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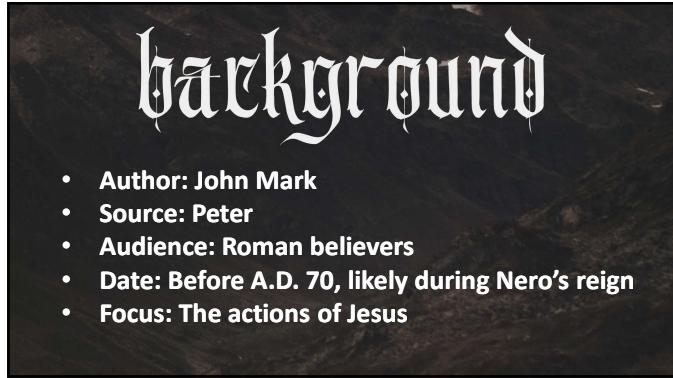
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# background

## Key Themes:

- Jesus is authority
- Jesus is servant
- Jesus is the suffering Messiah
- There is a cost to following Jesus

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# truths

- We must resist any version of faith that prioritizes comfort over obedience.
- You either lose your life now or lose it forever.

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# MEMORY VERSE

## MARK 9:35B

If anyone wants to be first, he must be last and servant of all.

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## REVIEW VERSE

### MARK 2:17

**When Jesus heard this, He told them, “It is not those who are well who need a doctor, but those who are sick. I didn’t come to call the righteous, but sinners.”**

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7

### Mark 9:14-29

**14 When they came to the disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and scribes disputing with them. 15 When the whole crowd saw him, they were amazed and ran to greet him. 16 He asked them, “What are you arguing with them about?” 17 Someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you. He has a spirit that makes him unable to speak.**

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8

### Mark 9:14-29

**18 Whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive it out, but they couldn’t.” 19 He replied to them, “You unbelieving generation, how long will I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring him to me.” 20 So they brought the boy to him.**

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9

**Mark 9:14-29**

When the spirit saw him, it immediately threw the boy into convulsions. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. 21 “How long has this been happening to him?” Jesus asked his father. “From childhood,” he said. 22 “And many times it has thrown him into fire or water to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”

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10

**Mark 9:14-29**

23 Jesus said to him, “If you can? Everything is possible for the one who believes.” 24 Immediately the father of the boy cried out, “I do believe; help my unbelief!” 25 When Jesus saw that a crowd was quickly gathering, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You mute and deaf spirit, I command you: Come out of him and never enter him again.”

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11

**Mark 9:14-29**

26 Then it came out, shrieking and throwing him into terrible convulsions. The boy became like a corpse, so that many said, “He’s dead.” 27 But Jesus, taking him by the hand, raised him, and he stood up. 28 After he had gone into the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?” 29 And he told them, “This kind can come out by nothing but prayer.”

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**Context**

Mark 8–10 is a discipleship section, focusing on:

- The cost of following Jesus
- A Misunderstood messiah
- The disciples' repeated failure to grasp dependence and suffering
- The disciples had previously cast out demons successfully (Mark 6:7, 13).
- This failure raises the central question: Why not now?

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**Context**

- This passage follows the Transfiguration (9: 2–13).
- Jesus has revealed His glory to Peter, James, and John.
- Now He descends from the mountain into conflict, confusion, and failure.

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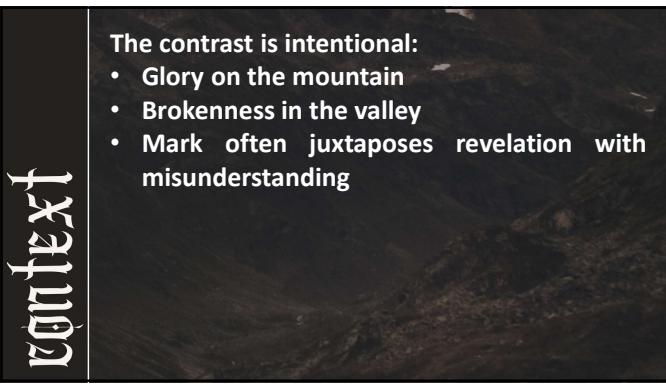
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The contrast is intentional:

- Glory on the mountain
- Brokenness in the valley
- Mark often juxtaposes revelation with misunderstanding

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**Cultural Background:**  
*Exorcism was known in Jewish culture, but typically involved:*

- Rituals
- Incantations
- Objects

Jesus' authority is personal, direct, and sovereign, not mechanical.

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17

**Lesson One: the Danger of Self-Reliance**  
*(The Nine Left Behind – vv. 14–18, 28–29)*

The disciples had authority before (Mark 6:7, 13) but failed here.

- They are surrounded by argument, pressure, and expectation—but lack power.
- Jesus' private explanation is short and piercing: “This kind can come out by nothing but prayer.” (v.29)

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18

## Lesson One: the Danger of Self-Reliance

(*The Nine Left Behind* – vv. 14–18, 28–29)

“Prayer” (προσευχή, proseuchē)

- Idea: More than a ritual—dependence, orientation, and submission
- Jesus is not prescribing a formula but exposing a problem
- Their failure wasn’t lack of effort, but lack of ongoing reliance

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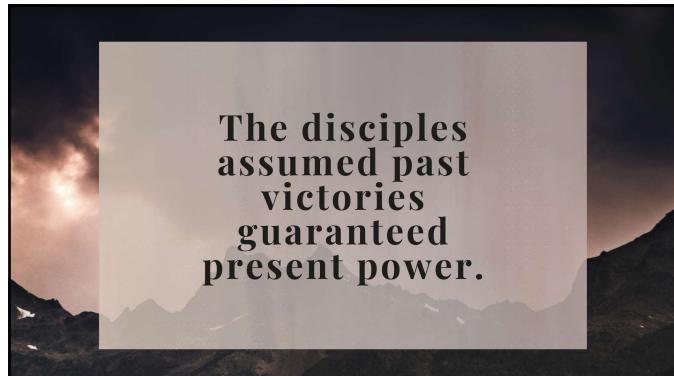


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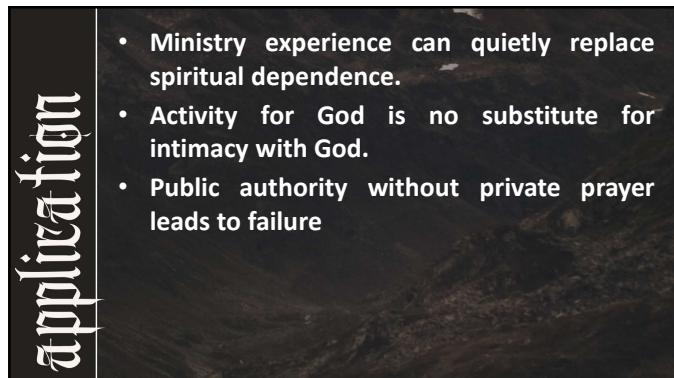


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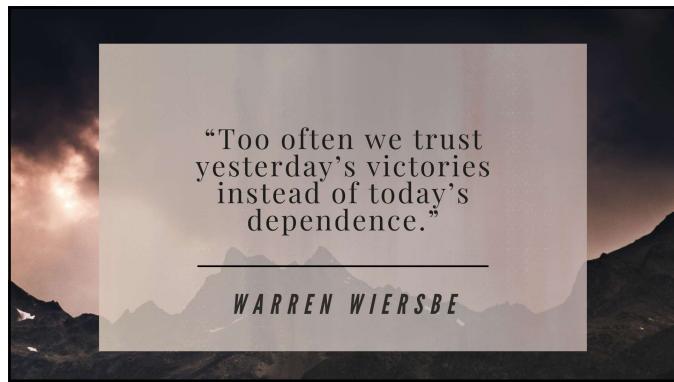


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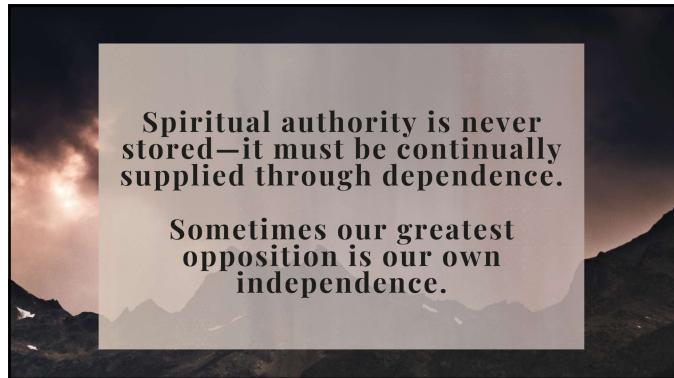
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**Lesson Two: Back to the Grind**  
*(Peter, James, and John – vv. 14–16)*

**Peter, James, and John descend from the Transfiguration:**

- They have seen Christ in unveiled glory
- They have heard the Father's voice
- They have experienced a moment unmatched by anyone else

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24

**Lesson Two: Back to the Grind***(Peter, James, and John – vv. 14–16)***Immediately, they step into:**

- Confusion
- Conflict
- A spiritual crisis they cannot instantly fix

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25

Extraordinary experiences  
do not exempt ordinary  
obedience and dependence.

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Have you ever had a spiritual experience  
and then thought, “Everything will be  
different from now on”?

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## Lesson Two: Back to the Grind

“Descended” (καταβαίνοντες, katabainontes)

- Ongoing action—coming down continually
- The glory was real, but it was not permanent
- The descent is intentional: revelation must meet reality

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**Spiritual highs are meant to prepare us for valleys, not replace our need for daily trust.**

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**application**

- God does not call us to live on the mountain—but to walk faithfully in the valley.
- Powerful encounters must be followed by sustained faithfulness.
- When spiritual emotion fades, dependence must remain.

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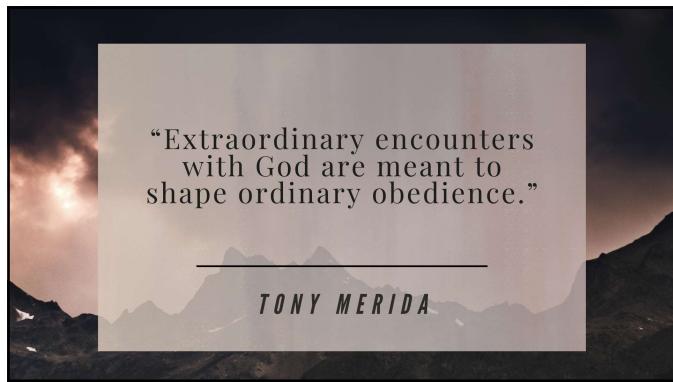
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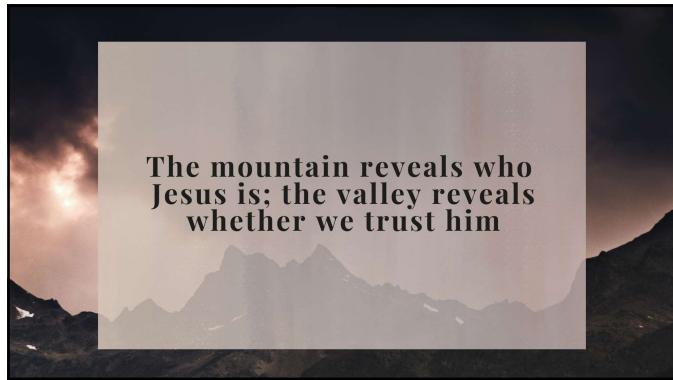
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### Lesson Three: Honest Faith

*The father's faith(vv. 20–24)*

- The father is desperate, exhausted, and unsure
- His statement, “If you can,” reveals both hope and hesitation
- Jesus redirects the issue from His ability to the man’s trust
- The father responds with one of Scripture’s most honest prayers

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### Lesson Three: Honest Faith

*The father's faith(vv. 20–24)*

“Help” (βοήθει, boēthei)

- A cry for rescue
- Expresses dependence rather than confidence

“Unbelief” (ἀπιστία, apistia)

- Not total rejection, but insufficient trust
- Faith and weakness coexisting in the same heart

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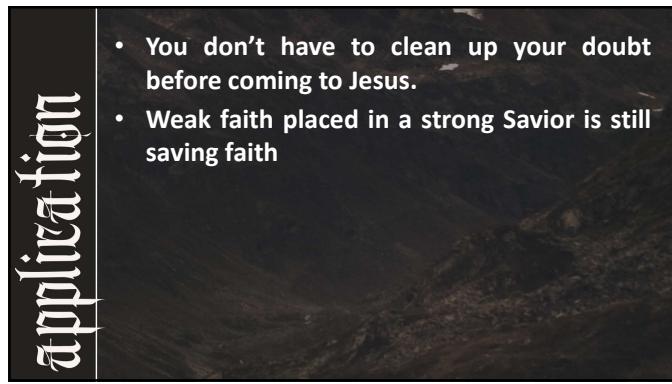


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35



- You don't have to clean up your doubt before coming to Jesus.
- Weak faith placed in a strong Savior is still saving faith

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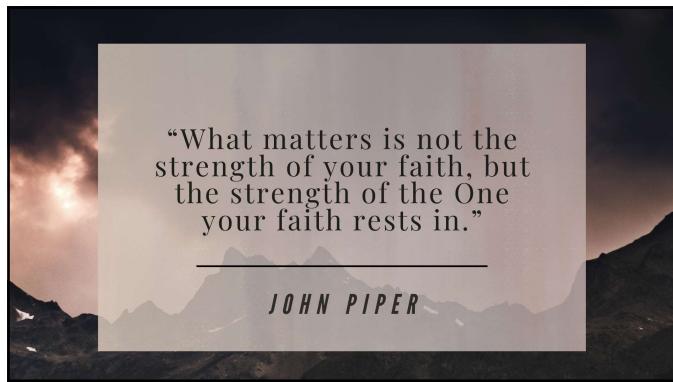


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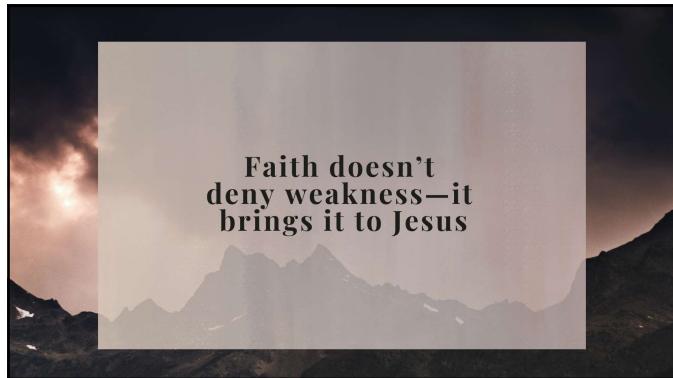
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