



Part 1: Disappointment

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Mark 9:14-29

¹⁴ When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. ¹⁵ As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him.

¹⁶ "What are you arguing with them about?" he asked.

¹⁷ A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. ¹⁸ Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not."

¹⁹ "You unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me."

²⁰ So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

²¹ Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?"

From childhood," he answered.

²² "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us."

²³ "If you can't?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes."

²⁴ Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

²⁵ When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again."

²⁶ The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead." ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

²⁸ After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"

²⁹ He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer."

A Story of Disappointment

The father is disappointed in Jesus: "Teacher, I brought you my son..."

The father is disappointed in the disciples: "I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not."

Jesus is disappointed in the lack of faith: “O unbelieving generation...”

The demon is disappointed in Jesus: “When the spirit saw Jesus...”

The father is disappointed in his answer: “From childhood...”

The father is disappointed in his own lack of faith: “But if you can do anything to help us...I believe, help me overcome my unbelief.”

The disciples are disappointed in themselves: “Why couldn’t we drive it out?”

The Request: Bring the boy to me.

The Truth: Everything is possible for him who believes.

The Problem: I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief.

The Declaration: This kind can only come out by prayer.

The Application: What do you need to bring to Jesus?

Small Group Questions

- 1) What’s the largest crowd you have ever been a part of? How did you feel in the middle of that many people?
- 2) Have you ever felt helpless? What drove you to the point of despair? How did you feel toward God in that moment?
- 3) What do you think Jesus mean when he said, “Everything is possible to him who believes”? How does that work when we believe but nothing seems to change?
- 4) In what areas of your life could you say, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief?”
- 5) There is power in agreement. Share your unbelieving areas and pray together with at least one other person.
- 6) How else can we pray for you right now and this week?

OUR MISSION | To create an authentic Christian community that effectively reaches out to unchurched people in love, acceptance and forgiveness so that they may experience the joy of salvation and a purposeful life of discipleship.