

Bringing your brokenness to Jesus
Praying for a breakthrough
What to do when you feel like quitting

Mark 9

Have you ever reached a dead-end & needed a breakthrough?

- Sometimes we really need a breakthrough in life

A breakthrough according to the dictionary, is sudden, dramatic and important advance.

Now the opposite of a breakthrough is a setback,

- and if you're not moving forward then you are either stalled
 - or you're at a dead end,

Have you ever felt like quitting?

- So often we're ready to throw in the towel when difficulties come our way.
 - When something gets hard

I want to encourage you this morning to get your eyes on Jesus & not quit

- And let Jesus give you a break through

I believe that the disciples defeated in the last chapter & this chapter as

- Jesus just told them that he was going to be rejected by the religious leaders
 - and be killed.
- They were also trying to help a man whose son was demon possessed
 - but couldn't help him or deliver him
- the dad of the son had tried everything to fix his son
 - but it seemed like nothing was working

So what did Jesus do for his disciples to keep them from quitting?

- He gave them three things to do in this chapter.
 - Number one, spend time with him.
 - Number two, keep their eyes on him.
 - And number three, fast and pray and bring your problem to Him

in these verses, we saw Jesus once again takes Peter, James and John with him

- on top of a mountain to pray.

This is the first thing we need to do when we feel like quitting is get alone with Jesus

- and spend some time with Jesus in prayer and the word.
 - and when you do, he will begin to help you.

The second thing we need to do when we are going through the mud

- is keep our eyes on Jesus.

the disciples in verse eight looked around and they saw no one anymore, but only Jesus.

- When we see Jesus, he helps us to see things from his perspective.

and then there was the voice from Heaven God himself made that declaration

- Behold this is my beloved Son **hear him**
 - And what a great word of encouragement that is for each of us listen to Jesus pay attention to Jesus don't lose sight of Jesus

Hebrews 12:2 says, "Looking unto Jesus who is the author and the finisher of our faith."

- It reminds me of that time when Peter took his eyes off the Lord.
 - When we take our eyes off of Jesus, we start to sink in depression & despair.
- God often uses pain to get our attention.

C.S. Lewis said, "**God whispers to us in our pleasure "but he shouts to us in our pain"**."

- God often uses pain to get our attention & to get our eyes back on Him
 - So he can lead us out of our mess & give us victory & a breakthrough

what I've learned is that breakthroughs happen generally when you seek them.

- They don't just happen, spontaneously.

You get a breakthrough in your life when you seek GOD for a breakthrough.

True Story of Miner who gave up & someone bought his equipment and left off where he finished and dug 3 feet to hit the jackpot

in the Bible, any time, anybody, needed any kind of breakthrough,

- they always would seek God through prayer and fasting,

I'm gonna give you an example of two kings. The first one is David.

he had just united all of the 12 tribes together & had a great thing going

- and always after something good happens, there is always a downside to it.
 - With every mountaintop, there's a valley.
- David had just got elected chosen King of Israel, but

The moment he gets chosen as king, all hell breaks loose & that often happens in our lives

- When something really good happens,
 - right after the enemy tries to ruin it

1 Chronicles 14 says When the Philistines learned that David had been made King of Israel,

- they mobilized all of their forces against David, to attack and enslave him.

But David sought the Lord in prayer,

here's an important lesson to life. Never fight a battle without asking God first.

- If you don't ask God, you're on your own.

David asked God if he should go to battle against them? God replied, "Yes, go ahead.

"You can certainly count on me to give you the victory" even though your outnumbered

- So David went out and he defeated them even though the odds were against him
 - And then David said, in

1 Corinthians 14:11 "God has broken through my enemies by my hand like a breakthrough of water."

- I watched the Lord breakthrough my enemies "like a mighty flood".

a second example. This is another king in Israel, his name is Jehoshaphat.

- And this is guy is facing overwhelming opposition too.
- In fact, he's just had a spiritual revival in his nation. Everything's going great
- and then three enemy nations came against this King Jehoshaphat.

2 Chronicles 20:3-4 Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. ⁴ So Judah gathered together to ask help from the Lord; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord.

He starts out fearful but, he doesn't stay afraid.

- he switches from being focused on his worries to focusing on the Lord.
- he immediately switches his mind to seek the Lord.
- He takes his vision off the bad things and he puts his vision on God,
- And he proclaimed a fast for everyone.
- It's just a way of saying we're serious, we mean business on this prayer.
- Jehoshaphat, does several things we got to do if we wanna have a breakthrough in our life, First thing, instead of worrying, he refocuses on God,
- "I'm gonna focus and seek God, "I'm gonna found what God wants me to do "
 - "I wanna know God's will". He resolved to seek the Lord.
- then he fasted. He actually called for a National fast b/c the whole Nation was under attack.
- It's saying, God we're serious about this, we want your input on this, and then it says, all of the people, joined together to seek God through prayer.
 - And the result was a miraculous victory.

Philippians 4:6-8 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

When we worry we are focusing on our fears instead of God.

- And if we're going to break that habit of worry in our lifes,
 - we're gonna have to learn how to focus on God.
- Prayer & Fasting helps us do that.

If it's worth worrying about, it's worth praying about.

This verse tells us to pray with Thanksgiving

- "Asking Him with a thankful heart for all He's done".
 - **Gratitude is the breakthrough attitude.**
 - The more grateful you are in life, the more breakthroughs you'll have in life.
- If your kids came to you all the time, and say, "Daddy, "give me, give me , give me, give me,
- mommy, give me, give me, give me and they never told you, "I love you",
 - or they never said, "Thank you".
- You'd begin to wonder, do they even care about me or am I just seen as a vending machine?
- You know, you pull the lever and you get whatever you need.
 - **The more thankful my kids are the more I want to bless them!**

I shared a thanksgiving message 4 or 5 years ago called **an attitude of gratitude**,

○ So we have to choose our focus & put it onto God
The key is to just change the channel through prayer and fasting.

Do you remember what Daniel did when he was worried?

Daniel 9:3 he says, **Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting**

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—**meditate on these things.**

If you are going to have a breakthrough in your life

- "You gotta stay focused on true things".

Now the fact is, our mind is bombarded with lies every single day.

- the only way to counter those lies is you've got to fill your mind with the truth.
 - Jesus said "**When you know the truth**", "**It'll set you free**".

To be set free means to have a breakthrough.

- The only possible way you can do that is you gotta be in this book every day,
 - even if it's just for a few minutes.

think about a scale. If you're spending hours on social media, watching TV & the news

- and seconds with this book.

how in the world are we going to have a healthy mind

- if you're filling your mind with lies instead of the truth?
 - God will never lie to you, but people will.

so you've got into this book every day. We get truth From the Word of God.

⁹ Now as they came down from the mountain, He commanded them that they should tell no one the things they had seen, till the Son of Man had risen from the dead. ¹⁰ So they kept this word to themselves, questioning what the rising from the dead meant. ¹¹ And they asked Him, saying, "Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"

¹² Then He answered and told them, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and restores all things. And how is it written concerning the Son of Man, that He must suffer many things and be treated with contempt? ¹³ But I say to you that Elijah has also come, and they did to him whatever they wished, as it is written of him." ¹⁴ And when He came to the disciples, He saw a great multitude around them, and scribes disputing with them. ¹⁵ Immediately, when they saw Him, all the people were greatly amazed, and running to Him, greeted Him. ¹⁶ And He asked the scribes, "What are you discussing with them?"

here you have this glorious experience where you're up on the Mountaintop with Jesus

- and then right when you come down the hill what confronts you
 - we find arguing, disputing & we will find demon possession
- the religious leaders were disputing with the other nine disciples left behind.
 - I mean talk about robbing the joy of the Lord

and that's how it is sometimes you know God does some work in your life

- maybe God speaks to you and it's powerful
 - and then here comes the Warfare here comes the attack
 - trying to take away what you just received
 - Don't be surprised

I love Jesus. he comes in like a Good Shepherd,

- he senses that there's false teaching going on by the religious leaders
 - disputing & talking to the disciples, and he calls them out & brings peace

In verse 15 it says when they saw him they were greatly amazed and ran to him

- And greeted him

it doesn't say why they were greatly amazed

if I had to guess I would say it could be

- the same reason the children of Israel were amazed
 - when they saw the face of Moses after he talked with God

in Exodus 34 his face was shining and the people were greatly amazed

- so it could be that after Jesus revealed a glimpse of his glory
 - there on the Mount of transfiguration there could be the residual of Glory
 - we might say his face might have been shining much like Moses

¹⁷ Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. ¹⁸ And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not."

Not only After this awesome time with Jesus on the mountain

- did they run into disputing & arguing but they also
 - ran into a father who son was demon possessed
 - Foaming at the mouth, throwing himself in fire & water
 - and the father didn't know what to do as he was just overwhelmed
 - he came to the scribes they couldn't do anything
 - came to the disciples they probably attempted to cast out the demon
 - but they were unsuccessful

but then the man came to Jesus

the father was desperate he didn't know what to do he was at the end of himself

you may be in that situation today maybe you're desperate,

- Bring your problems to Jesus b/c he wants to minister to you
 - just come as you are, bring your needs to him
 - he's for you & loves you!

I like this guy because he loves his son so much that his primary goal

- is to get his son to Jesus.
- **Every parents goal should be:**

"I want to get my son, my daughter, as close to Jesus as I can."

now when we talk about demon possession of course we all get a little creeped out by that

- that's not a fun topic to talk about or deal with

here's the good news as believers we cannot be possessed by Satan

- we can be oppressed but not possessed there's a difference

Ephesians 6:16 says **the enemy throws his fiery darts at us**

1John 4:4 says **you are of God little children and you have overcome them for greater is he that's in you than he that is in the world**

- the Holy Spirit comes in us the moment we give our life to Christ we've got the spirit of the Living God which is more powerful than Satan

¹⁹ He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? **Bring him to Me." ²⁰ Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.**

This struggling Father tried everything and was so discouraged

- and I love how Jesus said to the father **bring him to me**

I love those words because no matter what situation you're in today

- bring it to Jesus

1 Peter 5:7 says to **cast all of our cares upon the Lord because he cares for us**

- sometimes we want to hold on to it
 - we say I'm going to fix it myself and I can do it

But the truth is I can't do it I need the Lord

- and so I bring it to him and it's amazing what Jesus can do

I saw this quote driving **God formed us, sin deformed us & ONLY JESUS CAN TRANSFORM US**

- Bring your hard situations to Jesus like this man does
 - and notice who it was who brought this boy to Jesus. It was the father.
- **Fathers, it's time for us to rise up and be the spiritual leaders**
 - **that God has called us to be.**

May we live out the words of Joshua. In **Joshua 24:15** **choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."**

²¹ So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. ²² And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."

That's the whole strategy of demons they want to kill steal & destroy = hate humans.

- because we are made in the image of God.

he knows God loves us so if he get someone to hell he can hurt God

- So we are in a battleground.

Jesus asked his father a very interesting question in verse 21.

- he says, "How long has this been happening to him?" since childhood

Kids today are dabbling in demonic computer games, watching demonic TV shows

- And as parents, we need to stop being so blind to the devices of Satan.
 - Teen suicide is happening all around us.

Notice how the father described the activity of the demonic spirit,

- how he tried to throw him in the water and the fire to destroy him.

We need to pray & train our kids in the way they shall go so Satan doesn't get ahold of them

- We need to be the gate keepers and not allow our kids to Dabble
 - in all those kinds of things. Satanic music & movies are all around

It's all around our children on a daily basis. And we need to stand in the gap & protect them

²³ Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, **all things are possible to him who believes.**"

²⁴ Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

I'm so thankful that even though this man doubted, Jesus still helped him.

- Maybe there is something in your life that seems impossible to fix

Jesus wants to help you too.

probably all of us have experienced this at some point in our life

- We Believe all things are possible for God but when adversity, trials, tribulation
 - arise we have a little bit of unbelief thinking man I don't know
 - how God's going to work this out I'm not sure

I think sometimes we have that lapse of Faith as well

- and it's important we recognize our need for help & run to Jesus

²⁵ When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" ²⁶ Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.

Everyone thought he's dead it's over there's no more but Jesus took him by the hand

- and raised him up Jesus brought him to life

people may look at your life and they think oh it's over it's not going to happen it's done

- and you might as well just give up and isn't it amazing when Jesus steps in

- and takes his hand and he raises him up

JESUS LOVES TO TAKE CRUSIFIXIONS< ITS OVER TO RESURRECTIONS, NO ITS NOT

the power of Jesus is seen in his rebuke

- Jesus had Authority over this unclean spirit
 - and the truth is Jesus is more powerful than the enemy!

Paul tells us that in **Romans 8 37** that **we are more than conquerors**

1 Corinthians 15:57 **but thanks be to God who gives us the victory through Christ Our Lord**

2 Corinthians 10:4 **the weapons of our Warfare are not carnal they're not physical but they're Mighty in God for the pulling down of these strongholds**

this blesses me so much because no matter what we've done

- no matter how messed up our past may be
 - Jesus can heal, restore and deliver us & get us on the right path

I love how Joel puts it in **Joel 2:25** **how God will restore the years of the swarming locusts**

- no matter what the enemy has eaten away God can restore it God can redeem it

²⁸ And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" ²⁹ So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."

after this whole incident had occurred the disciples wanted to know

- how come they weren't able to cast out this demon?
 - because in the past when they were sent out on a missionary journey
 - they were casting out demons

they had power previously why on this occasion were they not able to do

- what they had done before

Jesus said this kind only goes out with prayer and fasting

when it comes to prayer and fasting oftentimes they're seen together in scripture

- the purpose of fasting is to set aside our fleshly appetites
 - so that we can focus on spiritual things
- and allows us to seek the Lord & focus more attentively

prayer attaches me to God; fasting detaches me from the flesh.

- Its saying no to the flesh & saying yes to God. And God honors that

Prayer and fasting draws us closer to the heart of God

- and it puts us more in line with his power.

- its an expression of our total dependence upon the Lord.

Jesus started out his ministry with 40 days of fasting and praying.

fasting is setting aside the things of the flesh to focus on the things of the Lord

- and all of this points to and speaks of the importance of having faith in Jesus
- And for us to come to Him especially when we need a break through
 - Like David & jahosaphet did in the beginning of this message

Share Gospel & Pray