"**

Matt. 12:20 - bruised reed he will not break (quoting Isa 42:3 - Jesus fulfills this prophecy)

When shattered people come to us looking for Jesus, what do they find?

Are we a faithless generation? (How long will I be with you? How long will I bear with you?) Good question.

The obstacles in this passage:

- The sons terrible condition
- The lack of faith all around (including the disciples' inability to help heal and set-free)

Vs. 19 - Jesus then says, "Bring him to me." (this is always the answer)

2) “Bring him to me” - Jesus

Mark 9:20-24 (ESV)

[20] And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. [21] And Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. [22] And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” [23] And Jesus said to him, “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.” [24] Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!”

Note: Jesus is unafraid to take in the whole situation and its challenges. He sees the son’s terrible condition, and he even learns more about it. He sees the unbelief all around him, and addresses it.

- “If you can do anything, have compassion on us” - The father
- “All things are possible, if you believe” - Jesus
- “I believe, help my unbelief” - The father

That’s an honest prayer of faith, that Jesus can answer . . .

Mark 9:25-27 (ESV)

[25] And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” [26] And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” [27] But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.

Note: Notice the extent of the healing and freedom - come out and never return!

Notice the touch of compassion and grace - takes him by the hand and lifts him up!

Luke adds a nice touch between Jesus and the father . . .

Luke 9:42b (ESV)

. . . Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and healed the boy, and gave him back to his father.

Note: Jesus is able to heal both father and son. A shattered son and a shattered faith.

3) A Lesson Learned?

Mark 9:28-29 (ESV)

[28] And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” [29] And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.”

Note: Some manuscripts also include “fasting” (see KJV as an example).

Matthew’s gospel includes an additional comment from Jesus on their lack of faith . . .

Matthew 17:19-20 (ESV)

[19] Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” [20] He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”

Note: So, what’s the lesson? How do we see healing come to people who are **Shattered** and **Bound**?

Faith, Prayer, Fasting - Tend whatever small faith we have by bringing it to Jesus (prayer) that it may grow, and take faith-filled steps of reliance and trust (fasting) to help it to grow. As our own faith is expanded, we can also walk with others in faith by bringing them to Jesus too!

Conclusion: We need Faith to See Jesus present to Heal and Set-Free . . .

- **Presence of Jesus** - He is with us always, and present in this particular situation
- **Compassion of Jesus** - he sees our shattered pieces, he is near to the brokenhearted
- **Power of Jesus** - he heals the brokenhearted, set the captives free

Faith that grows in Prayer, leads to the Prayer of Faith!