

"I believe; help my unbelief!" Mark 9:1-29

Do we have BELIEF (faith, trust) in the . . .

(9:1-8) . . . person of _____?

- *Context of this passage = "comes in the glory of his Father" and "see the kingdom of God after it has come with power."*
- *"High mountain" may = Mt. Hermon*
- *Peter wants to build "booths" may = expression of expectation of imminent second exodus and final sabbath rest for God's people.*
- *Compare 2 Peter 1:16-18*

If we believe aright about Who Jesus is, then we get that we must obediently _____ to Him!

(9:9-13) . . . _____ of God?

- *Often in the Gospel, Jesus tells those who have witnessed miracles to be silent. In verse 9, we see a time limit on the silence.*
- *The three disciples were questioning what rising from the dead would mean in the context of the Son of Man. That is, how could suffering fit with God's plan for the Messiah (the Christ)?*
- *The prophecy of Elijah is found in Malachi 4:5-6.*
- *Jesus changes the question to the prophecies of the suffering of the Son of Man (for example, see Isaiah 53:3).*
- *Jesus then points to John the Baptist as the Elijah-figure. John's suffering fits with the emphasis here on whether the disciples believe that God's plan for Messiah, and for them, could include suffering.*

If we believe aright about the plan of God, then we get that "the _____ goes before the _____."

(9:14-29) . . . prayer of _____?

- *The crowd was amazed at Jesus' presence, not just a miracle He performed.*
- *The boy's issue is more than epilepsy, since the evil spirit tries to destroy him by throwing him into fire and water.*
- *Jesus' response is one of exasperation and deep emotion. The "faithless" or "unbelieving" generation includes the disciples and the crowd. It is wearying for Jesus to be with people who don't "get it."*
- *The father's request of Jesus shows that his faith is faltering.*
- *Jesus turns things around, focusing not on His ability but the father's belief. The father's prayer is powerfully honest.*
- *"All things are possible for one who believes" does NOT mean we can do anything if we believe "hard enough." Jesus only heals in the presence of some level of faith/belief in Him. Without belief, no one will receive anything from Jesus.*
- *The question of the disciples when alone with Jesus in verse 28 is at the heart of this section. The disciples had been commissioned to cast out demons and had previous success.*
- *"By anything but prayer" = dependence upon God rather than an independent use of a power entrusted to them.*

If we believe aright about the prayer of dependence, then we get it that _____ we can do _____."