

February 12/13, 2005

Study Questions

The Good News About Jesus According to Mark

“I Believe; Help My Unbelief”

Mark 9:2-29

Pastor Bryan Clark

Opening Discussion

1. People ultimately live out their belief system. How we live reflects what we believe to be true. Do you agree or disagree with this? Why or why not?
2. What is faith? How do you distinguish faith from wishful thinking?
3. What is the difference between ‘faith in Christ’ and ‘faith in faith’?

Bible Study

1. Read Mark 8:27-9:1. The phrase “six days later...” in Mark 9:2 is an unusual reference to time for Mark. He opens with those words to make sure we connect what is about to happen with what the disciples were just taught by Jesus. Summarize what Jesus taught the disciples in 8:27-9:1.

2. Read Mark 9:2-13. What happened to Jesus on the mountain? What did Peter, James and John witness?

Why do you think Jesus did not want these three to tell what they had seen until after the resurrection?

Do people have misconceptions about Jesus and His mission today?

3. Why were Peter, James and John having such a hard time processing the glory of Christ with the suffering of Christ?

Could there be one without the other? Why or why not?

4. Paul used the exact same Greek word translated “transfigured” in Mark 9:2 to describe the believer in Romans 12:2 and II Corinthians 3:18. In what way does the pathway of the believer reflect the pathway of Jesus? (See Mark 8:34-38.)

Can we get to the glory without the suffering?

5. Why did Peter want to build three tabernacles?

In what ways do we try to linger on the mountain top as Peter did?

What usually awaits us at the bottom of the mountain?

6. Read Mark 9:14-29. What awaited Jesus at the bottom of the mountain?
What was the problem? What was at stake?
7. Who specifically did Jesus rebuke in Mark 9:19? Why?
How did the disciples' unbelief reflect on Jesus and His power as seen in the statement of the father, "But if You can do anything...?"
8. In what ways are we like the father who cried out, "I do believe; help my unbelief."
Does this imply that faith happens at once or is a process of learning and choosing to believe?
How does Jesus respond to this man's desire to believe?
9. What is the meaning of Jesus' words in Mark 9:23?
What often limits our ability to experience Jesus' victory in the everyday stuff of life?
Is this a 'blank check' to believe and receive whatever we want?
10. What did Jesus mean by His words in Mark 9:29?
What is the essence of prayer?
Does Jesus have in mind a certain formula or ritual or a heart issue?

Application

1. In what area of life do you feel you need growth in regard to your faith?
What practical steps can you take to grow in this area?
2. What is necessary to be "transformed" into what Jesus wants you to become?
Can this be accomplished on the mountain top? Why or why not?
According to Jesus, what can you expect on this faith journey?
3. Pray that what we believe to be true of Jesus on the mountain top will be lived out in the struggles awaiting us at the foot of the mountain.