

# Faith

Jeff Rogers / Empty Nesters Bible Study

Mark 9:14-29

The story goes that a tight-rope walker would push a wheelbarrow across the tightrope far above ground level; some would describe it as dizzying heights. He could do this routinely and rather effortlessly as the bystanders watched. One day, the daring tight-rope walker spoke boldly to a crowd, asking, "Who believes I can push this wheelbarrow across the rope and do so without falling or losing the wheelbarrow along the way?" After a moment, a man raised his hand and said, "I do!" Upon hearing this man, the tightrope walker replied solemnly, "Get in."

**2 Corinthians 5:6-7**, "... *We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight.*" **Galatians 2:20**, *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.* **Hebrews 11:1, 6**, *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 6 And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.* **John 20:29**, Jesus said to him, "*Have you believed because you have seen me?*" *Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.*" **1 Peter 1:8**, *Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,*

## I. Peter, James, John (returning from Mt. Transfiguration) (Mark 9:14)

- A. Offered the suggestion to build three Temples (Jesus, Moses, and Elijah) (Mark 9:5)
- B. Struck by terror at the sight of Jesus (Mark 9:6)
- C. Heard the audible voice of God (Mark 9:7)

## II. Jesus

- A. Moses from Mt Sinai (**Exodus 32:1**, "... *As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.*")
- B. Found the camp in spiritual disorder, if not chaos.
- C. Jesus asked "*What are you arguing about with them?*" (Mark 9:16)

## III. Nine disciples.

- A. Their delegated authority (**Mark 6:7**, *And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority [power; dominion; military strength; ruling authority] over the unclean spirits.*)
- B. Their declarative message (**Mark 6:12**, *So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent.*)
- C. Their previous success (**Mark 6:13**, *And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.*)
- D. Their mocked failure. (This argument (Mark 9:16) was not a casual conversation; it was a dispute with potential for violence.)
- E. Their emotional rebuke ("*O, faithless generation*") (Mark 9:19) (failure, tomorrow, storms, fear, resources)
  - 1. **Matt 6:30**, "*O, you of little faith...*" **Matt 14:31**, "*O you of little faith, why did you doubt?*" **Matt 8:26**, "*Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?*" **Matt 16:8**, "*O you of little faith, why are you discussing among yourselves the fact that you have no bread?*"
  - 2. The challenge to trust (Philip, John 14:8-9), Thomas (John 20:25-29)

## IV. The general crowd (Mark 9:15)

- A. The crowd gathered to see Jesus. In His absence, they surrounded the 9 disciples for answers.
- B. When Jesus arrived, the crowd responded (amazed, welcome, congratulatory)

## V. The Scribes (Mark 9:14,16)

- A. Represented a false religion (Luke 20:45-47) (deception, theft in the name of religion)
- B. Argued with the 9 disciples.
  - 1. The disciples could not dispense with the evil spirit.
  - 2. The disciples could not answer where is this "Jesus."

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- 3. The disciples represented an apparent fractured group at this point.
  - C. When asked a question by Jesus, they offered no answer.

**VI. The father (Mark 9:17-18).**

- A. His answer (Mark 9:17b-18)
- B. His surrender – (kneeling, Matt 17:14)
- C. His petition (Mark 9:21b-22) [For his only child (Luke 9:38)]
- D. His son
  - 1. The boy's pitiful condition (Mark 9:20)
  - 2. The boy's lengthy affliction (Mark 9:21)
  - 3. The boy's harmful behavior (Mark 9:22)
  - 4. The boy's last hope (Mark 9:23-24)
- E. His faith (22) (IF you can do anything)
  - 1. The Lord's strong answer (9:23)
    - a) **Mark 6:5–6**, *And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. 6 And he marveled because of their unbelief. And he went about among the villages teaching.*
    - b) **Matthew 17:20**, *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."*
- F. His plea (Mark 9:24)
  - 1. I believe
  - 2. Help my unbelief. (It appears from Scripture that we may simultaneously have belief on things and unbelief on others. This father cries out to the Lord for help with unbelief.

**VII. The Unclean Spirit (Mark 9:25-27)**

- A. The Instruction and Prohibition (25)
- B. The Deliverance (26)
- C. The Presentation (27)

**VIII. The Twelve Convened (Mark 9:28-29)**

- A. The Pondering Disciples (Why?)
- B. Note on Demons
  - 1. Usually covert in operation (**2 Corinthians 11:14**, *And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.*)
  - 2. Their presence can be mistaken for a mental disorder (**Matthew 17:15**, *"Lord, have mercy on my son, for he has seizures and he suffers terribly. For often he falls into the fire, and often into the water.*
  - 3. Cause great harm and physical violence (**Luke 9:39**, *And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out. It convulses him so that he foams at the mouth, and shatters him, and will hardly leave him.*) (steal, kill, destroy)
- C. The Necessity of Prayer (Mark 9:29)
  - 1. Prayer is not for public exhibition (Matt 6:5)
  - 2. Prayer is largely a private affair (Matt 6:6)
  - 3. Prayer is a matter of the heart (Matt 6:7-8)
  - 4. Prayer is a learned discipline (Matt 6:9-15)