

Putting DOUBT In Its Place--August 25, 2024

Introduction:

Text: Mark 9:14-29, Matthew 17:14-18; Luke 9:37-42

Big Idea: Be _____ about the doubts you experience and see a Savior who _____ us in the midst of our doubts.

#1- We are continually faced with situations in life that are _____ than we can _____ (14-19)

- _____ means to keep us overwhelmed at the trouble and distracted from God who makes a way through the trouble.
- _____ aims for us to trust him who makes a way through the trouble.

#2- Both belief and unbelief can be present in our lives _____ (20-27)

- The words of Jesus "All things are possible for one who believes" have created much confusion and false teaching.
- **"word of faith" theology** calls us to put our faith in our faith; Jesus calls us to put our faith in Him!
- Three horrible words that you should never say to Jesus: " _____ "
- Even when your faith is underdeveloped, don't allow it to be _____.

#3- God is determined that certain expressions of his power will only be exercised in response to _____ (28-29)

- See the priority of prayer.
- Jesus had no trouble casting this demon out.
- What did the disciples do wrong? **They hadn't prayed.**
- **The purpose of prayer:** It is not to tell God "what we want". It's to align our spirits with the Holy Spirit.
- An Overview of Prayer
 - In the simplest of terms, prayer is staying in _____ with God—talking to Him, spending time in His presence, and drawing near to Him.
 - Prayer is a uniquely _____ activity; no other beings have the privilege of communicating in such a way with their Maker and Redeemer.
 - Learning how prayer works is part of the natural process of growing in our relationship with the Lord.
- A FEW FACTS:
 - The answer to every need starts with prayer (James 5:7-20)
 - Prayer leads to hope (2 Thessalonians 2:23-3:5)

Truth in Action:

1. **Remember** the hardships of life can either grow my faith in God or be used of Satan to crush and discourage me.
2. Belief and unbelief OFTEN show up together. **Praying "help my unbelief" is a proven pattern of a growing faith.**

CONNECT CARD NEXT STEP:

#1- If you are struggling with any doubts, call out to God to help your unbelief. He will answer you.

Though maybe not in the way you expect :)

#2-How can we help you and pray for you?

Pray first



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

Table Talk

Warm Up: What has been your most profitable mistake—the one from which you learned the most valuable lessons?

1) All of us go through stages in our relationship with God. Typically it goes something like committing ourselves to Christ, a time of exciting growth with Jesus, serving Jesus, etc... For many of us though there are ruts we fall into at some point in our journey. Periods where things maybe seem stagnant, or where we just start going through the motions. Have you ever had an experience like that? Share a little bit of the challenges you have experienced.

2) Read Mark 9:14-29. What stands out to you in this passage as you read it together. Maybe there is a character you can relate to, phrase that stands out to you, or something that seems confusing. If you want maybe, even share what stood out to you in the sermon this week that impacted your understanding of the passage.

3) Jesus is constantly surrounded by injustice, often times taking on the form of sick and demonically oppressed children (Mark 5:23; 6:56; 7:26 to name just a few). In our culture, we hear about injustices all the time and as a result it is so easy to start to experience “empathy fatigue,” but that’s not the case with Jesus. How does Jesus show empathy in this passage? What things does he not only do but say? (Hint read Mark 1:41; 6:34; 8:2)

4) Jesus tells his disciples about his coming death and resurrection in 8:31-33 and again in 9:30-32. Sandwiched between these passages is the Mount of Transfiguration as well as the healing of a boy in which he eventually gets worse (appears dead) before he gets better and is lifted by Jesus to new life (resurrected). Why do you think Mark places these stories between Jesus’ prediction? What is Mark trying to tell us.

5) Reread Mark 9:28-29. Jesus says the disciples were unsuccessful because they didn’t pray, but ironically this passage doesn’t record any prayer by Jesus either. It seems that Jesus is not pointing to a ritualistic, eyes closed, hands together prayer, but a lifestyle of prayer. Think of it like a lifestyle of prayer. Where in your life do you find yourself becoming self-reliant instead of relying on God? What are some ways/practices you can put into your life in order to become more aware of Jesus in your everyday life and remain in contact with him?

Closing Prayer: Jesus, life can be so overwhelming. Satan means to keep me focused on the trouble but you pursue me to place my hope-trust-belief in YOU. I struggle with doubt as to whether or not you really care about me in my circumstances. HELP MY UNBELIEF. With all the authority connected to the name of Jesus I pray...AMEN!

Resources: Resources: G. Campbell Morgan, The Gospel of Mark; R. C. Sproul, The Gospel of Mark; Tim Keller, Christ the King; Life Application Bible Commentary, Mark; Jason Meyer, Mark for You; Gaebelain (Ed.), The Expositor’s Bible Commentary: Mark