



Sermon Discussion Guide

08.27.23 Message | Chuck Sackett | Mark 9:2-29

Key Scripture:

And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. And Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, “This is my beloved Son; listen to him.” And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.

And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead might mean. And they asked him, “Why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?” And he said to them, “Elijah does come first to restore all things. And how is it written of the Son of Man that he should suffer many things and be treated with contempt? But I tell you that Elijah has come, and they did to him whatever they pleased, as it is written of him.”

And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. And he asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” And someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.” And he answered them, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me.” And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” And Jesus said to him, “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.” Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!” And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, 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.” And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.”

- Mark 9:2-29



Message Highlights:

- Only the Triune God can restore us from our brokenness.
 - The absence of prayer demonstrates an absence of dependence and a “we can do it ourselves” mentality.
 - Going down the mountain means facing the brokenness with a renewed vision of whom to trust.
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CONVERSATION STARTER

Identify a time when you witnessed something happen, and a person you were with saw the situation differently than you. This could be a childhood argument, a car accident or how you experienced a movie. How do life experiences, various personalities and personal perceptions impact how we interpret events in life?

DISCUSS THE MESSAGE

- How has the Spirit spoken to you through this passage of God’s Word?
- Only the triune God can restore us from our brokenness. How does this truth resonate with your personal journey of faith?

THINK DEEPER (Does your group understand the passage?)

Mark 9:2-8

- What is Peter’s confession during the transfiguration experience?
- What significance does Peter’s confession have on our faith?
- Why do you think Moses and Elijah appeared during the Transfiguration? What does their presence symbolize?

Mark 9:9-13

- Why do you suppose Jesus told the disciples they were not to tell anyone about what they had seen until after Jesus’ resurrection?
- In Mark 9:10, the disciples question Jesus about Elijah’s coming. What does their question reveal about their understanding of the situation and their expectations of Elijah’s role?



Mark 9:14-29

- Why would Jesus refer to the people (and disciples) as a “faithless generation”? What are we to make of the potential implications of this comment?
- In verse 24, the father cries, “I believe, help my unbelief,” which is an incredibly self-aware and humble statement. Does this resonate with you? Why or why not?

THINK LIFE CHANGE (Does your group recognize the personal implications for them as individuals?)

- How can you develop patience when it comes to sharing your spiritual experiences, trusting that God's timing is perfect?
- Are you open to embracing humility in your pursuit of understanding God's plans, even if they don't immediately make sense?
- How has this looked in your Christian walk to this point?

It has been said that the opposite of belief/hope is not unbelief but rather certainty. To truly have “belief” or “hope” in something, there must be a level of uncertainty.

- How does the interplay between the father's belief and unbelief in this passage reflect the tensions we sometimes face in our own faith?

THINK ENGAGE (Does your group recognize the communal implications for us as a Gospel-centered community?)

Mark 9 should paint somewhat of a picture of God/Jesus' certainty in a plan that will unfold. This, in turn, should give us confidence that the Lord will be victorious over evil.

- If this is indeed true, how should/does this impact our confidence as we live out the command to make disciples (Matthew 28:19)?
- 2 Corinthians 12:10 states that you are strong in your weaknesses, implying that, through your trust and faith, the Spirit makes you strong. How does this impact how you answer the last question and process through God fulfilling his plan?

THINK EXPAND (Does your group recognize the missional implications for those we want to reach for Christ?)

- How does the transfiguration aim toward us helping others experience the Lord's transformative power and work?
- How does Jesus' healing of the boy with an unclean spirit impact how we approach missional living? How does it speak to how we deal with compassion and what the Lord is able to restore?



THINK KINGDOM (Does your group understand the overarching Kingdom, that the work we do is bigger than ourselves?)

The transfiguration and healing of the boy with an evil spirit speaks to the “bigger than life” concept that we are taught within the Christian world (e.g., Matthew 6:19-24, “lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven”)

- How does this chapter and Chuck’s message aid us to look at the bigger picture?
- How can we adjust our daily living to allow us to focus more regularly on the Kingdom implications of our decisions?