

PART ONE: It's All About Jesus

Mark 9:2-37

Jesus had just laid out the details of His impending suffering and death to His disciples, and then He invited them to follow Him into the same. He left the disciples hanging with the promise that some would not see death until they had seen a glimpse of the Kingdom of God to come. Peter, James, and John were about to discover that while a life of dedicated discipleship would certainly face difficulties and suffering, it would not be without incredible reward.

Read Mark 9:2-8.

1. Compare and contrast the two pictures of Christ in Isaiah 53 at His first coming and in Revelation 1:12-18 and 19:11-16 at His second coming.

Isaiah 53	Revelation 1:12-18 and Revelation 19:11-16

2. Of the two descriptions given, which one best fits the Jesus that Peter, James, and John saw high on the mountain? (v. 3)

3. **THINK:** How do you think being given a glimpse of Jesus as He will be when He reigns as King of kings and Lord of lords would help the disciples in the days, weeks, and years to come?

4. **THINK:** There are multiple theories about who Moses and Elijah may represent. If Moses represents the Law and Elijah represents the Old Testament prophets, what point do you think God was making when He referenced Jesus and said, “This is my beloved Son. Hear Him!”?
-
-

5. Read Deuteronomy 34:5 and 2 Kings 2:11. When considering the manner in which these two believers left their lives on earth, another theory regarding who Moses and Elijah represent emerges. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 and consider who they might represent in the Rapture.
-

6. Taking this line of thinking one step further, who do you think Peter, James, and John might represent in this glimpse of the coming Millennial reign of Christ? Consider Matthew 24:21-22 when answering.
-

Elect – those who have obtained salvation through Christ

It makes sense that Peter would look at this amazing picture of all the saints (those who have died, those who were raptured, and those who were saved during the Tribulation) worshipping Jesus as Savior and King and want to stay in that moment forever. But what he didn't know was that this tiny glimpse was just a fraction of the hope to come when Jesus sets up His Kingdom in Jerusalem following the Great Tribulation. (If you need help understanding the timeline of end-time events, please contact your small group leader for more information. This is the same hope that Jesus sought to give His disciples that day.)

Read Mark 9:9-13.

In this passage, the disciples continue to struggle with the concept of Jesus facing a literal death and resurrection, but they seem to push that thought aside. Having seen what they just saw on that mountaintop, their minds instead go to the prophecy of Malachi 4.

7. Read Malachi 4:1-6. Malachi 4:1-3 speaks of Jesus' 1,000-year reign in Jerusalem. What were they to do while they waited for this to happen? (Malachi 4:4)
-

8. What does Malachi say will happen before the great and dreadful Day of the Lord (end-time events)? (Malachi 4:5)

9. They wanted to know where Elijah was. Didn't he have to come first? What more important prophecy does Jesus redirect their minds to? (Mark 9:12cd)

Yes, the prophecy of Elijah would be fulfilled in the form of John the Baptist, and the world would do as they pleased with him. (Mark 6:14-29) BUT! The more important prophecy was that a Messiah would come and suffer many things at the hands of men doing as He pleased before this great and amazing Day of the Lord!

“...looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

- Hebrews 12:2

Read Mark 9:14-29.

10. What was at the center of the dispute going on between the disciples and the Scribes? (v.17-18)

11. Note the four questions Jesus asks in this section of Scripture.

Verse	The Question
16	
19	
21	

Scribe (-s) - a man learned in the Mosaic law and in the sacred writings, an interpreter, teacher. Scribes examined the more difficult and subtle questions of the law. Since the advice of men skilled in the law was needed in the examination in the causes and the solution of difficult questions, they were enrolled in the Sanhedrin; and accordingly, in the New Testament, they are often mentioned in connection with the priests and elders of the people.

Sometimes questions can be used to prompt a person to stop what they are doing and take a moment to remember what they should be doing. Other times, questions can be used to make a person stop and think about why things are not going the way they should, and still others can be used to make one stop and take inventory of a situation. Jesus uses all three of these tactics in His line of questioning.

12. **THINK:** What do you think Jesus was trying to point out to the Scribes, those learned men who were to help in “the examination in the causes and the solution of difficult questions,” with His question to them in verse 16?

13. Read Mark 6:7. What power had been given to the disciples by Jesus?

14. What reason did Jesus give the disciples when they asked Him why they were unable to cast out the unclean spirit? (v. 29)

Jesus had given His disciples power over unclean spirits, but in this circumstance, they had failed to look to the real source of that power. They tried to command the spirit in their own strength and, in their eagerness, neglected prayer and fasting.

15. What was the status of the father’s faith when he came to the disciples? (v. 18f)

16. What was the status of the father’s faith after the disciples failed and were now disputing with the Scribes? (v. 22)

17. What three things were required to cast out this unclean spirit? (v. 23, 29)

18. Thinking about each of their decisions, actions, or lack of actions and the effects these had on the situation and the people around them. Describe what you can learn from the Scribes, the disciples, and the father in this passage.

The Scribes: _____

The disciples: _____

The father: _____

19. What can be learned about Jesus in this passage?

The Scribes failed to recognize Jesus and the truth of what they studied, and as a result, they argued against the power and will of God. The disciples, having the right intentions, failed to go to the source of their power, which caused someone's weaker faith to falter, and, the father failed to recognize Jesus as the only true source with whom all things are possible.

Read Mark 9:30-37.

This point marks the end of Jesus' public ministry. As He makes His way to Jerusalem and the cross, He looks to spend time with His disciples, preparing them for what is to come. He is direct in letting them know He will be betrayed and killed and that He will rise again on the third day.

20. What kept the disciples from asking Jesus to explain what they didn't understand about His statements? (v. 32)

21. What is the heart of God towards His children? (Jeremiah 33:3)

22. Fear and pride can oftentimes get in our way and keep us from going to God. What is the tragedy of this reality, both for the believer and the unbeliever?

In true human fashion, the disciples let their fear and their flesh's obsession with "self" turn their attention away from the discussion and truth of what would happen to Jesus and onto themselves. Instead of calling out to their Savior for understanding, they argued about which of them would be the greatest among them in His kingdom.

23. What statement of truth did Jesus share in verse 35?

24. **THINK:** Why do you think Jesus used a child to illustrate the concept of humility?

25. Why do you think we resist the idea of being humble and vulnerable?

26. Read the following verses and record what you learn about the importance of humility in the believer's life.

Micah 6:8

Proverbs 22:4

1 Peter 5:5

Philippians 2:3-4

Oh blessed Lord Jesus, Your teachings probe and expose this carnal heart of mine.
Break me of self and let Your life be lived through me.

- William MacDonald

PART TWO: With God All Things Are Possible

Mark 9:22-24

Read Mark 9:22-24.

The man says to Jesus, "... **if** you can do anything" He had a big **if**. He seemed unsure if Jesus could help him. However, his **if** had nothing to do with what Jesus could or could not do; it had everything to do with the man's faith.

27. Record what the man said in verse 24.

28. What did Jesus say in verse 23 that led to the man's request?

29. According to verse 23, to whom are all things possible?

Believe - to trust in Jesus or God as able to aid either in obtaining or doing something: saving faith

30. Have you ever felt like this man? "I believe, but I struggle with certain things. I want to fully believe, but I need help." Write about a time or times when you have struggled with unbelief.

The man in Mark 9 struggled with unbelief. The antidote to this is to believe that all things are possible with God. Jesus could heal the boy; this wasn't the question. The question was, did he have faith in Who Jesus is?

31. Read Mark 9:25-27. What did Jesus do?

“Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?’”

- John 11:40

What seemed impossible was possible through Jesus.

32. Read Exodus 15:26d. What does this verse teach us about God?

33. Read Luke 4:18-19. What did Jesus claim about Himself?

34. Read Matthew 4:23. What did Jesus do as a vital part of His ministry?

Scripture teaches that God is the God who heals, and Jesus came to heal. There are many accounts of Jesus healing the sick and blind during His time on earth. There was no question that He was able to heal the deaf and mute boy.

In times of our own unbelief, we need to be reminded of Who God is and what He can do. It is also important for us to understand that just because He can, that doesn't mean He will always do things the way we think they should be done.

35. Read Isaiah 55:8-9. What do these verses teach us about God?

36. Read Matthew 6:10b. How are we to pray? How does this resonate with the Isaiah verses you just read?

37. Look up 1 John 5:14. How are we to ask? _____

38. Next, look up John 15:16, how else should we ask? _____

Name – literally or figuratively, authority and character.

Asking in Jesus' name is to ask according to His authority and His character.

39. If God's ways are not our ways and are higher than ours, and if we are to surrender to His will when we pray, asking in the name of Jesus, what must we do to know how to ask?

We must know Him. We must seek His Word diligently to know His ways and understand His will. With God, all things **are** possible, but we must not simply *claim* this statement for whatever we wish.

“Jesus said to him, ‘If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes’”.
- Mark 9:23

Possible - able, powerful, mighty, strong

40. Considering the definition of **possible**, and the verses we have looked up about God's will, look up the following verses and write down what you learn.

Luke 1:37

Matthew 19:26

Philippians 4:13

41. List some ways Mark 9:23 can be taken out of context and used carelessly.

“When we trust God as true and all His promises are true, all things He promises are possible.”

– David Guzik

42. Look up the following verses and record what you learn about God’s promises.

Joshua 21:45

Romans 4:21

Hebrews 10:23

The more time you spend in God’s word, the more His promises will be revealed to you. However, it is also important not to claim each as your own.

*God’s promises are often conditional. Look for the word “if” in the context.

*God gives us promises to help us better submit to His will and trust Him. A promise does not make God bend to our will.

*We cannot presume to know precisely when, where, or how God’s promises will be fulfilled in our lives. - Gotquestions.org

The man with the deaf and mute son struggled with unbelief. He struggled with his faith. We must believe God’s promises are true, and with Him and according to His will, all things *are* possible. If you struggle with unbelief, increase your faith with time in God’s Word. As you do, write down His promises, His ways, and His will. When you do this, you will know how to ask and believe that with Him all things are possible.

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

- Romans 10:17