

Unbelieving Faith (Mark 9:14-32)

- Peter, James & John with Jesus came down from the mount of transfiguration
- They had just seen Christ transfigured, Moses & Elijah; they were really blessed
- They saw the Shekinah glory, & heard the voice 'This is my Son listen to Him' (7)
- Suddenly they were on ground level & faced with a world under Satan's sway
- Vs 14, 15 give a description, also the other 9 disciples were heckled by scribes
- The disciples had attempted an exorcism but had failed & the scribes were attacking
- So Jesus asked them what they were arguing about, Mark continues (9: 16-18)
- The Scribes were silent, but the father of the boy answered Jesus; cf Matt 17:14
- The Gospels record a pathetic picture of the boy: 9:17,18,25; Lk 9:13; Matt 17:15
- He was a perfect picture of Satan's motivation, to destroy the image bearer of God

I. Diagnosis: Powerlessness through Unbelief (9:19a)

- Jesus' initial response was both a diagnosis and an emotional cry from the heart
- The initial word 'O' was rarely used & the result of deep emotion on Jesus' part
- The problem was not that the disciples didn't try; their problem was really unbelief
- They believed in the process & in themselves because they had done it before
- They had not rested their faith in Jesus & he was heartbroken by their unbelief (19a)

II. Answer: Power through Faith & Belief (9:19b-27)

- Jesus commanded that the demonized boy be brought to him: 9:19b-20
- Secondly, Jesus drew the father out (9:21,22), & allowed him to unburden himself
- Jesus entered into the plight of the man like no one else could; he felt his pain
- It was Jesus' compassion that drew the boy's father out: "take pity on us & help us"
- His plea was the annex to his faith, though it was shaken by failure of the disciples
- Jesus took a third elevating step (23) "all things are possible for him who believes"
- Jesus says, in a matter of speaking, "I will, but will you believe?" The man answers
- "I do believe, but help my unbelief": an honest man, with imperfect but real faith

III. Power Comes Through Prayer (9:28, 29)

- Afterwards the disciples asked Jesus why they couldn't cast the demon out (9:28,29)
- During those 6 days Jesus was gone, they went about their regular ministry
- Now they failed; why? They needed to realize the gift was God's and not their own
- Jesus taught them that faith that brings power is faith that's dependant on prayer