

23S05 Mark 9:14-29 (Part 20)

Hello everyone. Thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I hope everyone is doing well. Today we are continuing our study of the gospel according to Mark with Mark 9:14-29 (Part 20) father and demon possessed son.

Before we start, we need to understand a little about this amazing book in the bible. Most historians believe Mark was the first written account of Jesus' life, ministry, death and resurrection. The identity of Mark is not known for sure, but most believe this is John Mark. John Mark is spoken of by Luke in Acts as the cousin of Barnabas, John Mark is mentioned in many other books on the New Testament. Many believe he spent time traveling with Peter, so it is thought that much of Mark's gospel is actually from the perspective of Peter. We also believe that John Mark knew Jesus. There are accounts that Jesus stayed at Mark's mother's home, there are also some unique story details in Mark that are not in either Matthew's or Luke's accounts. We will try to highlight some of these as we go through the stories in Mark.

I'm reading from the New American Standard version (NAS) today. But of course, you can use whatever translation you choose. Before I start, this is a very special story to me personally, when I was in the hospital suffering with large kidney stones after my near fatal bout with COVID a couple years ago. God gave me this story in my mind over and over again. I hope you love it as much as I do.

Let's read Mark 9:14-29(NAS) *¹⁴And when they came back to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them, and some scribes arguing with them. ¹⁵Immediately, when the entire crowd saw Him, they were amazed and began running up to greet Him. ¹⁶And He asked them, "What are you disputing with them?" ¹⁷And one person from the crowd answered Him, "Teacher, I brought You my son, because he has a spirit that makes him unable to speak; ¹⁸and whenever it seizes him, it slams him to the ground, and he foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth and becomes stiff. And I told Your disciples so that they would cast it out, but they could not do it." ¹⁹And He answered them and said, "O unbelieving generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to Me!" ²⁰And they brought the boy to Him. When he saw Him, the spirit immediately threw him into convulsions, and falling to the ground, he began rolling around and foaming at the mouth. ²¹And He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. ²²It has often thrown him both into the fire and into the water to kill him. But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!" ²³But Jesus said to him, "'If You can?' All things are possible for the one who believes." ²⁴Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, "I do believe; help my unbelief!" ²⁵When Jesus saw that a crowd was rapidly gathering, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and do not enter him again!" ²⁶And after crying out and throwing him into terrible convulsions, it came out; and the boy became so much like a corpse that most of them said, "He is dead!" ²⁷But Jesus took him by the hand and raised him, and he got up. ²⁸When He came into the house, His disciples began asking Him privately, "Why is it that we could not cast it out?" ²⁹And He said to them, "This kind cannot come out by anything except prayer.*

Let's pray. Dear heavenly father, guide our discussion today such that your message is clear to each of us. As we read your words from Mark, help us see what Mark wants his readers to understand and why. I pray that you help me stay out of the way so your hope and peace can be shared with us. I pray this in your name Lord Jesus. Amen.

Lord, I do believe, please help me overcome my unbelief. Amen.

Now, let's take a closer look at these verses, Mark 9:14-16 (NAS) *¹⁴And when they came back to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them, and some scribes arguing with them. ¹⁵Immediately, when the entire crowd saw Him, they were amazed and began running up to greet Him. ¹⁶And He asked them, "What are you disputing with them?"*

So Jesus, Peter, John and James are just returning from the mount of transfiguration. And immediately there is a problem. Remember, Jesus knows what is about to happen before it does.

Next Mark 9:17-19 (NAS) *¹⁷And one person from the crowd answered Him, "Teacher, I brought You my son, because he has a spirit that makes him unable to speak; ¹⁸and whenever it seizes him, it slams him to the ground, and he foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth and becomes stiff. And I told Your disciples so that they would cast it out, but they could not do it." ¹⁹And He answered them and said, "O unbelieving generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to Me!"* So, the disciples that did not go with Jesus had be trying to cast out this demon with no success. Jesus is trying to make a point. Jesus knows that even his disciples are lacking faith. They believe but don't completely believe or understand.

Mark 9:20-22 (NAS) *²⁰And they brought the boy to Him. When he saw Him, the spirit immediately threw him into convulsions, and falling to the ground, he began rolling around and foaming at the mouth. ²¹And He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. ²²It has often thrown him both into the fire and into the water to kill him. But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!"*

But if you can, help us. What a question. You are standing in front of the maker of the universe and asking if he can. The father may have just been being polite, but it strikes a chord with Jesus.

Next Mark 9:23 (NAS) *²³But Jesus said to him, "If You can?' All things are possible for the one who believes."*

Anything is possible to the one that believes. Faith is powerful.

Next Mark 9:24 (NAS) *²⁴Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, "I do believe; help my unbelief!"*

I can imagine the emotion and strain in the father's voice. It's like a prayer. I do believe, Lord Jesus help my unbelief. When we are doubting, hurting, frightened, this should be our prayer. God, I know you can help me, I trust you God. Help me to be at peace with whatever your will is for me and my life.

Next Mark 9:25-27 (NAS) ²⁵*When Jesus saw that a crowd was rapidly gathering, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and do not enter him again!"* ²⁶*And after crying out and throwing him into terrible convulsions, it came out; and the boy became so much like a corpse that most of them said, "He is dead!"* ²⁷*But Jesus took him by the hand and raised him, and he got up.* Jesus casts out the demon with a few words and the boy is whole again.

Next Mark 9:28-29 (NAS) ²⁸*When He came into the house, His disciples began asking Him privately, "Why is it that we could not cast it out?"* ²⁹*And He said to them, "This kind cannot come out by anything except prayer.* Jesus makes a very interest admission about demons, there are kinds. Some are stronger than others. Jesus has told us we don't only fight against flesh and blood but forces we cannot see which includes demons and the evil one, the devil.

Let's review.

- 1) Help my Unbelief? I don't want us to miss the main point of this story. Jesus tells us anything is possible with God for one who believes. Faith, Trust, complete belief. So, pray to Jesus to help us overcome our unbelief or disbelief. Help us to have a more complete belief, trust, faith. Amen

Let's Pray. Heavenly Father thank you for Bible. Help us to read and meditate on your words so we can hear the message you have for us. Help us to remember who you are Lord. You are our king, king of kings. You are our Lord, Lord over everyone. We can trust you, Lord. Help us to ask you for wisdom when we don't understand. I pray this in your Name Lord Jesus. Amen

Let me leave you with this today. Jesus is in charge of everything, he knows everything, he made everything. Jesus is trying to teach us a lesson about faith and honesty. Anything is possible if we have faith but only if we believe without a doubt. We can only believe this way if our wishes are aligned with God's will for us. We have to ask God to help us to align our wishes to God's will, then we can know God will do, what he has planned to do. Help us to overcome our disbelief or incorrect belief.

What does this mean for you? God is not some sort of cosmic genie. If we just believe then God does what we want, not at all. We need to believe in Jesus. Believe that He is good and righteous. Meaning Jesus will do what is right, we can trust Him. Because He is in control of everything. Trust because God always does what is right. Lord help us to be at peace with what you know to be right, Help us to trust you no matter what.

Thank you for joining me for our study of the gospel of Mark. Please email me comments or feedback. And if you liked the message, please share the link with your friends. Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.